



# HENS NEED A HAND!

## THE HARD-BOILED TRUTH

When you think about where our eggs come from, you may picture a little red barn on Old MacDonald's farm. But nothing could be further from the truth. Most eggs in the United States come from **factory farms**, windowless warehouses with hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of hens. Hens in today's egg factories are some of the most abused of all farm animals. Instead of roaming in the sun, scratching and pecking at the ground, they're confined in **battery cages**—tiny, barren wire enclosures stacked one on top of another in long rows.



Farm Sanctuary

## FREE AS A BIRD?

- ◆ About 95% of the nearly 300 million laying hens in the United States are confined in battery cages.
- ◆ Each hen raised in a battery cage has a space less than the size of a sheet of paper.
- ◆ Hens kept in battery cages can't lay their eggs in nests, walk, or even spread their wings.
- ◆ The inability of hens to nest in battery cages is the greatest source of frustration for these caring mothers.

## YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the "Cage-Free Cafeteria" project—ask your school to put compassion on the menu and buy eggs only from farms that don't cage hens. Visit [humanesociety.org/teens](http://humanesociety.org/teens) to sign up!

## GET TO KNOW CHICKENS

While there are some pet chickens in this country, most of us don't spend much time with these animals. Here are some fascinating facts about them:

**Social butterflies.** In nature, chickens live in groups of up to 30 other birds and, like dogs and other animals, have a social order. Members of a flock do everything together, from dust-bathing to finding food.

**Feathered friends.** Chickens know each other by their facial features. They can recognize more than 100 other chickens—and remember them!

**Family ties.** A mother hen starts bonding with her chicks before they are even born. She will turn her eggs as many as five times an hour and softly cluck to her unborn chicks, who will chirp back to her. In the wild, a mother hen will threaten other hens who come within 20 feet of her chicks. Chickens will also fight with eagles and foxes to protect their family!

**Cluckin' clever!** Chickens are intelligent animals and good problem-solvers. More advanced than young children, chickens can understand that an object, when taken away and hidden, continues to exist.

**Chicken speak.** Chickens have more than 30 types of vocalizations. They use separate alarm calls depending on whether a predator is traveling by land or in the sky.



## WIND OF CHANGE

There's no need for cruel cages. These folks know it!

- ♥ Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria have banned battery cages. The entire European Union is phasing out barren cages by 2012.
- ♥ Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, as well as a number of regional grocery chains, now sell only eggs from hens who aren't confined to cages.
- ♥ AOL and Google have switched to cage-free eggs in their employee cafeterias!
- ♥ Ben & Jerry's is phasing out battery-cage eggs used in its ice cream.
- ♥ Dartmouth, University of California-Berkeley, University of New Hampshire, Georgetown, and many other colleges and universities have policies to do away with or decrease their use of eggs from caged hens.
- ♥ The city councils of Takoma Park, Maryland, and West Hollywood, California, have passed resolutions opposing the confinement of egg-laying hens. Both resolutions encourage consumers not to purchase battery-cage eggs.

[ All Creatures Great And Small ]