

**Submission
No 12**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF BATTERY CAGES FOR HENS IN
THE EGG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY**

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I wish to submit my views regarding the caging of hens and the fact that I believe that this is an abhorrent life for these animals. I currently am the proud carer of 8 ex-battery hens, who will live out their lives in absolute luxury with space to be chickens and do chicken things until the day they die of natural causes (although in that regard, they may have to be assisted humanely), nonetheless, they will continue to live happy and fulfilled lives for as long as possible.

I am well aware that all egg-laying hens are raised to produce eggs only, and that for them, their natural lifespan will be considerably shortened as they generally will be gassed prior to 2 years of life, when deemed no longer useful.

Hens are intelligent creatures, they love to be able to be chickens, not confined to some tiny crate until their usefulness is deemed to be over.

The chickens that I have rescued, some direct from battery farms, show absolute delight when released from the cages, they will sunbake upon first feeling the sun on their wings, they will attempt to peck at dust motes in sunbeams, they delight in scratching up the dirt, once I've clipped their nails to enable them to be able to scratch properly, they have an automatic reaction to birds of prey, in that they hide (they will also hide from umbrellas), they dust bathe, and they can be affectionate. My last collection of battery chooks are not frightened of us, although they should be, they will stand on my feet, they have no objection to being held, being kissed and cuddled.

Keeping an animal, any animal in a tiny cage is inhumane, I cannot believe that in this day and age we still subject them to this life.

How are their lives any less fulfilling than human lives? How can we decide that they are not worthy to enjoy life, what gives us the right to completely dominate them?

Please, please consider the inhumane injustices done to animals in this country, and indeed all countries around the world.

let's be world leaders, let's ban the cage.

Thank you

Peta