



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Support S2191/H7180: Help End the Unnecessary and Cruel Confinement of Farm Animals

MILLIONS OF FARM ANIMALS are forced to spend virtually their entire lives packed into cages so small they can't even turn around. Americans oppose this cruelty, and this bill simply prohibits confining some of these animals in a manner that does not allow them to lie down, stand up, turn around freely, and fully extend their limbs. It would prevent two of the most notorious industrialized factory farm abuses: confining calves in veal crates and pigs in gestation crates.

Gestation Crates

Renowned animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin states, *"Gestation crates are a real problem. Basically you're asking a sow to live in an airline seat."* She continues, *"We've got to treat animals right, and gestation stalls have got to go."*

Most sows in the pork industry spend nearly all of their four-month long pregnancies confined in barren gestation crates. These individual cages are approximately 2 feet wide and 7 feet long—so small the animals *can't even turn around* or take more than a step forward or backward.

For several years, sows are confined in these crates, enduring a cycle of repeated impregnation. Virtually unable to move, they suffer muscle and bone weakness that often leads to lameness. Many become neurotic, engaging in repetitive coping behaviors, such as constantly biting the bars in front of them. Due to the extreme length of time they're confined and the severe physical restrictions the crates impose, pigs in gestation crates suffer among the worst abuse in all of industrial agribusiness.



Veal Crates

Randy Strauss, CEO of Strauss Veal (the nation's largest veal producer) calls veal crates *"inhumane and archaic"* and says they *"do nothing more than subject a calf to stress, fear, physical harm and pain."*

Like breeding sows, most veal calves are intensively confined in individual crates too narrow for them even to turn around. Tethered by their necks to even further restrict their movement, they're virtually immobilized for their entire 16-week long lives. Unfortunately, this confinement is common in the veal industry, despite overwhelming scientific evidence that it's inhumane and at odds with public opinion. For example, The **American Veterinary Medical Association** says that calves should be able to turn around.



More Humane Options

It's difficult to imagine a worse existence for than lifelong confinement in a space so small you can't even turn around. The alternative to gestation and veal crates is "group housing," which affords animal's greater freedom of movement.

- **Iowa State University** conducted a two-and-a-half year long economic analysis of gestation crates and found that *"reproductive performance can be maintained or enhanced in well-managed group housing systems...without increasing labor."* Overall, the study concluded that *"group housing...resulted in a weaned pig cost that was 11 percent less than the cost of a weaned pig from the individual stall confinement system."*
- The many producers already raising veal calves without crates know that it's unnecessary to confine them in crates. One-third of the U.S. veal industry has transitioned to group housing. Even the **American Veal Association** itself—the veal industry's trade group—*"recommends that the entire veal industry convert to the group housing methodology."*

Gestation crates and veal crates are so cruel, eight U.S. states and the European Union have passed legislation to outlaw these types of intensive confinement systems. This bill would echo the legislative progress that's already been made and take a stand against two of the cruelest forms of industrial agribusiness.