

**Submission  
No 77**

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

**Name:** Mrs Johanna Tunks

**Date Received:** 26 June 2019

---

Dear Sir/Madam

The space allocated to an individual hen in a cage egg farm is about the size of an A4 piece of paper. Caged hens spend their entire lives with their feet pressed against a hard wire floor, with no room to stretch their wings.

They are trapped in small cages with several other birds and can become frustrated and take it out on each other. Rather than reducing stress by giving a hen more space, the egg industry cuts part of a newborn chick's beak off, before she is locked into a cage for life. Despite the fact that a chicken's beak contains sensitive nerve endings, this painful procedure is done without any pain relief.

With so many cages, and so many chickens, it's practically impossible for cage egg farmers to care for them all. Sick and injured birds go untreated and dead birds have been found left to rot under the feet of their cage mates.

No exercise as well as depleted calcium from constant egg-laying, leads to weakened and brittle bones amongst factory farmed hens and many hens sustain injuries and broken bones when pulled out to be trucked to slaughter which the first and last time a hen in a cage egg farm will see the outside world.

I myself have adopted hens rescued from batteries. I have found that every hen is an unique individual with real personalities and they can be adventurous, shy, social, introverted, mischievous, affectionate and any number of other things. But in factory farms, they never get to express their personalities.

It should be every animals right to be able to be what they are meant to be. Chickens must be allowed to scratch in the dirt, sunbathe, dustbath, stretch and flap their wings. It is extremely cruel to keep these animals in cramped cages. Therefore I am requesting that legislation be enacted to end factory farming of hens in cage.