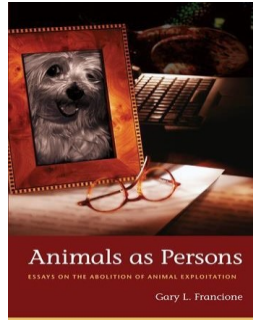


**Submission
No 177**

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

Name: Mrs Lisa Roberts-Daintree

Date Received: 2 July 2019



2 July 2019

Submission – Use of Battery Cages

Dear members of the Select Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the subject of the deplorable conditions of the battery hen, who is forced to endure what is often a lifetime in a battery cage.

Establishing the legal rights of every animal is long overdue.

As a framework for this discussion I propose the principle that;

It is morally wrong to enjoy the benefits derived from animals at the expense of their misery and suffering. Our human needs, conveniences and wants are not more important than the wellbeing of an animal, and that their legal status should be regarded as one of equality to the human. I point to the excellent work being done in the legal rights of Animals by an Australian body, Voiceless, who are dedicated to the legal position of animals. I recommend additional reading of *Animals as Persons*, by Gary L. Francione,

The FIVE FREEDOMS cited below have long been quoted and then ignored, and it is time for this to change.

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. Freedom from discomfort by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering

In the case of the battery hen, it cannot be said that she has freedom from discomfort

- She lives in a cramped cage the size of an iPad and often shared with other hens

Nor pain, injury and diseases:

- forced to endure the wire cage floor she must put her claws around in order to remain upright
- loss of feathers from the friction of pressure upon her by the cage walls and other animals
- 80% of caged hens suffer from osteoporosis

Nor expression of normal behaviour:

- she has no room to spread her wings to their natural span of 75cm, as the average cage space is only 26cm
- she is unable to dust-bathe

Nor freedom from distress:

- she often does not see sunlight
- she has no relief from these conditions
- she has no hope that they will change

I would like to share with you what I have personally observed with a pair of rescued hens from battery cages that were adopted by a friend of mine.

These hens did not know what the ground was for. With crippled feet (due to hanging on to the wire of the cage floor) they could not stand on the ground properly. They swayed from side to side in an effort to remain upright. I did not see these hens every day, but I can say that they recovered from this catastrophe in a short time and became happy backyard hens.

I am sad to say that many councils, including my own, (Tweed Shire), do not allow for backyard hens, and so the rescue work is hindered by these council by-laws.



Sincerely

Lisa Roberts-Daintree