

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania (AACT)
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TASMANIA

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AACT Now

quarterly news from **Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania**

February 2006

We're AACTive

Falls Festival

Marion Bay, 30 Dec - 01 Jan 05/06
AACT's first stall at this enormous event was a "raving" success.

Cygnets Folk Festival

Cygnets, 14-15 January 2006
AACT has become a regular at this event and once again it proved to be a highly successful stall.

Carrick Rodeo

Carrick, 14 January 2006
AN AACT Committee member together with a close friend of AACT filmed the cruelty of this rodeo, which included a bull breaking its back and sometime after this being kicked in the head by a "cowboy" handler. This footage was

shown nationwide and has led to (and will continue to do so) an outpouring of sympathy and feelings of abhorrence by much of the Tasmanian public.

Shearwater Protest

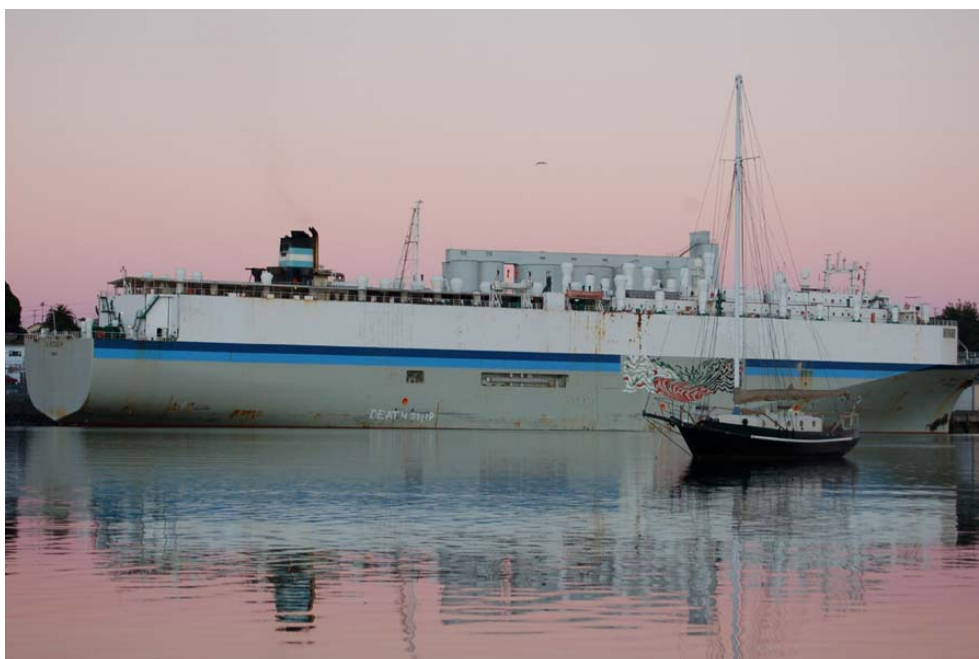
Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, Ulverstone, 18 January 2006

This multi-city protest against the recreational killing of muttonbirds was well supported by AACT members and received excellent media coverage.

Live Export Protest

Devonport, 11-12 February 2006

This was the largest live export protest ever held in Tasmania, thanks to support from AACT members and members of animal rights groups who travelled from interstate.



encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania is a not-for-profit group based in Hobart, Tasmania. Our aim is to eliminate all exploitation, cruelty and suffering of animals within our state and beyond.

We strive to facilitate change through non-violent action, education and political lobbying on a wide variety of issues. Our current campaigns target the live export industry, intensive farming, and duck shooting.

At all times, AACT strives to respect the diverse opinions of its members and supporters through our action.

AACT liaises with appropriate groups and organizations to achieve our objectives, which are:

- **to encourage and support cruelty free living**
- **to identify and campaign against the inhumane treatment of animals within Tasmania**
- **to respond to national and international animal cruelty issues as appropriate**



EDITORIAL

Craig Quarmby

Recherche Bay has been saved. In the nick of time for both the trees and our Premier. Thank you Dick Smith (and Paul, let's also thank Bob). It got me thinking ... The environmental movement is one of the fastest growing movements in the developed world. "Green" parties are threatening major political parties, global corporate entities are terrified of being targeted by environmental groups, and much of ethical investing is really "environmentally friendly investing". Most of my friends, neighbours, and colleagues care for the environment. Some even care about whales being slaughtered by the Japanese, and seal cubs being bludgeoned to death by a few callous Canadians, but few care about cows, pigs, sheep, possums and wallabies. Yet, almost every animal rights "activist" (What a great word? Don't you feel proud when someone calls you an activist?!) I know cares deeply for the environment. Why the difference? Surely if you care for our

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environment, you care for *all* the life that inhabits it? Not so ...

