

HUMANITY FOR HENS

(Fighting the cruelties of the intensive poultry industry)

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 1994

**22 323 SIGNATURES
AND CLIMBING!**

P.O. Box 843, Kuils River 7580
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel: (021) 903-6216

The Humble Hen Gets a Voice in Parliament!

Dear Supporters,

In November 1993, armed with 17 000 SIGNATURES for the abolition of battery farming in South Africa, Humanity for Hens lobbied Parliamentarians asking them to bring the public's aversion to battery farming to the attention of Parliament.

We are indeed grateful to **Mr Errol Moorcroft, DP spokesman on Agriculture**, for bringing our Petition into the legislative forum during debate in Parliament on November 25th, 1993. The following are extracts from Mr Moorcroft's speech:

"It has been said that the degree to which a country can be called civilised can be determined by the way in which the citizens of that country treat animals in their care. I would agree with that...."

"In South Africa we have a strong animal welfare tradition... We even have organisations which target certain agro-industries, such as battery farming.... and here I am referring to the Humanity for Hens organisation which is currently petitioning members of Parliament against perceived cruelty in the intensive poultry industry.

"We in the DP support these watchdog organisations because we believe that they play an important role in keeping the public aware of possible inhumane treatment of animals and thereby also act as the public conscience in these matters..."

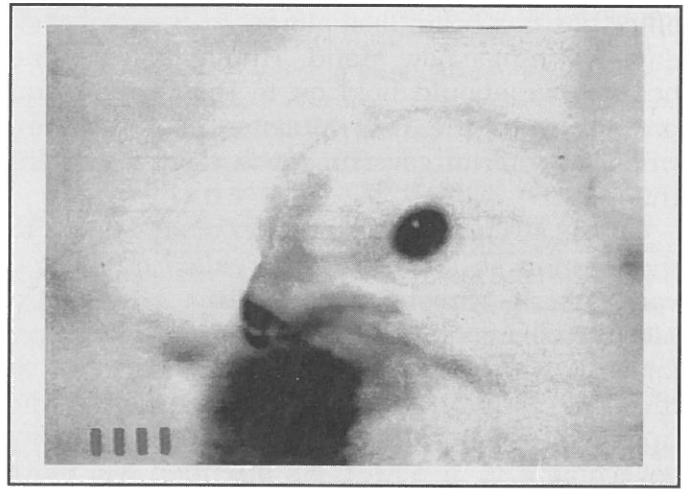
Mr A A B Bruwer, CP spokesman on Agriculture (and chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union), had this to say: "Uit 'n landbou-oogpunt beskou, as 'n mens daarvan sou praat om hoenderboerdery te beperk en met die batterystelsel weg te doen, sal jy naderhand kan sê dit is dieremishandeling as 'n koei gemelk word, want as jy die koei se speen trek beseer jy die dier of doen dit leed aan. Dit is belaglikhede wat net nie verstaanbaar is en waaraan 'n mens jou werklikwaar nie kan steur nie."

This deserves to be translated into English:

"From an agricultural viewpoint, if one should talk about limiting chicken farming and doing away with the battery system, you will in due course be able to say that it is cruelty to animals when a cow is milked, because when you pull the cow's teat you are injuring it or harming it. These are absurdities which are simply not understandable and something about which one really can't be concerned."

HforH comments:

It is clear that Mr Bruwer doesn't understand and therefore cannot be concerned. During periods in history when human slavery, child labour, nazism, racialism, sexism etc. were rife, many unknowing and unthinking people also did not understand why such practices had to be abolished.



Mr Giel Malherbe, NP spokesman on Agriculture, simply expressed relief that his committee was able to ignore representations by organisations such as Humanity for Hens, among others!

Mr Moorcroft subsequently wrote a letter to HforH:

... good luck with your campaign, and you can depend on our support whenever matters involving cruelty to animals is involved.

With best wishes

MP for Albany.

HUMANITY FOR HENS BELIEVES THAT BRINGING THE PLIGHT OF THE HEN INTO THE REALM OF PUBLIC DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT IS A SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS THE ULTIMATE ALLEVIATION OF THE SUFFERING OF INTENSIVELY FARMED CHICKENS.

A C T I O N

Please write to your local candidates in the new election and ask them where they stand on the issue as this may be a factor in your decision as to whom to vote for.

THE PETITION

22 323 SIGNATURES AND CLIMBING!

The WONDERFUL NEWS is that at the time of going to print 22 323 South Africans have so far signed the Petition for the Abolition of Battery Farming in this country.

Congratulations everyone and, on behalf of our feathered friends, a million thank-you's to you all for your huge efforts.

Since we placed a small advertisement in the YOU magazine in October, requests to sign the Petition have been coming in by the hundred. A similar advert appeared in the December 1st 1993 issue of Fair Lady. As a result HforH post office box has been filled almost to capacity each day. As things now stand, Humanity for Hens believes we should hold on to the Petition and present it to the new Minister of Agriculture when an interim government is elected in April this year.

