

HELP FARM ANIMALS



All Animals Deserve Respect & Compassion

Farm animals have unique personalities. They're fascinating creatures with the ability to love, form friendships, mourn, get angry and show a variety of other emotions. They are deserving of our respect and our compassion.

COWS & CATTLE: Cattle possess many unique traits, the most distinctive being their social disposition. They are extremely social animals. They are also intelligent and emotional.

DUCKS & GEESE: Ducks are very social animals. Males and females sometimes live in pairs or together with their ducklings. They communicate both vocally and with body language. At other times ducks spend much of their time—during both day and night—in larger groups. A pair of geese will stay together their entire lives.

SHEEP & GOATS: Sheep and goats, like cows, are ruminant animals. They have a four-chambered stomach, using the first chamber to store food (cud) which they then bring back into their mouths to chew again before fully digesting it. These grazing animals often prefer noxious weeds and plants, which makes them great environmentalists.

PIGS: Despite their reputation, pigs have many positive attributes including cleanliness, intelligence and a social nature. Pigs are indeed clean animals. Yes, they do roll in mud, but only because they can't sweat like people do; the mud (or water) actually keeps them cool. If available, pigs, who are excellent swimmers, prefer water to mud. Pigs also carefully

keep their sleeping area clean, and will designate a spot as far from this area as possible for waste. Pigs are incredibly intelligent and emotional animals.

CHICKENS: Chickens form strong family ties. A mother hen begins 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 and to one another. After they are hatched, the devoted mother dotes over her brood, teaching them what to eat, how to drink, where to roost, and how to avoid enemies.

TURKEYS: A bald eagle, as the nation's official bird, adorns the Great Seal of the United States of America. But if Benjamin Franklin had had his way, a turkey, not a bald eagle, might have famously gripped those 13 arrows and an olive branch as part of the seal. Franklin knew, like others who have spent time around this large and intelligent bird, that it would have been an honor for the turkey to represent the U.S.

HORSES & DONKEYS: Horses are herd animals, with a clear hierarchy of rank. They are also social creatures that are able to form companionship attachments to their own species and to other animals, including humans. Donkeys are quite intelligent, cautious, playful, and eager to learn.



FACTORY FARMING

The consolidation of farms in recent years has radically altered the face of farming. Today more animals are being raised on less land, with profound effects on the animals, rural communities and the environment. This shift in farming has been termed "industrial agriculture" or "factory farming," as thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of animals, are crowded into huge buildings with no access to the outdoors. These animals may spend their entire lives on slatted floors, under which their manure collects until it is pumped into football-field-sized lagoons. Factory farms strive to produce the most meat, milk, and eggs as quickly and cheaply as possible, and in the smallest amount of space possible. Animals are kept in small cages or stalls, often unable to turn around. They are deprived of exercise so that all of their bodies' energy goes toward producing flesh, eggs, or milk. They are fed growth hormones to fatten them faster and are genetically altered to grow larger or to produce more milk or eggs than nature intended. Because crowding creates disease, they are fed and sprayed with huge amounts of pesticides and antibiotics, which remain in their bodies and are passed on to the people who eat them.

BEEF: Cattle are either branded with hot irons or "wattled," a process in which a chunk of flesh from under the cow's neck is cut out. Raised on the range or in feed lots, cattle when large enough are crammed into metal trucks and taken to slaughter, often traveling for hours in sweltering temperatures with no access to water. Animals unable to stand due to broken legs or illness are called "downers" and are electrically prodded or dragged with chains, or left outside without food or water to die.

PORK: Factory-farmed pigs are raised in crowded pens which are enclosed inside huge barns. The air in these barns is filled with eye and lung burning ammonia created by urine and fecal waste collected below the floors. Breeding sows (or "animal production units") spend their lives in metal crates so small that they cannot turn around. They develop stereotypical behavior, repetitive movement such as head bobbing, jaw smacking, and rail biting. At the slaughterhouse, pigs are stunned, hung upside down before their throats are cut, and then bled to death.

CHICKEN: On factory farms, crowded and unable to express natural behavior, chickens begin to peck excessively at each other. Rather than solve this problem by providing adequate space for the chickens, factory farmers "debeak" them, a painful procedure where the



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bird's sensitive upper beak is sliced off with a hot metal blade. Chickens are genetically altered to grow abnormally large. As a result, many are unable to support the weight of their muscle tissue, which causes them to hobble in pain or become crippled. At the slaughterhouse, chickens while still fully conscious are hung upside down by their feet and attached to a moving rail.

EGGS: Most egg-laying hens are confined to "battery" cages - tiny wire boxes roughly 16 by 18 inches wide. Five or six birds are crammed into each cage. Hens are forced to produce 10 times more eggs than is natural. When egg production slows, "forced molting" shocks hens into losing their feathers, which causes them to begin a premature laying cycle. Forced molting involves starving the hens and denying them water for several days. To keep hens from pecking each other in their crowded cages, factory farmers "debeak" them. Male chicks, considered by-products, are killed.

MILK: Factory farmed dairy cows are forced to produce 10-20 times the amount of milk they would naturally. Many "burn out" at a much younger age than their normal life expectancy and suffer painful udder infections. To continue milk production, a cow must bear a calf each year. Although calves elsewhere stay with their mothers for a year or more, on the factory farm they are immediately removed from their mothers and sold to the beef or veal industry, or become replacements for "burned out" dairy cows.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Stop factory-farming abuses by supporting legislation that abolishes intensive-confinement systems. Factory farming is an extremely cruel method of raising animals, but its profitability makes it popular. Farm animals are sentient beings that experience all the same emotions we do. The best way to save animals from the misery of factory farming is to stop or reduce your consumption of meat, milk, cheese and eggs.