

Submission  
No 170

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 1 July 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about the practice of keeping chickens in cages for their entire lives. Battery hens have emotions, feel pain, are social animals, are capable of forming close bonds with others and are inquisitive, friendly animals. All this is not apparent while they are in a cage but if they are lucky to have a second life and be rehomed from the factory farms all these traits emerge. I have lived with many ex-battery hens and am astounded at their resilience and ability to become chickens again after such a tortuous and constricted life. When they are in the cages their beaks are cut and they are unable to scratch and peck in the dirt. This behaviour is perhaps the most important one to any hen, we are all familiar with the image of a hen pecking in the farmyard. Rescued battery hens are usually quite sickly when they first arrive and most have never been outdoors. Natural behaviours such as perching at night and pecking may not be present at first, but always return with time, even with the damaged beak. All animals in human care must be free to express their most basic and natural behaviours. We go to enormous lengths to ensure this happens in places such as zoos, but fall short in addressing this with animals we farm. I ask on behalf of the chickens for a phase out and complete halt to battery hen farming in the name of basic rights to express normal behaviours for all living beings.