Environmentalists – as a general rule – are looking after the world *for humans*. Burn fossil fuels, the hole in the ozone layer enlarges, planet earth heats up, and we become riddled with skin cancer before finally succumbing to an unfortunate death by drowning. Raze *our* forests to the ground and we have nowhere to drive to on the weekends, nowhere we can visit to get away from the boredom / frustration / terror of the cities that we have created. And our children, and our children's children, and their children, will all miss out. Slaughter endangered whales and we won't have them visiting our shores anymore, we will no longer be able to take our children to see these magnificent creatures.

Do not misunderstand me, saving the environment and preserving it for future generations is both a very noble and very necessary pursuit. But must planet earth always revolve around humans? Can we not save the environment for future generations of *all* life, and while we're in the process of doing so save the billions of current generation birds and animals subjected to cruelty for *our* needs?

The focus needs to shift away from always satisfying human desires. And, albeit slowly, it is. As more and more people enter wilderness, they encounter orange-bellied parrots, brush-tail possums and Bennett's wallabies. And some of these will be found to be playing, mating or caring for their young. Some may even be injured. Witnessing this reminds humans that non-human animals do love, do play, do feel pain and are not senseless machines. The sloppy lick from their loyal, bounding dog at home, and the purr of the cat as she rubs up against their legs, reinforces the love found in all animals. And if love is found in birds, wallabies, dogs and cats, then surely cows sheep and pigs have it too. Yes, the world is awakening, and environmentalists are playing a pivotal role.



FROM THE COORDINATOR

Yvette Watt

WE NEED YOUR HELP

There's no doubt that while still not even three years old, AACT is getting bigger and stronger all the time. We are incredibly active for a totally volunteer run organization; we have media coverage of our campaigns almost every week,

our membership now numbers over 110, and our information stalls at such places as the Falls Festival and the Cygnet Folk Festival are getting the message out to thousands of people. BUT, our finances and other resources are not keeping pace with our level of activity and the number of campaigns we are trying to run.

Office space

We have totally outgrown our tiny office space at the Environment Centre. At present we have had to move office to AACT committee member Kathleen McLaren's spare room, but we are desperately looking for alternative, cheap office space in the city. Please let us know if you know of anywhere!

Volunteers

We also need more active members – especially those willing to join a campaign subcommittee or help out with fundraising.

Wish list

We also have a wish list of items that would make our work campaigning for animals that much more professional, successful and easier! If you have any of these items you could donate, or would be prepared to make a financial contribution to help us purchase them, we'd really appreciate your help!

- Pin-up boards (lightweight and portable)
- Free standing frame for AACT banner
- Filing cabinet
- Photocopier in good working order
- Lightweight folding chairs
- Trestle Table
- TV and DVD player
- Portashade/marquee
- Pamphlet stand

If you can help out with any of this, please give us a call on 0408 970 359 or email AACT_now@hotmail.com !!!!



Injured Birds

If you find sick or injured birds, adults or nestlings, including sparrows and starlings, please ring **Irene: 6265 8988**

DUCK SHOOTING

Catherine Silcock

Dear Friends,

We have good news, good news and good news.

Thanks to generous donations from members we have printed a large number of 'ban duck shooting' post cards. (Thank you again to donors of money and skills) If some have arrived with your newsletter, PLEASE do the right thing: sign them, stamp them and send them off! If you have a way of distributing these, or you have contact with a large number of people who would be prepared to sign these, please contact me via e-mail AACT_now@hotmail.com and we will have some sent to you. Even without sending them, if you can have a number of these signed, we will happily collect to present to the Minister in bulk. Just think...every AACT member plus one family member, one neighbour and one work mate and we're heading for our target. Keep that ban in your sight!

More good news: According to "Game tracks" there are changes afoot. The previously decentralised licensing system for Tasmanian shooters is moving onto the web. To cut a long story short this is a positive step toward accountable licensing and policing of offenders as far as reapplication is concerned.

