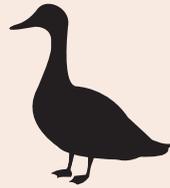




Turkeys and chickens commonly exploited for meat have been genetically manipulated to grow twice as fast as their ancestors, causing severe heart and lung problems that kill millions before they reach the slaughterhouse. Since their legs are not capable of supporting their abnormally heavy bodies, they also often become crippled.

Ducks and geese raised for the “delicacy” known as “foie gras,” are force-fed enormous quantities of food daily through pipes shoved down their throats. Made to ingest up to one third of their body weight in heavy grain-based feed daily, the birds become afflicted with disease and their livers swell up to 10 times their normal size.



Female pigs used to breed piglets for pork often spend most of their lives in metal gestation crates barely larger than their bodies. In addition to lameness, which comes with being immobilized for years, the sows suffer from open sores caused by constantly rubbing their bodies against the bars of their enclosures.



Millions of unwanted male chicks—the offspring of egg-laying hens—are discarded at the hatchery every year because they do not lay eggs and are thought to be too small to be raised profitably for meat. Since they have no economic use to the industry, the chicks are usually disposed of while still alive through unconscionably cruel means.



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Farm Sanctuary is the nation’s leading farm animal protection organization. Since incorporating in 1986, Farm Sanctuary has worked to expose and stop cruel practices of the “food animal” industry through research and investigations, legal and institutional reforms, public awareness projects, youth education, and direct rescue and refuge efforts. Farm Sanctuary shelters in Watkins Glen, NY and Orland, CA provide lifelong care for hundreds of rescued animals, who have become ambassadors for farm animals everywhere by educating visitors about the realities of factory farming.

For more information on factory farming and what you can do to help protect farm animals from abuse, please visit farmsanctuary.org.

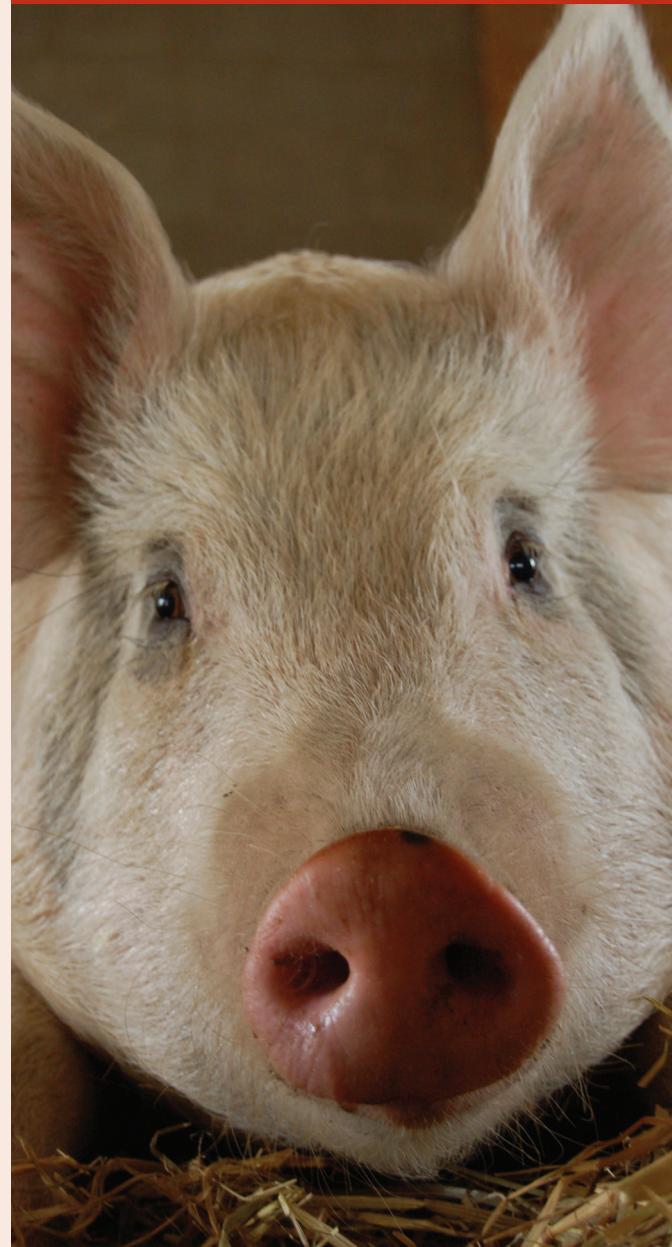
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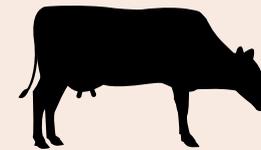
How We Treat the Animals We Eat



On Today’s Factory Farms...