On the strength of the number of signatures to the Petition so far, HforH has called on Dr A.I. van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture to submit a bill to Parliament for the phasing out of battery farming. However, the present government is so involved with the new constitution and the upcoming election that we think once the new government is in power, it's attention will more successfully be turned to other pressing matters – like our Petition. And by then perhaps we'll have 25000 signatures.

Therefore, the new call-in date for the Petition is the END OF MARCH, 1994. Petition forms are available on request.

Please tell me if you do not agree with this decision, or have any other strategies in mind. In the meantime HforH will use the strength of all the signatories to the petition to lobby as far and as wide as possible.



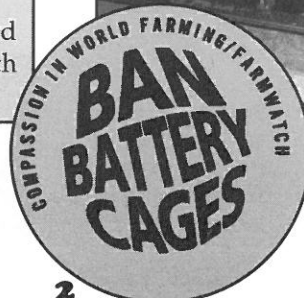
A demonstration at the top of Adderley Street. The demo was organised by the newly-formed Animal Groups Alliance (AGA) of which HforH is a member. A Memorandum calling for improved animal protection legislation was handed to the Minister of Agriculture during the demo. The AGA also called on the Minister to recommend to Parliament that a clause for the protection of animals be included in the Bill of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms under the new Constitution.

"The reasons for legal intervention in favour of children apply not less strongly to the case of those unfortunate slaves and victims of the most brutal part of mankind – the lower animals."

– Famous political economist, **John Stuart Mill**, 1848

"The authentic test of a religion is not what you believe. It's what you do, and unless your religion expresses itself in compassion for all living things, it is not authentic."

-**Karen Armstrong**, British author of the acclaimed new book 'A History of God', in an interview with Time magazine, October 11, 1993.



THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF FACTORY FARMERS! THIS LETTER WAS SUBMITTED TO THE PRESS NATIONWIDE

"Diseases are running rampant in poultry houses worldwide, according to disclosures at the recently held World Veterinary Poultry Congress in Sydney, Australia. Considering that 40 percent of the meat eaten in the world today comes from poultry, consumers need to seriously reconsider whether the promotion of mass produced chicken meat and eggs as "healthy" can possibly be valid.

A lengthy report on the Congress is to be found in the October 1993 issue of the British magazine, Poultry World. According to this report, most of the diseases are viral. To use the words of one delegate to the Congress: "Viruses have been having a field day, with the world's poultry industry acting as their hosts."

Apart from the more familiar diseases of salmonella, campylobacter and listeria, the world's poultry houses are, according to the article, also plagued by: "egg drop syndrome, runting and stunting, very virulent Gumboro disease, acute Marek's infection (Marek's disease is a form of cancer), turkey

rhinotracheitis, swollen head syndrome, infectious bronchitis-variants and so on."

The report continues: "On top of this there are a growing number of completely new viruses whose significance in relation to disease is virtually unknown.

"What we now have is an extremely complex situation in which poultry are affected with the 'old' viruses, more virulent variants of these, 'new' pathogenic viruses and finally those which are an unknown quantity."

According to the report, vaccination can never be the entire answer and pleas were made at the congress for the industry to do more about basic hygiene measures, since without these no eradication policy can finally succeed.

Alarmingly, a new area of serious concern is the non-viral diseases which are linked to man's over-zealous pursuit of rapid growth in broiler chickens and turkeys.

Especially noteworthy among these diseases, says the article, are a variety of skeletal disorders, acute death syndrome and ascites syndrome associated with perirenal haemorrhage and also spontaneous cardiomyopathy.

A ray of hope is given by Dr Nigel Horrox, veterinarian and editor of the British publication International Hatchery Practice. In a recent editorial he suggested that multinationals may soon tire of investing big money in an industry which has become as risky as the poultry industry. (Marek's disease alone has been reported in the UK to have caused up to 50% mortality in some broiler flocks). In the meantime, what an unforgivable price the chicken is paying for human greed and ignorance of the simple truth that fresh air, exercise and freedom from unrelenting stress are the basic components of good health for all of creation. No one knows yet the price the consumer pays for eating the meat and eggs of diseased poultry."

Op lang termyn wen SA as hoenders vry is

André van Niekerk, Glentana, skryf:

As 'n Vaalpens wat by die Kaapse blouwater kom uitspan het, het Pieter Spaarwater se rubriek van 8 Desember my baie welkom laat voel. Maar net die volgende dag het hy my ontstel. Hy het nie tussen die kaf en die koring onderskei in sy aanval op "Humanity for Hens" nie.

Ek gee toe dat die Britse proef met mense in 'n hok vergesog was. Dit gee egter niemand die reg om 'n karikatuur van die Kaapse dierebevrydingsorganisasie te maak nie.

