



“ We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality, injustice and heedless dominion over the Earth. Now is the time to **transform humankind's relationship with the natural world** – and with each other. **We must do so together.** ”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1079032>

# Industrialised Agriculture

Around 1950,

selective breeding of laying hens to produce more eggs,  
got underway.



This process produced a hen that,  
**instead of laying two clutches of 12 eggs annually,**  
**lays an egg every day until, 280 - 300 eggs later, she is "spent".**



## Industrialised agriculture

and the battery cages  
that came with it,  
launched an egg industry  
that makes it possible to  
**keep 20 000 laying hens  
and more, in one shed –**  
with just two labourers.

**Chickens became units  
of production.**



# Supermarket culture

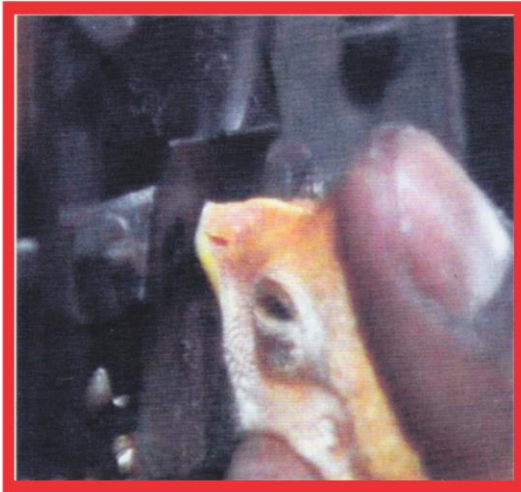
removed ordinary consumers from their sources of food.

Unbeknown to them,  
**debeaking, de-toeing and maceration**  
of just-hatched male chicks  
(because they will never grow up to lay an egg),  
**became the norm.**





Routine procedures like these on industrialised (factory) farms, are perpetrated in the name of feeding the nation cheaply.



Yet we know now that so-called cheap food is literally costing the Earth!





In a legally  
**underhanded manoeuvre**  
as a result of  
**industry lobbying,**  
**farmed animals have**  
**simply lost all protection**  
under the  
**Animals Protection Act.**



## The South African Animals Protection Act makes it a crime...

- to **keep** an animal in **inadequate space**
- to **maim** an animal
- to **cause** an animal unnecessary **suffering**



South African Government

[www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)

Let's grow South Africa together



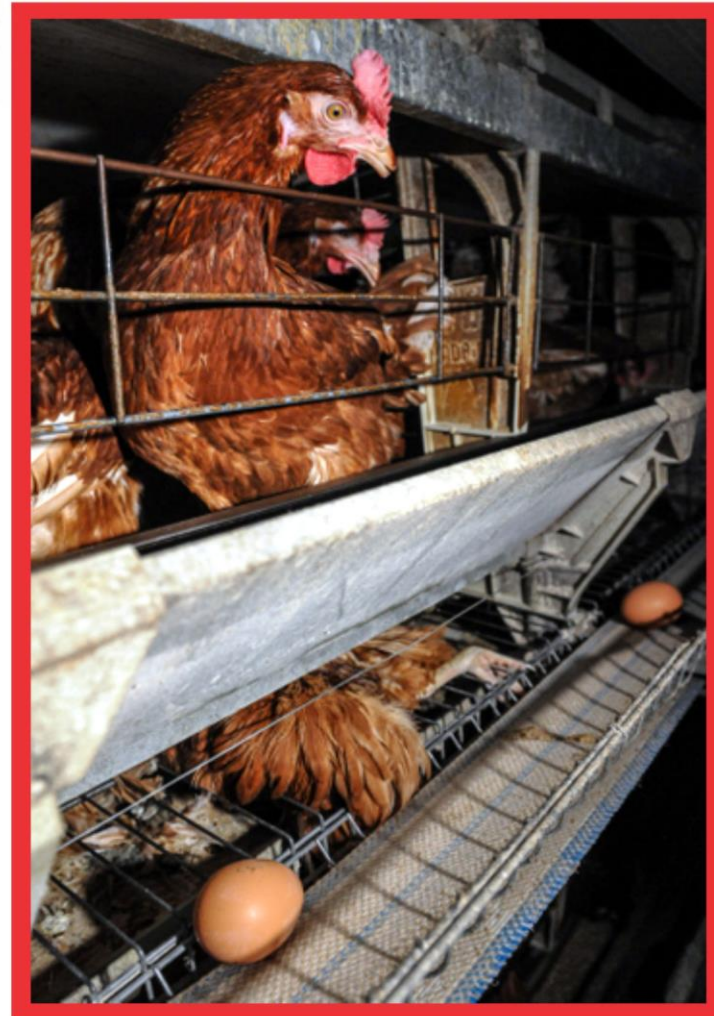
2. (I) Any person who

(a) cruelly over loads, over drives, overrides, beats, kicks, goads, ill-treats, neglects, infuriates, terrifies, tortures or **maims** any animal; or

(b) confines, chains, tethers or secures any animal unnecessarily or under such conditions or in such a manner or position as to cause that animal **unnecessary suffering** or in any place which affords **inadequate space**, ventilation, light, protection or shelter from heat, cold or weather;

**shall**, subject to the provisions of this Act and any other law, **be guilty of an offence**

But more than **22 million laying hens**, hidden from public view **on factory farms** across South Africa, are **victims** of these very crimes **every day** of their tormented lives.



