

**Moral agency** is the capacity to do right or wrong, whereas **moral patiency** is the capacity to be a target of right or wrong.

Moral patients are things towards which moral agents can have moral responsibilities.

So moral agents are also moral patients, but moral patients need not be moral agents - Only moral agents can function as the bearers of moral obligations towards others, while moral patients can be the objects of the moral obligations of others, but need not themselves be capable of moral agency.

Examples:

Adult humans typically have moral agency  
Babies have moral patiency

A **moral patient** does not have to be a moral agent or person, but could, for instance, also be nonhuman animals or an entire species, plants, microorganisms, an ecosystem, or even perhaps an inanimate object such as a work of art or a prized possession (Inanimate, but also

worthy of “moral status”- compare to something like a rock).