Net so min as wat 'n mens die pyn en frustrasie van mense in hoenders kan reflekteer, kan jy die basiese ooreenkomste van lewe in God se skepping ignoreer. Het mede-skepsel soos hoenders dan geen genetiese programmering, senuweestelsel of natuurlike behoeftes nie?

Sal die afskny van tone en snawels, die opdoen van oogsiektes, die gebrek aan 'n stofbad, ruimte en sonlig geen effek op die 12 miljoen hennie in batterye hê nie?

En watter effek het dit op mense wat veronderstel is om in harmonie met die skepping te lewe? Vroeër het ons met 'n houding van dit raak my nie wilde diere uitgeroep. Nou moet huisdiere dit ontgeld.

Spaarwater se enigste geldige argument is ekonomies. Op die kort termyn het hy reg. Eiers en hoenders sal gesonder maar duurder wees as batterye verbied word.

Op die lang termyn het hy nie reg nie. Moreel en ekonomies sal dit ons baat as hoenders vrygelaat word. Klein fabriek en boerderye is die sleutel vir ekonomiese herlewing in ons land. Tans kan geen kleinboer meeding met die groot hoenderondernemings se batterystelsels nie.

Strenger wetgewing sal pryse van eiers só beïnvloed dat kleinboere weer sal produseer. Die vrye mededinging sal pryse op die lang termyn weer laat daal en ook sorg dat hoenders, én mense, van hoendertralies bevry word.

Batteryboerderye het te make met gierigheid en wins

Louise van der Merwe, Humaniteit vir Henne, Posbus 843, Kullsvier, skryf:

U rubriekskrywer Pieter Spaarwater bestempel my organisasie, en almal wat besorg is oor die lot van intensief-geproduseerde pluimvee, as "betotteld". Hy weet klaarblyklik nie wie hy almal belaglik wil maak nie.

In Februarie vanjaar het 'n magistraat in Tasmanië beslis batteryhoenderboerdery kom op onnodige en onregverdigbare wreedheid teenoor diere neer. Ná die beëindiging het appèlregter Kirby van Australië ondersoek ingestel na hoenderplase en verklaar. As die mense van Australië weet in watter wrede omstandighede batteryhennie aangehou word, sal dit hulle skok... Algemene, beplande wreedheid teenoor hennie met die oog op wins behoort nie geduld te word nie."

Al 20 000 handtekeninge

Twaalf jaar gelede het Switzerland batteryboerdery verbied, met 'n uitfasserings tydperk van tien jaar.

Sedert Maart vanjaar samel Humaniteit vir Henne handtekeninge in om batteryboerdery in Suid-Afrika afgeskaf te kry. Met byna geen hulp van die media nie, is reeds 20 000 handtekeninge verkry. Onder ons ondersteuners is veeartse en teoloe.

Humaniteit vir Henne glo dat enige veerboustelsel wat vereis dat diere vermink word om te verseker dat hulle die stelsel oorleef, veroordeel moet word. Lêhenne moet ontsnawel word om te verhoed dat hulle mekaar opvreet in die hokkies waarin hulle ingeperk word.

In dié hokkies kan die hennie selfs hul mees basiese nesinstink nie volg nie.

Geslaagde reklameset

Batteryhennie word nie mishandel om die armes te voed nie. In die swart woonbuurte word vir 'n lewendige batteryhennie wat verkoop word omdat sy nie meer lê nie, dubbel soveel gevra as wat 'n geslaagte hoender in die supermark kos.

Dit gaan ook nie daaroor dat mans uitgedaag is om 'n hok te lewe nie; dit was bloot 'n geslaagde reklameset.

Batteryboerdery het te make met gierigheid en wins. Net onkundige en ongevoelige mense kan terugsit en dit laat voortduur.

DEBAT IN DIE BURGER

DIE BURGER
21 DEC 1993

Wanneer die nuwe regering oorneem, gaan ons, gewapen met sowat 25 000 handtekeninge, die Minister van Landbou vra om die batterystelsel geleidelik uit te skakel.

In tydperke toe slawerny, kinderarbeid, nazisme, radikalisme, seksisme, ens. algemeen was, was daar ook mense wat nie verstaan het waarom 'n einde daaraan gemaak moes word nie.

(Pieter Spaarwater antwoord:

Op die ouderdom van sewe dae word batterykulkens se snawelpunte - nie hul snawels nie - met presisie-instrument afgesny. Enkele minute daarna begin die kulkens weer vreet. As daar ongemak is, duur dit dus net enkele minute.

Batteryboerdery word makliker bestuur, dus is die koste veel laer. Ja, vrylopende hoenders is dubbel - en meer - so duur as batteryhoenders. Daarom kan die meeste mense net die batteryprodukt bekostig.

"Geslaagde reklameset?" Omdat mense hulle nie soos hoenders in 'n hok kon gedra nie?

Waar gierigheid inkom, weet rugter. Wat die ooreenkoms tussen slawerny, kinderarbeid, ens. en hoenderboerdery is, is nog meer duister.