CONTRAVENTION OF THE **APA**

CONTRAVENTION OF THE **APA**



When this office brought  
a test case to the  
prosecuting authority  
based on contraventions  
of the  
**Animals Protection Act**  
as listed above,  
the prosecuting authority  
**declined to prosecute**  
on the grounds that  
**there was no reasonable  
prospect of success.**

KANTOOR VAN DIE  
PROKUREUR-GENERAAL



OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

J 402

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA • REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

☎ 'Prokgen' ☎ 262830 Faks 247825 Verwysing  
Fax 247825 Reference CVT/95/0030

Mrs H R Lombard  
3 Exmoor Close  
TABLE VIEW  
7441

ENQUIRIES : Miss Rossouw  
PRIVATE BAG 9003  
CAPE TOWN 8000

1995 -03- 02

Madam

### BATTERY FARMING

Your letter dated 22.2.95 refers.

The Attorney-General carefully considered the complaint made by Mrs Louise van der Merwe of the then Humanity for Hens concerning Lemoenkloof Farms (Pty) Ltd. It was decided not to institute a prosecution because the Attorney-General does not consider that there is a reasonable prospect of success.

A test case would accordingly be inappropriate.

Yours faithfully

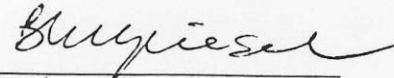
  
[MISS] J C M ROSSOUW  
CHIEF CLERK TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Attorney General's decision  
**not to prosecute**  
was in spite of a legal  
**Opinion by Advocate BM Griesel SC**  
that there was **indeed** a *prima facie* case.

MEMORANDUM

*in re:* PROPOSED PRIVATE PROSECUTION: HUMANITY FOR HENS

1. I have considered the letters from Mrs Van der Merwe (*the complainant*) and I am satisfied that her complaints amount *prima facie* to contraventions of the Animals Protection Act, No 71 of 1962.



B M GRIESEL



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## Contravention of the South African Animals Protection Act : Inadequate space

The hens are **crammed five in a cage**, each with a space allowance less than the space in a shoe box.





## Contravention of the South African Animals Protection Act : Maiming

Unable to express normal behaviour, the **stressed** hens can resort to pecking their cage mates. For this reason, they are **debeaked**, or beak-trimmed – a euphemism preferred by the industry.





## Contravention of the South African Animals Protection Act : Unnecesary suffering

There is **no escape** from the **relentless roar** of massive fans built into the walls of the battery sheds. The fans attempt to remove **ammonia fumes** that result from a build-up of faeces.





For an average of **85 weeks**, until she's 'spent' of her 300-odd eggs, **the hen stands on wire** so that her faeces together with the faeces of some 20 000 others, falls through the wire into a deep pit below that gradually becomes a mountain of manure.



It is removed only in-between flocks, approximately every 85 weeks.



However,  
**the world is in transition.**

In a series of articles titled  
**The Cage Free Revolution**  
published in the Poultry Bulletin  
(March 2017 volume 6, issue 3;  
April 2017 volume 6, issue 4 and  
March 2018, volume 7, issue 3),  
**South Africa's egg producers**  
**were warned to prepare for the**  
**cage free revolution that is**  
**sweeping the world.**



## The article stated:

“ *No amount of improved **management** can **compensate** for the **welfare** issues inherent in the **(battery cage) system.** ”*





SANS  
1758

Gallus Gallus Domesticus

SABS

It is ironic therefore, that the  
**South African Bureau of Standards,**  
as an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry  
**responsible for the promotion of standards and quality,**  
has published its new standard for laying hens  
**SANS 1758, which, if passed,**

**will keep them in the torment of  
battery cages until 2039 and beyond !**

# Even the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

an intergovernmental body coordinating,  
supporting and promoting animal disease control,

**is set to adopt a new Chapter on laying hen welfare**

at its annual general session in Paris in May.





**This Chapter states that it is desirable that laying hens be provided...**

**“** *sufficient space for the expression of locomotory and comfort behaviours that contribute to good musculoskeletal health and plumage condition.* **”**



These behavior include  
**walking, running,**  
**wing flapping,**  
**feather ruffling**  
and **preening.**

**Battery cages do not support the expression of any of these behaviours !**



In December 2016,  
**South Africa's Constitutional Court**  
judges were unanimous:

*“ Animal protection safeguards the moral status  
of humans and the degeneration of human values. ”*

<https://nspca.co.za/success-stories/concourt-rules-favour-nspca/>



The opportunity for public comment and objection to battery cages expires in just days... **on 22 March.**

MARCH							2021
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				



Now is our chance to raise our voices... **in condemnation of battery cages** and to demand the commencement of a phase-out by 2025.

**Survivor  
of the cage...**



**Vote by commenting in  
the document below.**





**This girl needs your voice!**







Few people know that the  
**chicken is a descendant  
of the dinosaurs...**

**a miraculous survivor of  
the mass extinction event**

that wiped out almost all life  
on earth 66 million years ago.