Egg-laying hens are typically packed inside battery cages so tightly that they cannot even stretch their wings. Constantly scraping against the wire cages, the birds’ feathers are often worn away and their bodies become battered and bruised. Hens may live this way for years before they are considered “spent” and sent to slaughter.



Dairy cows have been bred to produce unnaturally large quantities of milk—the amount per cow more than quadrupling since 1925. As a result, production puts the animals’ bodies under extreme stress and they are often slaughtered after three to five years. Under more healthy and normal circumstances, cows can live in excess of 20 years.



Calves raised for veal frequently live their entire lives tethered by their necks inside wooden crates where they cannot walk, turn around or lie down comfortably. These calves are purposely fed a diet deficient in iron and fiber, producing borderline anemia and the pale-colored flesh marketed as “fancy” or “white” veal.



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Farm animals, like all animals, deserve to be treated with compassion and respect, but on today's industrialized farms, they are denied even the most basic humane consideration. Every year in the U.S., nearly 10 billion of these animals are raised, marketed and slaughtered under the most unconscionably cruel conditions.

Misleading marketing by agribusiness deceives consumers and leads them to believe that farm animals live an idyllic life. Pigs, cows, chickens, and other “food animals,” however, are most commonly raised on industrialized farms where they are treated like commodities, rather than sentient creatures. Farm animals are excluded from the federal Animal Welfare Act and are not protected by most state anti-cruelty laws. Intensive confinement, painful mutilations, injurious handling, and even abandonment are therefore often considered “normal practices” permissible under the law.



Chickens exploited for meat are packed tightly together on warehouse floors.

At production facilities, farm animals typically endure months, or even years, of misery in filthy, overcrowded living environments. Packed into factory-like warehouses, these animals are unable to exercise, breathe fresh air or engage in the most basic natural behaviors—restrictions that result in severe physical and psychological maladies.

Farm animals are mutilated, without pain relief, as they are modified to fit the factory farming system. Parts of turkeys and chickens' beaks and toes are frequently cut off to prevent frustrated birds from injuring each other in crowded conditions, and pigs, sheep and cattle are commonly castrated, ear-notched and tail-docked without anesthesia.



Turkeys and chickens are debeaked without anesthesia to fit the factory farming system.

These animals are also normally subjected to even more torment when they are handled, transported and marketed by industry workers and are routinely whipped, kicked, beaten, and shocked with electric prods.



Foie gras ducks are violently handled and force-fed enormous quantities of food daily.

During transport, farm animals are often packed inside trucks with inadequate ventilation where they become stressed and sustain injuries from being trampled by other anxious animals. They can be legally transported for up to 36 hours



Poultry are packed together in crates for transport to slaughter.

without food, and inadequate transportation law is rarely, if ever, enforced. During hot weather, animals routinely die from heat exhaustion, and, in the winter, they freeze to death on trucks.



Farm animals are routinely beaten at stockyards by industry workers.

Every year, countless farm animals become so sick or injured that they cannot stand or walk. The “food animal” industry calls these animals “downers.” Downed animals are often dragged with chains or pushed with tractors and forklifts after suffering for hours or days without food, water or veterinary care. In some cases, downed animals are dumped into the trash or discarded on stockyard dead piles while they are still alive.

At the slaughterhouse, frightened animals are typically herded onto the killing floor or, in the case of poultry, are pulled from transport crates

and shackled upside down by their feet on a moving rail. Speed, not humane consideration, guides these practices and intolerable suffering often results from such handling.



Turkeys are shackled upside down by their feet for slaughter while still alive.

While the Humane Slaughter Act dictates that cattle, pigs and other livestock are stunned before their throats are cut, this law is routinely violated. Poultry, the animals comprising more than 90 percent of those slaughtered annually for food, are denied this minimal consideration. Industry reports also indicate that even when animals are stunned, there is still an alarming failure rate. It is not uncommon for improperly stunned animals to be dismembered or boiled alive in scalding tanks while fully conscious.



Downed animals are often denied food, water or veterinary care and left for dead.

This is how we treat the animals we eat.