Om 'n wins te maak, was nog nooit 'n sonde nie. Soos verskeie ondernemings van die briefskrywer se "nuwe regering" reeds bevestig.)

DIE BURGER • 15 DECEMBER 1993

TASMANIAN MAGISTRATE RULES AGAINST BATTERY FARMING!

"The cruelty is constant and continual and without relief...It is my strong view that all these birds have been treated with unjustifiable and unnecessary cruelty, constituted by great indifference to their suffering and pain."

- Magistrate Phillip Wright, Feb. 24, 1993, Hobart, Tasmania.

In February 1993 two private Tasmanian citizens took Golden Egg Farm in Tasmania, Australia, to court on the grounds that its battery operation violated the Cruelty to Animals Prevention Act.

Golden Egg Farm was found guilty on 7 counts of cruelty and the magistrate found that confinement in battery cages did not allow birds to move, lay or rest properly, causing stress and "that the cruelty is constant and continual and without relief".

The magistrate summed up his finding by saying: "It is my strong view that all these birds have been treated with unjustified and unnecessary cruelty, constituted by great indifference to their suffering and pain."

All costs of the action were awarded against the defendant, Golden Egg Farm.

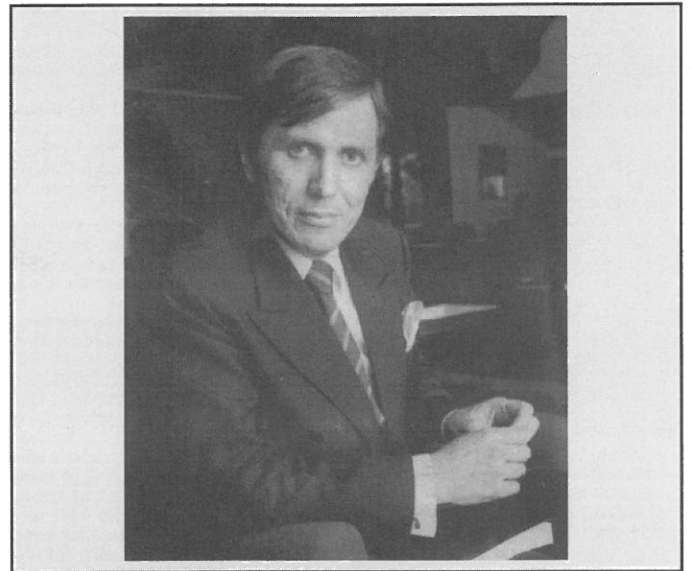
Following the court ruling and the subsequent outcry from the egg-producing industry, the Australian Government proposed an amendment to the Cruelty Act which would effectively exempt hens from protection under the Act.

This time, the outcry from the public was such that on August 4th, Tasmania's primary industry minister, Mr Robin Gray, said that agreement had been reached among Australia's primary industry ministers, to seek alternatives to the practice of battery farming. He said there would be a report back in February 1994.

The women who finally managed to bring the case to court are Mrs Pam Clarke, 51, and Mrs Patty Mark of Animal Liberation in Australia.

Mr Justice Kirby, President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal in Australia and a former chairman of the Law Reform Commission, said that Magistrate Wright's historic judgement was "clearly correct". He added: "If the community in Australia knew of the cruel conditions of battery hens they would be shocked." He also said: "Widespread, planned cruelty to hens for profit should not be tolerated." He said he would take up the issue with the RSPCA.

This was after Judge Kirby had visited battery farms himself to verify the living conditions of the hens.



Justice Michael Kirby, President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal and a former chairman of the Law Reform Commission.

HATS OFF TO THIS WOMAN

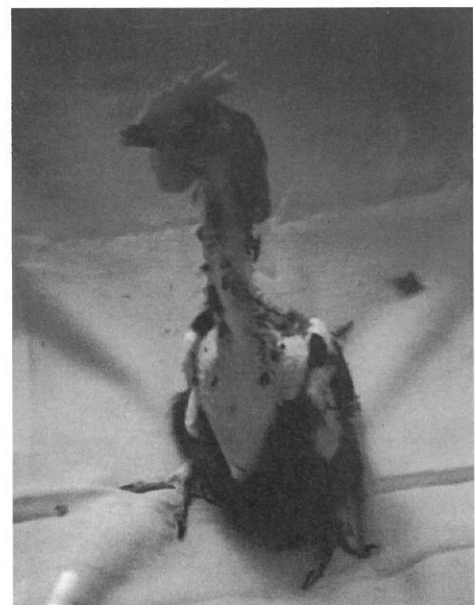


Mrs Pam Clarke, grandmother of six and a critically acclaimed artist, has been arrested some 70 times and jailed on six separate occasions in Risdon Prison for periods ranging from 2 days to 44 days at a time. The charge she is found guilty of is always the same - trespassing at Tasmania's Parliament House while

protesting the cruelty of battery cages for hens.

