

**Submission
No 41**

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

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Date Received: 26 June 2019

The egg industry is cruel and greed focused. Hens are kept in abhorrent conditions to serve humans desire to eat their eggs.

Human nature allows us to have empathy and to put ourselves in the positions and feelings of others (others includes animals). Hens are cramped into cages little bigger than an ipad and are deprived of sunlight, and all natural activities. They often turn on each other and harm other hens due to the close proximity, and due to mental anguish and frustration.

To say this practice is cruel is an understatement.

Animals share all the same feelings and range of emotions as us. Their intelligence may differ to ours, but they still suffer exactly as we do if not more, due to their heightened senses.

When making decisions about the treatment and care of animals we really need to put ourselves in their shoes, and ask ourselves is this how I would like to be treated. If this animal feels the same as me (which they do) how would these conditions make me feel?

If we are breeding these animals we have a huge responsibility for their welfare and comfort, and we are letting them down to the point of actually torturing them in the current profit-driven system.

I believe we should very quickly phase out caged eggs, or any kind of exploitation of animals for their body parts, or products including eggs. I believe the ill-treatment of animals will occur in any situation where profit and animals are in the equation.

For the very least hens should be allowed to indulge in natural behaviours like dust bathing, stretching out their wings, perching, indoor and outdoor exposure to sunlight and natural conditions.

The unknown by-product of the egg industry is the fact that male chicks are disposed of as they are unwanted by-products. They are often ground up alive in macerators, or gassed, or suffocated, or dumped and left to die. Most people would not be able to drop a baby chick into a blender, yet pay for this every time they eat eggs and support this cruel industry. This must stop!

I wish to be part of a society that protects the vulnerable, and those not as strong as us, and that includes animals. I think we need to make some hasty changes to the inadequate policies we have in place, that not only don't protect animals and hens but make it legally possible for their abuse.

I recently adopted some ex-battery hens from a cruel caged farm, they came to me in such a poor condition of no feathers, weak, skinny, lesions and sores and de-beaked. I had to tell my neighbours their story in fear of them seeing the hens and reporting me to the RSPCA.

The sad truth is it would be animal abuse to have animals in such bad condition in our homes, but there is no legislation to protect farm animals, and these animals are no longer put into farms with rolling hills and pastures as the industry would have us believe, they are crammed into industrial-size factory farms where they are mistreated and live a life of suffering and hell.