And next (time to get excited): shooters who fail to return their license at the close of the season (a current requirement of the legislation- and currently ignored by an enormous number of shooters) will be refused a future licence. (We will clarify all of the above at the earliest opportunity). These strategies are specific recommendations put forward in years gone past by dedicated supporters of the movement. Thank you to all who have worked for this - shame wheels turn so slowly...

This will be the last newsletter before the opening of duck shooting season (11th march). If you are interested in either attending the opening of the season at Moulting lagoon or possible demos in Hobart that may be arranged PLEASE watch the website for plans and CONTACT us if you can be involved. If you can manage neither of these but want to be heard please phone Judy Jackson (Minister for planning and the environment: 03 6233-4180) and tell her you want to see recreational duck shooting banned in our state.

STOP PRESS

AACT held it's first "Tin-Shake" on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th February. Although the final count is still not in, preliminary counts put the figure raised at over \$3000!!! THANK YOU to all tin-shakers and donators.

Thanks to Bio-Distributors for their financial support.

Bio-Distributors are suppliers of certified organic food and other organic products.

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RECENT ACTION REPORTS

LIVE EXPORT

Suzanne Cass

AACT's protest against the loading of the "Al Messilah" on the weekend of February 11 was nothing short of sensational. Members of Animal Liberation in NSW, Victoria and South Australia and Animal Rescue joined us at the wharf, and made it a demonstration to remember, and we received national and international media coverage, including a report in the Middle Eastern news service "Al Jazeera".

The "Al Messilah" is a 26 year old converted car transporter, and looks every day of it. Our concerns for the animals mounted when we were told that we would only be allowed to stop the trucks for the usual 30 seconds for the first hour of loading. Roberts had prevailed upon the Tasmania Police to end our customary quick inspection of each incoming truck.

In the short window of opportunity we had, we were able to identify a number of breaches of the Code of Practice for the Export of Live Animals (Version 1; Version 2 is currently out for comment). The trailers being used were old and rusted, there were "downed" animals on some trucks, horned and un-horned animals being transported together, and in one case, a sheep with a severe horn injury was seen with blood all over its face.

We also have on videotape evidence of the truck ramps being of inappropriate heights and construction, so that the sheep were forced to

jump. Several got their legs caught in the gap between the ramp and the ship, and one sheep (at least) is kicked by a transport operator. It also appears that there are un-muzzled dogs on the trucks with the sheep at loading, another breach of the Code of Practice.



While we checked on what trucks we were able to hold up, our friends from interstate as well as some local people were passionate enough about this issue of immense cruelty to decide to break the police lines. After an attempt to prevent the ship from docking with zodiacs and kayaks failed, some protesters attempted to chain themselves to the gangways after the ship docked, and others lay down on the ground in front of the incoming trucks (at great risk to their own safety). Those protesters were gradually removed, arrested, bailed, and ordered from the wharf for the duration of the loading.

Animal Liberation Victoria brought in a van, parked it across the gates of the wharf, locked it, and moved it only when a tow truck arrived to remove it.



In total, twelve people were arrested, including three Tasmanians. On the Sunday, another Tasmanian managed to block the road from the feedlot by driving the entire way at 10kmh, and had four trucks blocked behind her when she arrived at the wharf. She was warned by the

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police, and ordered from the area (and that particular road).

Watching the events unfold from the sidelines were Michael Harris from Roberts, accompanied by an unidentified farmer and, on occasion, members of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association. Later in the day, the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and the Environment, Steve Kons, and his Liberal opposition number Jeremy Rockliff arrived, and were taken through to inspect the ship. Their rather naïve comments were that the ship was totally acceptable (as of course it would be when it was known that they would be inspecting it. And what else were they to say? That it was a “filthy, old rust-bucket, (which it is), and all the animals have to come off?” Unlikely).

On the second day of the protest, a number of local people were present at the wharf, including a wonderful couple in their 80's, and 12 year old Cody Williams, who had arrived the day before on his bike with a hand painted sign “SOS – Save our Sheep”. You are all an inspiration to us to keep on fighting this evil trade. On the Saturday and Sunday nights, candlelit vigils were held for the sheep headed to a terrible fate. On the Saturday night, Roberts and the government - which allow this to happen - were personified by the “Grim Reaper”



and on the Sunday night, twelve people still remaining in Devonport held a silent vigil while the “Al Messilah” sailed.