Pam says she is prepared to spend a year in prison if that's what it takes to get the hens out of cages.

BLOSSOM, only minutes after her release from a battery cage. Debeaked, emaciated and suffering severe feather loss she was too weak to stand up. Battery eggs cause enormous suffering ...
ARE YOU REALLY THAT HUNGRY?



This photo and caption forms part of the Animal Liberation's Campaign to rid Australia of batteries.

Tragedy of broiler parent stock

The chickens available in the supermarkets for eating purposes (broilers) may look fully-grown. However they are in fact six-week-old chicks which have gone to the slaughter at a stage of their lives when their eyes are still baby-blue and their cheep still high-pitched. Under natural conditions chickens of six to seven weeks would still shelter under the mother hen's wing. However, broilers have been genetically selected to be giant.

As reported at length in the HforH July 1993 Newsletter, this ruthless selection for meatiness has resulted in up to 90% of flocks suffering from crippling leg diseases. Their skeletons simply cannot take their weight. How then, one wonders, does the broiler chicken ever grow to maturity in order to reproduce itself? The answer is simple: BY SEVERELY RESTRICTED RATIONS. At the Fourth European Symposium on Poultry Welfare held in Edinburgh in September, 1993, it was confirmed that in some countries, including the USA, broiler parent stock are sometimes deprived of food for up to five days, in order to keep their weight down, "skip-a-day" feeding being routinely practised.

The need to nest

Researchers at the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research in Edinburgh have found that the motivation of a laying-hen to find a nesting box is equivalent to the motivation of a hen to reach food after 20 hours of food deprivation.

NEWS SNIPPETS

THE BAD NEWS ...

Malignant tumors of oviduct in laying hens

As long ago as 1968 it was reported in the British Veterinary Record that from a total of 20 000 end-of-lay hens selected from 10 different farms, a massive 58% were found to have malignant tumours of the oviduct. According to the Veterinary Record of 8/7/89, "the increase in the prevalence of the (magnum) tumour coincides with continued selection of fowl for high egg production." The poultry industry's ruthless selection of layers with a high egg output has resulted in today's chickens producing a staggering 280 - 300 eggs annually. Fifty years ago, the domestic hen was laying about half that number. (Farm Animal Welfare Network, Fact Sheet 36)

A horrifying end to a life in hell

Mrs Marcelle Meredith, the SPCA National Council's executive director, was quoted in the Weekend Argus of August 7/8 as follows: "Ms Meredith said another area of grave concern in the battery industry was the cull outlets that sold into the townships year-old chickens which had done their stint providing eggs for the country. "Basically, they starve to death if they aren't killed immediately. They've been debeaked so they can't peck for food. The suffering during that short time of their lives is horrifying."

The plight of the chickens not hideous enough?

M-Net's CARTE BLANCHE refused to run a story on the plight of the chickens saying that the story was "too soft".

The following information appeared in The British Daily Telegraph on October 18, 1993:

Transgenic chickens in the offing?

An application to license a transgenic chicken which has been implanted with a cow's growth hormone, is currently before the European Patent Office. "The prospect is horrifying when you think what has already been done (to chickens) by selective breeding," says Peter Stephenson of Compassion in World Farming in Britain. Comments Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York: "You don't have to accept nature as it is. But people have to work with the grain of nature. If you go against the grain then

you are able to produce monstrosities like cow-enhanced chickens." The Daily Telegraph has the last word: "In the end it is for society to decide how far scientists should go. But before that can happen there must be an informed debate. In its absence the researchers will continue their pioneering experiments until someone tells them to stop. The issue is too important to be left like that.

(Note: According to the article, even vegetarians aren't safe. Food scientists are now working on putting animal genes into tomatoes to "improve flavour and keepability".)

County Fair advert

Do not be fooled by the current County Fair advertisement on TV1 showing a

lovely free-range farmyard operation. County Fair chickens are intensively reared. HforH is approaching the Advertising Standards Authority regarding this ad.



A C T I O N

Write to voice your objection to:
The Advertising Standards Authority
PO Box 41555
Craighall, 2024

A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol for all God's Creatures was included in a Christmas Carol Concert in Wakefield Cathedral in Britain on December 11th. Released by the Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN) in Britain, the musical arrangement for this carol is available, free of charge, from Humanity for Hens for unison voices with piano accompaniment, or for four-part voices S.A.T.B. Any bright ideas on how to bring this beautiful carol to the ears of South Africans too, will be gratefully received.

A sanctuary for battered hens

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA has asked Humanity for Hens if it will provide a sanctuary for fowls which the SPCA may confiscate. We are thrilled at the prospect and cannot wait for our first arrival in need of sunshine and good care. Perhaps this will pave the way for us here in South Africa to start an "Adopt-a-hen" campaign similar to the one conducted so successfully by Animal Liberation in Australia. An appeal for "loving homes" for battery hens in Victoria, Australia, proved so successful that there is a surplus of homes available. From my own experience, ex-battery hens make very special pets. They are capable of forming a special fondness for their new keeper and never really learn the independence and self-confidence of a hen which has been reared on free-range. And they provide the added bonus of "home-grown" eggs.

