

**Submission
No 353**

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

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Date Received: 19 July 2019

There is no excuse for the use of battery cages for egg production in a supposedly civilised and progressive country such as Australia in the 21st century. They prevent hens from expressing their most basic instinctual behaviours and contribute to extreme emotional and mental anguish for the hens who are forced to live their entire, brief lives in them.

Chickens are extremely intelligent* animals who naturally lead emotionally rich**, active, inquisitive lives, choose friends to socialise with and enjoy dust-bathing, sun-bathing, foraging, pecking and exploring - all of these natural behaviours and instincts are denied them by imprisoning them in conditions that would be illegal for any companion animal.

* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5306232/>

**<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10071-016-1064-4>