

**Submission  
No 104**

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

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It is deeply saddening and enraging to think of the current industry living standards, in this case pertaining specifically to battery-caged so labelled "egg-layer" hens. Egg-layer hens are subjected to some of the most vile and cruel living conditions: having the tip of their beaks (incidentally the most nerve-rich and sensitive areas of the animal) sliced off with a hot blade without anaesthetic or other analgesics, crammed into small cages, never seeing or exposed to sunlight, standing on top of each other; without the space to engage in natural instinctive behaviours like grooming or dust-bathing to keep clean - all of which are seemingly justified by the poultry industry due to the species and sex/gender (and hence, reproductive abilities) of these birds.

Replace "hen" with "dog" or "cat" and there would be a mass public moral outcry at such behaviours inflicted towards innocent animals born into the world for one purpose: to serve as vessels to produce products for human consumption. How are chickens any different to any other animal? This, simply put, is speciesism, no different to racism or sexism.

All animals deserve the right to live, and live well - without fear, without being exploited for their reproductive capacities or for their flesh. Banning battery-cages is a start, but further action is required to ensure that the egg, dairy, and "meat" (dead animal) industry ceases to exist. There are enough plant-based alternatives in existence today to adequately replace all animal products. The world needs to go vegan. Speaking for all animals and the climate/environment - I urge you to consider my submission.