FREEDOM FOOD Label

Although this item has been put under the "good news", it is in fact only half-way good. The RSPCA in the UK plans to launch a "Freedom Food" label by the end of the year. For example, for eggs to qualify for this label they would have had to be laid by hens provided with nesting, perching, scratching and dustbathing facilities. However, the name of the label is something of a misnomer since the foods which eventually qualify for such a label need not necessarily have come from animals which lived lives of "freedom". Rather, the animals will have lived their lives in accordance with the Five Freedoms:

- * Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- * Appropriate comfort and shelter
- * Prevention, or rapid diagnosis and treatment of injury and disease
- * Freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour
- * Freedom from fear

The proposed label is coming under heavy fire overseas by welfarists who believe that in its efforts to persuade the average farmer to become a "Freedom Food" farmer, the RSPCA has given away too much ground. For instance de-beaking of chickens, and the farrowing crate for pigs are still allowed under the label. HforH hopes the RSPCA will go all the way and insist that Freedom of movement and the Freedom to remain "whole" be included in the label's qualifications.

The really useful Cape Town Guide by Jill Ritchie

Humanity for Hens is honoured to be included in this marvellous book which was launched by the Mayor of Cape Town on October 26, 1993. We were also honoured to be invited to the mayoral reception for the occasion.

Cape of Good Hope SPCA issues a warning

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA has circulated a warning to the suppliers and buyers of live chickens (spent laying hens). The warning states that if chickens are found to be transported or handled inhumanely (such as tied to a roof rack), the chickens will be confiscated and the persons responsible prosecuted. If found guilty a fine of R4 000 or 12 months imprisonment could be imposed.

A C T I O N

Please alert the SPCA if you see the inhumane handling of chickens.

British school children learn about the needs of animals

The Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN) in Britain, has launched a VHS video called "Hidden Suffering" specifically aimed at audiences of 11 years and upwards. Since factory farming is a worldwide problem, it has been made for an international audience. The 27-minute video which is accompanied by an informative booklet has

already received a wide audience in British Schools. It suggests how every one of us can help reduce animal and human suffering, while protecting our one world. Some very pertinent questions are answered in the booklet, such as: "Only Happy Animals are Productive. True or false?" and "We need intensive farming in a hungry world - True or False?" Interesting topics for debate are also suggested. The video and booklet are available from Humanity for Hens for R40. *Please fill out the coupon below, should you require them.*

I would like ... copy(ies) of Hidden Suffering (the video and booklet) and enclose my cheque for R

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

.....

PROGRESS LAW-WISE IN S.A.

HforH is deeply indebted to the Cape Town advocate who has given us invaluable assistance so far. In a letter written by this advocate to the Chairman of the Bar Council, he states:

"I am satisfied that her complaints amount prima facie to contraventions of the Animals Protection Act, No. 71 of 1962".

As many of you know, the Attorney General of the Cape, Mr Frank Kahn, declined to prosecute a major battery egg producer under the Animals Protection Act last year. However, he has the

right by law to change his mind and, presenting him with new information, including the Tasmanian decision, HforH asked Mr Kahn to exercise this right and proceed with a "test case". HforH is pleased to report that Mr Kahn has called for a copy of the Judgment in the Tasmanian case, as well as a legal opinion by the advocate at the Cape Town Bar who has been assisting HforH on a pro bono (for the good of the cause) basis. Mr Kahn has said that he will keep an "open mind" when reviewing the new information and the legal opinion.

IT'S TIME THE CHICKEN CAME BEFORE THE EGG!

So says the RSPCA in Britain. The advertisement below was placed by the RSPCA in British magazines recently.

Recognise the packaging? Of course you don't.



In the egg business, honesty isn't always the best policy.

Scour the supermarket shelves all you like, you won't see the words 'Battery Produced' on a single egg box.

Yet that's precisely what 85% of the eggs are.

The industry knows the British public is sensitive to animal suffering.

So, instead of identifying their eggs' true origins their boxes bear phrases like 'Farm Fresh', 'Country Fresh' and even 'Dairy Fresh'.

You will also see illustrations of farmhouses, country kitchens and plump mother hens.

Words and pictures that have been carefully chosen to skirt around the trade description legislation, and add rustic charm to a process that is neither rustic nor charming.

The eggs have been laid by hens who are forced to live four or five to a cage, in conditions so cramped they can barely sit and turn around.

Unable to follow even their most basic nesting instincts, they can suffer mental stress as well as physical harm.

Please, do not be duped into buying them. Look for eggs that are clearly labelled 'Barn',

'Perchery' or 'Free Range'.

These have been laid by chickens that have the freedom to move around, or access to an outside run.

Beware of eggs of any other description. They are no more than battery eggs in disguise.

