

**Submission
No 451**

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

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Please end battery caged chooks

I have had chooks in my life, all of my life. I have respected the right of all animals (not just human animals) to enjoy their lives. I therefore feel qualified to share my observations about what makes a chook animal happy and to draw parallels with what makes a human animal happy.

Here is a list of statements that compares aspects of the battery cage chook's life to my observations of a free range chook's life and then draw parallels with how a battery chook's existence would translate to the human experience.

Statement - Battery cage chooks cannot graze green pasture and have a single diet of manufactured compressed pellets 24/7.	
Observation and Knowledge	Humans
All chooks will greedily graze the green tips of grass It is important roughage for their diets, as well as a natural source of vitamins and minerals	The battery chook experience would be like a human living on the same commercial cereal for every meal (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the whole of their lives.

Like humans, chooks thrive on a varied diet including grain, vegetable and leftover scraps. Free range chooks will spend most of their day foraging the earth for insects and worms.

Statement - Battery cage chooks cannot spread their wings	
Observation	Humans
Several times a day, chooks will spread out their wings, have a flap and stretch their legs. This stimulates their circulatory, musculature, nervous, and limbic systems.	The battery chook experience would be like a human living on a boxed couch 24/7, not being able to stretch legs or arms fully out, or have any exercise, ever.

Like humans, chooks need to exercise and stretch. Chooks and humans feel good stretching and exercising.

Statement - Battery cage chooks cannot clean themselves	
Observations and knowledge	Humans
Chooks will make themselves hollows in the dirt so they can take daily dust baths. They lie in these hollows and use their legs to paddle dirt up onto themselves The dirt dislodges mites and debris as well as polishing their feathers.	The battery chook experience would be like a human never having a shower or bath in their lives.

Like humans, chooks habitually keep themselves clean and preened.

Statement - Battery cage chooks cannot roost	
Observations and knowledge	Humans
At the end of their active day ranging freely, chooks will retire to their roost (equivalent of a human 'bedroom'). They will perch as high as possible to keep safe from predators and their feet are	The battery chook is in the same cage, 24/7. Their feet are on wire all of that time; nothing solid or big enough to be classified as a perch.

adapted to curling around perches.	
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Like humans, chooks naturally sleep separately to where they spend their days.

The keepers of battery cage chooks provide them the absolute minimum to keep them laying a eggs. The quality of the chook's existence is a non-consideration. It is absolute exploitation of an organic being (similar to human slavery where the absolute minimum was provided to them keep them laboring).

Why do we expect another animal to live in such unnatural misery when we will not tolerate it for the human animal?

Why do we feel entitled to let another animal provide everthing for us in such miserable conditions?

Why are we even hesitating in letting these fellow creatures enjoy their lives, as we expect to enjoy ours?

If we forced a human to spend the whole of their lives in a boxed-in couch, too small to stretch in, without exercise, eating the same cereal 3 x a day, we would be put in gaol for a long time for torture. Why do we make an exception for other creatures with whom we share the planet?

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP THIS REPREHENSIBLE EXPLOITATION