

**Submission
No 283**

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

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I first saw a battery hen cage, fifty years ago, at Roseworthy Agricultural College. To say I was shocked, is an understatement. We had happy hens running around at home and took endless delight in watching their activities and general life.

Keeping hens in cages as laying machines with no quality of life at all, is a disgrace, in a modern country that purports to care about animal welfare. Intensive industries that treat animals like this, have to be brought to account. This sort of animal husbandry is, in my view, all about minimal staff, cutting costs, bigger profits and downright laziness ?! The reason it is in existence at all is because of unsustainable population growth demanding more and more eggs ? Why should hens, pigs and other animals suffer because humans think that they are the most important entity on the planet, and don't think about sustainability in a finite world ?

Please follow the example of other countries that have banned these cruel cages and unconscionable methods of keeping these poor birds. More and more people are keeping their own hens because of the abhorrence of battery cages. Is that what the industry wants ?

Alex Hodges and Ray Linkevics