We have an information leaflet on this whole subject. To obtain a copy, please write to the address shown below.

It not only provides more detailed information, it also outlines some action you can take.

It's time that the chicken came before the egg.



"I feel it is sad that scientists working in animal welfare have had to spend years proving what is obvious to the layman"

— Dr M J Potter, RSPCA, Britain.

For every dozen-a-week family which switches to free-range eggs, two more hens will go onto "range" instead of into the battery.

So YOU can make a difference. Please advise your supermarket manager if his/her stocks of free-range eggs are inadequate.



VETERINARY UPDATE

Another veterinary surgeon has joined our cause. Retired Vet **Dr Dick Hyam** says: "Battery farming is brutal, barbaric, cruel and is indefensible on any pretext. It is practised by people with no compassion for their victims and whose only goal is financial gain regardless of the suffering they cause."

Port Elizabeth veterinary surgeons **Dr Charles Hayward** and **Dr David Johnson** collected a further 167 signatures for the Petition at their surgery. A very big thank you goes to both of them.

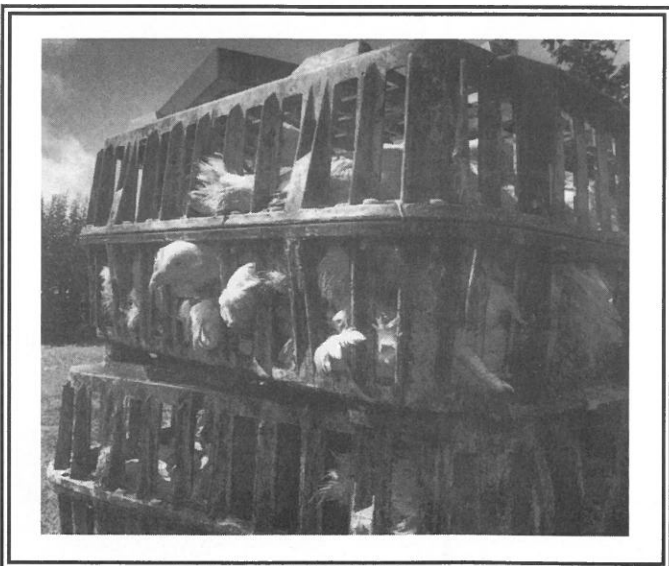
In Britain Dr Henry Carter, Past President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, has called upon politicians and legislators to step into the arena of animal welfare and put an end to the cruelty. Referring specifically to a new report by Compassion in World Farming on the suffering in chicken abattoirs, Dr Carter says:

"This report highlights the fact that procedures in far too many poultry slaughterhouses do not ensure that the birds are adequately stunned, leaving an unknown number alive, and some still conscious, when they enter the scalding tank... It is time that politicians and legislators put an end to practices that are unacceptable and inhumane."

Two vets from Scotland wrote in the 9 Jan 93 issue of Veterinary Record: "Public opinion is turning against animal exploitation due more, unfortunately, to the efforts of welfare groups... than to those of our profession. Is it not about time that the veterinary profession came off the fence?"

British Conservative MP Andrew Bowden recently made this comment: "The poor chicken gets the worst of every world... Having had a miserable existence, the bird is then taken to a slaughterhouse and in too many cases suffers the most alarming pain."

OFF TO THE SLAUGHTER



HORRIFYING END TO A LIFE OF HELL



They've laid their 300-odd eggs. Now, tied to a roof-rack, these hens will starve to death unless they're killed quickly. (Picture courtesy of Cape of Good Hope SPCA)



Sold live, these battery chickens cover in a corner, terrified by the freedom of being out of a cage. Soon they will be put in a crate and taken off to a township. The suffering has already ended for two of them. (Picture courtesy of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA)

"Numerous carcasses were found with the live chickens. The birds were in appalling conditions with extensive feather loss, nasal discharge, broken wings and legs as well as being debeaked"
— Cape of Good Hope SPCA inspector commenting on a battery farm in Phillippi.

A C T I O N

Ask your Vet to become a supporter of
Humanity for Hens

THE LOW-DOWN ON DEBEAKING

- Following major trauma, such as partial beak amputation (beak trimming) there is anatomical, behavioural and physiological evidence of persistent chronic pain" – Dr Mike Gentle, British government scientist studying pain in birds. He likens the persistent pain to the "phantom limb" pain suffered by human amputees.
- "Debeaking of hens is not allowed in Sweden. It is considered as surgery on animals" – The National Board of Agriculture, Sweden.
- "Legislation should be introduced immediately to ban routine, non-therapeutic beak-trimming by 1996" – The Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent body of official advisers to the British government on matters associated with farm animal welfare.
- "Beak trimming should be banned as soon as practicable since it is known to cause pain during and after the operation." – The Scientific Veterinary Committee, Animal Welfare Section, Britain.
- Switzerland banned battery cages, with a phase-out period, all of 12 years ago. "The reason for this was that laying hens in battery cages show disturbed behaviour." – Dr A. Steiger, head, Animal Welfare Division, Office Veterinaire Federal, in a letter to Humanity for Hens.

