

**Submission
No 357**

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

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I am deeply distressed by the severe abuse chickens experience in the battery cage egg industry. Caging birds is extremely cruel. They attack each other out of sheer frustration, cripple their feet, can never spread their wings, they are injured when being thrown in the cages, most have fractured bones also during depopulation. I have witnessed many birds having to live with dead and sick hens in these cages, with untreated injuries, the filth they are forced to live in, the crippling of feet and psychological torment they experienced from sensory deprivation.

Hens are sentient beings who have a brain that they use to communicate with others and navigate around their world and to learn. They need to be able to use their brain; to deny them the sensation of learning and socialising properly causes psychological distress. Hens are sentient beings like humans who have many human emotions such as sadness, anger, frustration and suffering. To ignore their suffering is deplorable.

Battery hen cages should never have been legal. They are extremely cruel and I find it very distressing that we as a society cause so much cruelty to these innocent animals. All animals deserve human respect and compassion. There is no excuse to ignore the suffering we inflict on other sentient beings. Just because they aren't human does not mean their suffering does not matter and that they should be denied the basic right to be free from cruelty and suffering. Profit is not a valid or logical excuse to ignore their suffering.

As someone who is the guardian of many hens I find it extremely upsetting to live in a society that allows such obvious, severe and outrageous cruelty to be inflicted on millions of animals in factory farms in particularly battery hen cages.

The cage egg industry also de beaks hens which is cutting off their beaks, this mutilation is extremely painful. All birds including chickens have many nerves in their beaks. They have a nervous system and they have a brain that receives pain signals just like humans. There is no doubt that debeaking is a cruel and extremely painful mutilation.

The sentience of animals is scientifically proven. There is no doubt that all of the suffering I have mentioned above is objectively proven. Their suffering is proven both biologically and also behaviourally. Their consciousness is proven. Their sentience is proven.