A special thank you as well to Liz Hardy, the intrepid van driver of the Sunday morning for her assistance and support in co-ordinating this protest, Guy and Jenny Burns, valiant kayakers and protesters, and Fred Groenier, who is featured in the “Sunday Examiner” with his kayak staring up at the massive bow of the “Al Messilah” as it entered the channel.



Thanks also to the Committee and those members who were able to be with us, and enormous thanks to our visiting friends from interstate animal advocacy groups.

While AACT as a group strongly rejects violence and does not encourage illegal activities, we have tremendous admiration for all those who effectively risked their lives by lying in front of the trucks, and undertook all the other covert actions that took place over the weekend. We were able to gain footage of the loading which indicates that the Code of Practice for the Export of Live Animals was not applied or enforced, and complaints to that effect will be drafted and sent to Primary Industries Minister Steve Kons (for him to add to the 45 FOI questions sent to him last year to which we are yet to receive satisfactory answers).

AACT is also indebted to the Tasmanian Police, who did show great restraint in a situation where emotions were running very high. We understand that charges laid could have been far worse, as could injuries. We do believe however, that the prohibition on inspecting each truck was amongst the catalysts for the events which followed, and we are concerned at what seems to be the undue influence that Roberts Limited appears to have over the Tasmanian Police. We would like to hope that, if we have to face up to another shipment next year, at least the status quo of previous years will be restored.

*Suzanne Cass
Live Export Campaign Co-ordinator*



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RODEOS

Emma Haswell

On January 14th this year, the universal great friend to all animals Diana Simpson and I started filming Tasmanian rodeos with the much valued assistance of AACT members.

This is the first time rodeos have been monitored by animal rights activists here in Tasmania. In the space of 3-4 weeks we have filmed 3 animals injured so badly they had to be destroyed. A total of eight animals died as a direct result of rodeos during this time.

The tragic sight of a bull named After Dark dragging himself off the arena has been shown nation wide on television. After Dark was filmed being kicked in the head and was forced to climb a ramp into a truck with a broken back. There was no veterinarian on site, and it was over an hour before one arrived. The vet briefly inspected the bull but did not put him down. He was driven away in the truck and apparently destroyed later.

Two weeks later while filming at the Ulverstone Rodeo, we were shocked to witness and film two more tragic events. Within 20 minutes of the rodeo starting a cow was badly injured in the hind quarters in the junior events. She staggered from the chute, fell to the ground and then managed to stand. Dragging her hind leg, she left the arena and was loaded onto a truck and taken away.

Later in the evening, a five year old gelding came out of the chute, and on this third buck, he also crashed to the ground with a broken front leg. Screens were placed around him and he was eventually (after at least 30 minutes) dragged into a horse float and was taken away. The Ulverstone Rodeo committee's answer to a dying horse in the arena was to bring on the clowns. While the horse was dying behind the screens the clowns removed one another's clothes and wrestled in the mud. The gelding died to the sound of cheering and hysterical laughter from the crowd.

All three of these terrible events were filmed and shown on TV news. There was also nationwide radio coverage.

There has been an overwhelming outpouring of concern from the public. People want to see rodeos banned in Tasmania and we would be following the lead of the A.C.T.

There is no enforceable code of practice here in Tasmania, something that the government now wants to change. South Australia has an

enforceable code of practice for rodeos which has caused the industry to stop the filming of rodeos by Activists. Those caught filming are now forcibly removed. Even bag searchers are occurring at the gates for cameras. On Saturday 18th February, we were stopped from filming at Ulverstone Jackpot Rodeo. We are opposed to the instigation of such a code of practice as it will legally validate cruelty.

Tasmania needs to ban rodeos in order to stop the cruelty of these events. Rodeos are legalised animal abuse. Animals are goaded into a frenzy with the use of spurs, electric prods and flank straps.

Please join us in demanding a ban on this cruel and outdated so called form of entertainment.



FALLS FESTIVAL

Kathleen McLaren

The AACT stall at the Falls Festival was a great success with many people stopping to view the posters and information on display. The focus was on the current main issues of pigs and hens in intensive (factory) farms, duck shooting and live exports. A number of people expressed horror and amazement that 'farm' animals were kept in such conditions in Tasmania. This is a reminder of how important it is to get this information 'out there'. There is so much hype and myth about animals in agriculture in mainstream society. For example, ads for dairy and meat products show happy animals frolicking or grazing in idyllic rural scenes. Similarly Australia Post has issued a collectable stamp series of "Farm Animals" portraying animals in this way. We can all help counter this misleading nonsense by passing the facts on to friends, family and colleagues. Many of them in turn will pass the news on to their friends, family and colleagues and so on.

