

**Submission
No 34**

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

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Traditionally hens have been regarded as egg producers only. The only regard paid to them has been about how many eggs can they produce for minimum input. There is so much attention that needs to be given to these very delightful, intelligent creatures.

As a lover of hens and their eggs I've been a backyard hen keeper for many years. Not only do they produce a protein rich bomb but they are outstanding consumers of domestic scraps, excellent at keeping the garden healthy & producers of manure. They are great recyclers!

Over time I have discovered how smart and gentle hens are and have taken immense pleasure watching them take a dirt bath or doze in the sun. They love to run and stretch their legs and wings. Watching them in an environment where they have room to move it is obvious the pleasure they get from chasing insects, scratching at the dirt together and sunbathing.

To be housed unnaturally without the space to be a hen is cruel. Society is moving on from what we now understand are dark days when all creatures were regarded as industrial and disposable.

In this time we are called to pay more regard to how we obtain our food and the consequences of that.

Over the last five years or so I have taken in rescue hens to allow them to live to last part of their lives more naturally. I now have only one very aged hen remaining. She has adjusted to being blind in one eye and is still enjoying life as a hen should.

Please give hens the respect that every creature deserves. A change in farming practice and regard for hens is well overdue.

Please give hens, and the submissions re the farming of hens, all the regard and attention they deserve.