

**ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Arlington County prides itself as an animal-friendly city, with 12,500 members of The Humane Society of the United States, and believes that the welfare of animals raised for food is a matter of social importance; and

WHEREAS, Most breeding pigs in the U.S. are confined in “gestation crates” and endure a cycle of repeated impregnation for virtually their entire lives; and

WHEREAS, The crates in which these pigs are confined measure approximately 2 feet wide by 7 feet long—so small the animals can’t even turn around or take more than a step forward or backward; and

WHEREAS, Compared to those allowed freedom of movement, breeding pigs confined in gestation crates suffer disproportionately from health problems including foot and leg injuries, reduced muscle mass and bone strength, urinary tract infections, and psychological injuries such as repetitive bar-biting, head-weaving, and sham-chewing; and

WHEREAS, an undercover investigation in Virginia by The Humane Society of the United States documented the extreme confinement of breeding pigs suffering inside gestation crates at an industrial sow facility owned by a large pork producer who, following the investigation, committed to phase out the use of gestation crates from its corporate-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, The prestigious Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production recommends a “[p]hase out of the most intensive and inhumane production practices,” including “gestation crates where sows are kept for their entire 124-day gestation period”; and

WHEREAS, Renowned animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin states, “We’ve got to treat animals right, and gestation stalls have got to go. . . . Confining an animal for most of its life in a box in which it is not able to turn around does not provide a decent life”; and

WHEREAS, Gestation crates are so cruel that nine U.S. states and the European Union have outlawed them; and

WHEREAS, Smithfield Foods, the nation’s largest pork producer, and Hormel Foods, maker of SPAM, have announced that they will end the use of gestation crates in their company-owned facilities by 2017, and companies such as McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s, Costco, Kroger, Safeway, Kraft (maker of Oscar Mayer), Denny’s, Sonic, Cracker Barrel, Carl’s Jr., Hardee’s, Sysco, ARAMARK, Campbell Soup Company, and Sodexo have committed to ending the use of gestation crates in their supply chains;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arlington County Board:

1. Recognizes that farm animal welfare is an important social concern and that the ability to move freely and express natural behaviors is important to the welfare of farm animals;
2. Encourages pork producers to eliminate the use of gestation crates and to implement more humane housing systems for breeding pigs.