

Submission
No 463

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My concerns are as follows:

1. The space allocated to an individual hen in a cage egg farm is about the size of an iPad. They spend their entire lives with their feet pressed against a hard wire floor, with barely enough room to stretch their wings.
2. When hens are trapped in small cages with several other birds, they become (understandably) frustrated and can take it out on each other. Rather than reducing stress by giving a hen more space, the egg industry cuts part of a newborn chick's beak off, before she is locked into a cage for life. Despite the fact that a chicken's beak contains sensitive nerve endings, this painful procedure is done without any pain relief.
3. With so many cages, and so many chickens, it's practically impossible for cage egg farmers to care for them all. Sick and injured birds may go untreated, and investigators have even found dead birds left to rot under the feet of their cage-mates.
4. A lack of exercise, combined with depleted calcium from constant egg-laying, leads to weakened and brittle bones amongst factory farmed hens. And when they're removed from the battery cage, sadly things don't get better — many hens sustain injuries and broken bones when pulled out to be trucked to slaughter.
5. The term 'manure pit' pretty much speaks for itself. Beneath the tiers of battery cages is a big pit that catches the faeces of the countless stressed out birds above.

A 2014 investigation into a PACE cage egg farm found something moving in the piles and piles of manure ... or rather, someone. Watch this 2 minute video for the shocking discovery:
6. Hens can be adventurous, shy, social, introverted, mischievous, affectionate and any number of other things. Every hen is a unique individual. But in factory farms, a hen never gets to express her personality. Her only value to farmers is how many eggs she can produce.
7. The first time a hen in a cage egg farm will see the outside world — the world she was meant to live in — will be the last day of her life, as she is trucked to the slaughterhouse. Can you imagine a life without sunshine?
8. First we tipped McDonald's to committing to stop using cage eggs. Then Subway followed. And, in response to public pressure, Hungry Jack's has now joined them in pledging to remove cage eggs from their restaurants. Three of the fast food industry's biggest egg users have recognised that cages are cruel (and bad for business) — and others are sure to follow ...
9. We don't need to do this to chickens. It is purely profit from suffering that makes people put hens in battery cages for the entire period of their short suffering lives.

Thank you for considering my submission.