There were a number of T-shirts, calico shopping bags and stickers with animal rights messages on sale. There was also a range of free stickers, which were very popular. The MacDonalds chick which stated "I am not a nugget!" sticker was top of the pops. A large wad of postcards for the Minister for Primary Industries asking him to ban sow stalls was signed. There were also a number of pages of signatures for the Against Live Exports petition. The petition asking the government to reintroduce the ban on importing wild captured primates to Australia for experimental purposes also received a lot of signatures.

A huge thank you to Emma for organizing and operating the booth so superbly and to Mark who came all the way from Melbourne with his fabulous T-shirts and bags to help out. Also to Georgia, Kiren and Liz who helped out and did such a great job responding to the many questions and comments from festival goers. And last but definitely not least, a very warm welcome to the 11 fine people who signed up as AACT members.



CYGNET FOLK FESTIVAL Kathleen McLaren

The AACT stall at Cygnet went very well over the weekend (14th & 15th January) in spite of Saturday's gusty winds which made for a very bad hair day among other things. Many people took information pamphlets, discussed issues and signed postcards and petitions. Our focus was on the intensive farming industry, live exports, the duck shooting and muttonbird killing seasons.



There was also a petition against the Japanese killing of whales which was receiving media coverage at the time thanks to Greenpeace and other activists. AACT received lots of positive feedback and a useful amount in donations. Thank you to members (Chris, Karen, Yvette, Sarah, Liz, Sue and Craig) and helpers (Gabrielle and Tasha) who gave their time and energy and also to Suzy who kindly gave her tent and Marion who let us use her shed for storage. All helped to make for a successful and enjoyable Festival stall.

ADVERTISERS

Promote your business to over 100 readers on this page!

Our reasonable advertising rates are as follows:

¼ page - \$25 ½ page - \$50 full page - \$100

Please contact AACT for further details

Visit the AACT Website to Keep Informed

The AACT website is growing all the time with new campaigns and updates to existing campaigns. If you want to find out what AACT is up to, drop by the website and check out our latest media releases. The most recent can now be accessed from our home page. The home page is also regularly updated with news of recent stalls, protests and media events and urgent campaign action. The 'What's On' page is regularly updated with the details of protests and other upcoming events. Coming soon to the website will be information on 2 more AACT campaigns – battery hens and rodeos. So stop by our website, and pass the address onto all your friends: www.aact.org.au

SHEARWATERS

Yvette Watt

On January 18th, AACT held a multi-city demonstration to protest at the recreational killing season of short-tailed shearwaters, otherwise known as muttonbirds. Protestors gathered outside Service Tasmania offices in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Ulverstone, handing out leaflets on the issue to passers-by. The location was chosen for the fact that anyone can walk into Service Tasmania and pay \$23 for a license which will allow them to kill up to 25 birds a day over the 16 day season.

In Hobart some 20 people with placards handed out over 150 leaflets during the one-hour, lunch-time protest. Media coverage was excellent, with a large story with colour photo in the Mercury and a small one in the Advocate, plus good stories on WIN and Southern Cross TV news as well as ABC radio news. The media have expressed their interest in this issue and are keen to do a follow up story at the opening of the season on March 25. For details of further action on this issue keep an eye on the AACT website closer to the time or give us a call on 0408 970 359.

Did you know?

- Tasmania is the only state to have legalised slaughter of the short-tailed shearwater. Legal killing of shearwaters was banned in Victoria 30 years ago.
- Shearwaters are migratory birds, breeding in colonies in south eastern Australia, with the vast majority breeding in Tasmania. They travel a 30 000 kilometre round trip each year.
- Hundreds of thousands of chicks are killed each year in a recreational and a commercial season. Poaching in protected areas and out of season is also rife.

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- Whilst there is a written guide to how to kill 'humanely', in practice many chicks are killed in a barbaric way. Commonly they are swung around the killer's head until their neck breaks, or in some cases the chick's heads are stomped on and they may still be staggering around. Although it is not legal to do so, sometimes long hooks are used to haul them from their safe havens.

AACT NOW!