WHY DOES THE POULTRY INDUSTRY DEBEAK ITS CHICKS? – Because, in the overcrowded confines and the barren environment of a battery cage, frustration and boredom lead hens to peck at each other's feathers, causing damage and pain, and sometimes provoking cannibalism. In a cage there is no escape.

In South Africa, debeaking is carried out routinely on all chicks destined for life in a battery. There are 10 million laying hens confined in batteries in this country.

Four chicken out in bid for R50 000

WOOLHOPE. — Animal rights activist Rebecca Hall offered £10 000 (R50 000) to anyone who could live like a factory chicken for a week.

She got four takers, but they gave up after 18 hours.

The deal was that the four would live like battery hens in a single cage 0,84 sq m and 1,68 m high.

There were no washing or toilet facilities, just a wire mesh floor through which their bodily wastes could drop.

For food and water, they had to thrust their heads through a hole in the cage to a dripping

faucet, and a tray into which brown rice and beans were dropped periodically.

Ms Hall, a strict vegetarian and author of the book, *Animals Are Equals*, said this is the way chickens are forced to exist in commercial egg factories. She calls them "animal concentration camps".

At noon last Sunday Bill Davies, 34, a builder, Richard Brett, 34, a truck driver, Stuart Wastie, 21, a photography student, and Daryl Heathfield, 27, unemployed, squeezed into the cage in a stable at Ms Hall's home here.

At 7 am Monday they asked to be released.

"The wire was painful and it hurt my feet and backside," said Davies. "Overnight I managed to snatch 10 to 15 minute periods of sleep. It was uncomfortable, but I really wanted to see it through."

He said they gave up because one of the four, who has an artificial leg, could not hold out any longer.

"This was pretty much what I expected," said Hall. "I think I have proved a point. These men experienced tremendous discomfort, and yet we subject animals to these conditions all the time, imagining that they have no feelings." — Sapa-AFP.

THE CITIZEN – DEC. 8, 1993

"Whoever does not respect life, does not deserve it."

– Leonardo da Vinci.

To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards of men. –

Ella Wheeler Wilcox



LETS DO IT FOR OUR PIGS TOO!

FRIENDS OF THE PIG

... is a new organisation which aims to do for the pig what we're trying to do for the hen.

Anyone wishing to help get the pigs in South Africa out onto green grass, should write to:

FRIENDS OF THE PIG
P O BOX 785799
SANDTON
2146.

LETTERS TO HUMANITY FOR HENS

A Johannesburg member writes:

Just arrived back from the most unforgettable holiday in Namibia. The only thing that marred my travelling was the constant sight of huge cattle, sheep and goat trucks transporting the helpless animals over incredible distances in the blazing heat. To even try and imagine their fear and misery is impossible. Their desperate eyes will haunt me forever.

A Durban member writes:

The fact that mass torture of thousands of God's helpless creatures is conducted nationally on a daily basis, without the general public having any inkling of the issues involved or with its tacit approval, is reminiscent of all the wanton cruelty meted out by the so-called "human" race in genocidal sprees through history, from the "Holy" wars to the Holocaust, from the terror in our townships to the barbarism in Bosnia. This is the "dark meat" of the human animal – the propensity to kill other living things without conscience. In the end, it seems, whatever is expedient, particularly financially, is the measure by which we value life.



Dear Supporters,

Our fight against intensive farming is not for the hen alone. Every step that we gain for her is a step forward too for the pigs, the calves, the rabbits, geese, turkeys – the list goes on. Old attitudes die hard but I think we are making progress slowly but surely. Your support is deeply appreciated – although I know that all the appreciation you want is to see the animals given a reasonable quality of life.

Thank you to the wonderful Sea Point lady who gave R1000 to this cause.

Thank you too to the wonderful lady who thought of HforH when she had a bit of spare advertising space going free.

Thank you to Beauty Without Cruelty for putting a HforH petition in with their magazine. The response from BWC members was overwhelming and we thank them all.

Thank you too to the Vegetarian Society for including the Petition in their newsletter.

Thank you Action for Animals at UCT for the marvellous banner shown on Page 2

... and last but not least, to all HforH members and supporters without whom this organisation wouldn't exist, Thank you.

Thank you to all the people who have sent me cuttings and kept me abreast with developments I might otherwise have missed.

Thank you EVERYONE for all your huge efforts in collecting signatures. And thank you too for all the letters of encouragement and support. Thank you to everyone who, in whatever way, has helped us to make progress. Please keep up your valued support.

May 1994 be a year when real progress is made towards the alleviation of suffering of the chickens.

With warm wishes

Louise van der Merwe

I would like to contribute towards the costs of this humanitarian drive and enclose R

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Send to: Humanity for Hens
P O Box 843
Kuis River 7580