

Environment Hearing 2/9/09 My name is Karen Laski 279 Fern St, Manchester, CT

I support the Pet Lemon law bills 499 and 5493, Dog Tethering bill 5798, Rabies vaccination record bill 5808, Abandoned Animal bill 5807 and Battery Cage Bill 5811

Battery Cages: Please refer to pictures of a CT egg farm by googling Wesleyan battery hens.

In battery cage facilities, eggs are not laid, they are manufactured. In nature, hens would normally live 10-15 years. Hens kept in battery cages typically live about a year and a half, never seeing the sun or even stretching their wings. Their bodies are tightly compressed against other hens which allows them no exercise at all.

The wire floors of the cage often cripple the hen's legs and feet and claws grow long and twisted sometimes literally growing around the floor of the cage, immobilizing the hen completely - eventually she starves to death.

Since cage floors are sloped to facilitate egg collection, hens slip down to crosswires, causing calluses that rupture and become infected.

Because of the restricted environment, they throw themselves against the cage bars, injure themselves and damage their feathers. The skin becomes raw, infected and hens are constantly in pain.

Battery hens also suffer from tumors, osteoporoses, fatty liver syndrome, swollen head syndrome and a host of other painful conditions.

Vet care is non-existent because individual hens are cheap and expendable. Critically ill hens are thrown into dead piles. Hens sometimes have to live next to decomposing bodies. Other "Spent" chickens are shipped long distances and processed.

Cages are stacked in rows the length of football fields on top of one another and hens are suspended over thousands of pounds of manure. They breathe air heavy with ammonia. A law to ban battery cages in the state of California was passed last November.

Puppy Mills: Baby is a puppy mill survivor who lived through 9 years of abuse and on the day she was scheduled to be killed she was rescued by a passing stranger. Like all breeding dogs at the mill, she was tattooed with a number and had her vocal chords cut so owners wouldn't have to listen to her cries. She has a nervous tic and her front leg had to be amputated after she was rescued because of the mistreatment and she had suffered.

She now has a wonderful home and travels around the country as an ambassador and a ray of hope for other dogs confined to puppy mills.

Please help animals get out of this horror.

References: USDA; United Egg Producers; World Poultry Science Journal; UC-Davis, Hartford Courant; Wesleyan University; Humane Society; MainLine Animal Rescue, ASPCA

Also: Pew Foundation with Johns Hopkins School of Public Health -
Intensive Farm Animal Commission - 2006-2008