Write NOW, before the two open killing seasons commence for 2006. Ask Senator Ian Campbell to ensure the full weight of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is used to protect the short-tailed shearwater and its breeding colonies that are mainly in Tasmania. Also, under the Japan/Australia Migratory Birds Agreement, Australia is obligated to provide breeding sanctuaries.

Minister for the Environment and Heritage
 Senator the Hon Ian Campbell
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600
 Email: senator.ian.campbell@aph.gov.au

Ask Tasmanian Minister Judy Jackson to make every effort to stamp out poaching and to ban the two week long "recreational" chick killing season. Also ask her to implement a significant fine and jail penalties for each chick killed illegally, as is the case in other States. This should be included in the Wildlife Regulations 1999, along the lines of the special penalties in the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 ("sea fisheries"). Also, in line with the Seafisheries Act, rangers, police etc to be given power to seize vehicles, mobile phones, lights, backpacks, wire hooks ("sharpened implements"), dogs, sacks etc used during illegal shearwater chick killing.

Minister for Environment and Planning
 Hon Judy Jackson MHA
 GPO Box 825
 Hobart TAS 7001
 Fax: 03 6233 2671
 Email: judy.jackson@justice.tas.gov.au

QUARTERLY QUOTE

Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.

Mahatma Gandhi



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Volunteers for Muttonbird Season

The 'muttonbird' season opens on 25 March for 2 weeks. AACT, together with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, are seeking volunteers to be on site at short-tailed shearwater colonies, with a special effort on the opening day. Colonies where chicks can be legally murdered are in the West of the state and on the offshore islands. Poaching at other colonies is also common. Details are still being discussed and finalised. If you are interested in being a part of this, or finding out more, call Karen on 6295-0406.



QUARTERLY HOT TOPIC

AUSTRALIA'S BATTERY HEN FARMS

Sarah Beechey

The Battery Hen spends all her laying life in a cage crammed in with up to four other birds. She stands for life on a space smaller than an A4 piece of paper. Her only way out is to the slaughterhouse.

Battery Cages

Battery cages are rows and rows of bare wire cages kept in huge artificially lit sheds often stacked in tiers on top of each other that can range from 4 to eight deep. There is no access to sunlight and fresh air. The hen stands on thin sloping wire which provides extremely unnatural conditions for her legs, feet and claws. Her legs and feet often become crippled causing large amounts of pain, and her claws grow abnormally long and can grow around the wire making it difficult for her to reach food and water. She cannot perch, preen, scratch in the dirt, dust-bathe or spread her wings, and most of all she cannot escape to a quiet place on her own to lay an egg - all activities known to be extremely important to the behavioural needs of a hen.

The Price we pay for "farm fresh" eggs!!

Hens in battery cages can suffer a variety of injuries that go unnoticed in the gloomy cages. Birds in the top and lowest cages suffer most from neglect, being hard to see. Often, birds reach the point of death before farmers notice anything. Worse, dead hens are left in cages for long periods while 'farm fresh' eggs roll past or lodge against the corpses

Broken Bones

Bones become brittle from lack of exercise, space to stretch and the constant strain on their body of producing eggs. A large number of hens are affected by osteoporosis and the

methods of catching hens by grabbing as many as possible by their legs and often throwing them into crates to be transported to slaughterhouses can result in large percentages suffering painful fractures before they even reach their fate.

De-beaking

Severely frustrated hens competing for space will peck at each other. Farmers have decided that the way to cope with this is to remove up to half of the top beak and a third of the bottom with a hot wire guillotine. This causes severe pain and at times death from shock. Also the nerves in the beak stump are still active and the hen suffers pain for months, perhaps years afterwards. Due to the large numbers of chickens being de-beaked this procedure can often be carried out incorrectly, removing too much of the beak crippling the chicken for life and preventing them from getting enough food to survive. When the nerves grow back the beak often forms an abnormal tangled mass (neuroma) which causes long term pain.

Feather loss

Hens suffer from feather loss and red sore patches of skin from having to continually stretch their neck through the bars of the cage to reach the food at the front. After one year the hens will develop inflamed and raw chests without any feathers. This also affects the tail and neck area and sadly after years of confinement the majority of battery hens have lost the majority of their feathers.

Forced Moulting

Hens moult in autumn and naturally have a rest from laying for 2-3 months. Battery farmers attempt to reduce this non-productive period by semi or total starvation of the hens, in order to bring them back on-lay more quickly. Many hens die during this process.

Artificial Lighting Programs

Today's commercially-bred hens lay daily, already causing unnatural stress; the hen's body is pushed even further by lighting programs and hormones in her feed which stimulate her to lay even more eggs. Prolapse and tumours are common and hens can suffer from calcium deficiency leading to "layer fatigue" where the hen finally collapses.

Male chicks?

Half of all chicks born are male. The majority of them are killed when they are one day old. Methods used are crushing, mincing and suffocation. There is no room for sentiment in the poultry industry.

Do unhappy hens lay eggs?

Yes they DO. Laying eggs is a natural, biological function. Battery Hens are bred for maximum laying capacity and this is made worse by their high protein diet and unnatural lighting programs in the sheds.

Even confined, crippled, miserable, de-beaked and de-feathered hens will still lay eggs!

What are the alternatives?

There are several alternatives to battery cages that are already in use in Australia and overseas. Some are better than others.

Enriched Cages – Are very similar to battery cages except the cage has a perch and a dust bathing box, however birds are still kept in cramped conditions and have to compete for space.

Barn or deep litter – Hens live permanently in a shed on litter such as straw. Nest boxes and perches are available yet the large amounts of hens still mean that there is a lot of competition for perch space or nests. The RSPCA has endorsed these kinds of conditions for their 'liberty eggs'

Perchery or Aviary – Hens live permanently in a shed similar to the barn system but the shed is multi-storied so the perches and wire platforms are on different levels.

Free Range – This is by far the most humane choice of all. Hens are able to access outside areas during the day and roost in the shed at night, this is a much more traditional way of keeping hens however, some farmers claim to be free range while their facilities are not much better than barns or aviaries.

What can you do?

Every consumer has the power to make a difference and say No! to these conditions. If you chose to buy eggs, buy Free Range!!! Or eggs that are guaranteed to come from non-caged hens. Don't be fooled by names on egg cartons such as "Farm Fresh" that conjure up images of hens wandering around green paddocks. 93 percent of commercial eggs come from hens cramped in small wire cages. If you are unsure as to the conditions of the hens it is easy to make a phone call and question how the hens are kept. These days there are egg alternatives such as arrowroot and many other ways in which to get your protein such as nuts, beans, tofu and other soy products.

Write letters to the Premier, local government members, your local RSPCA, or join us at AACT.

Only public opinion and response can permanently alter conditions for our fellow animals. YOUR support, YOUR letters, YOUR

refusal to buy cruel products will in turn create a better world for the animals. AACT now by writing to your local supermarkets.



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

Canberra, ACT

The Federal Government and livestock industries have promised to launch a major offensive against animal welfare activists this year. Tough new laws are being considered to crack down on people interfering with any aspect of animal production or marketing. "They won't stop us from fighting animal cruelty." – Yvette Watt, AACT Coordinator.

... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

Austria

The Upper Chamber in the Austrian Parliament has agreed to a ban on ape experiments. From 1 Jan 2006 onwards, experiments on apes that are not in the interest of the subject will be illegal in principle in Austria.



AACT DIARY

- 4 March 2006, 11.30am
Live Export – Day of Mourning
Outside *Roberts*, Launceston
- 5 March 2006, 4pm
AACT Members Meeting
Republic Bar, North Hobart
- 11 March 2006
Opening of Duck-shooting season
Volunteers required – please contact AACT on 0408 970-359
- 25 March 2006
Opening of Muttonbird Season
Volunteers required – please contact Karen on 6295-0406

COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

- Coordinator:** Yvette Watt
- Deputy Coordinator:** Emma Haswell
- Treasurer:** Karen Bohmer
- Secretary:** Catherine Silcock
- Membership Secretary:** Maria Merry
- General Committee:** Ben Bartl, Sarah Beechey, Suzanne Cass, Jacqui Ryan
- Northern Branch Coordinator:** Liz Hardy
- Newsletter Editor:** Craig Quarmby
- Website Developer:** Karen Bevis

AACT CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

- Live export:** Suzanne Cass
- Intensive pig farming / Rodeos:** Emma Haswell
- Duck shooting:** Catherine Silcock
- Battery Hens:** Sarah Beechey



.....✂️.....
AACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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 Postcode.....
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 Work ☎️
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Sign up for

- Full Membership (\$20 per year)
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