



THEIR VOICE

ANIMAL EQUALITY'S MAGAZINE - Nº 12

MAKING AN IMPACT

**Our Work Creates New Protections for
Millions of Animals**

U.S. CATFISH FARMING EXPOSED

**OUR NEW CAMPAIGN TO HELP
BABY CHICKS**

**WORLDWIDE INVESTIGATIONS REVEAL
THE REALITY OF THE PIG INDUSTRY**

animaleQUALITY

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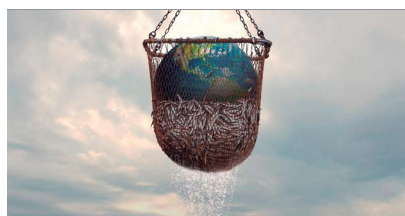
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hope this message finds you and yours safe and healthy in what has been a difficult time for us all.

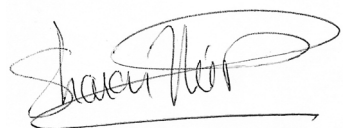
At Animal Equality, we are firmly grounded in the reality that while our lives may be somewhat getting back to normal, the lives of billions of farmed animals are still wrought with suffering and abuse. In just the last couple of months, we released our second U.S. investigation, which documented abuse on a catfish farm and was published exclusively by NBC News. We protested the deplorable conditions that Spanish calves and cows faced while stranded on ships during a live transport shipment that went horribly wrong. We released separate investigations into commercial fishing on three different continents which showed that, regardless of the region, fish are continuously exploited and abused. We brought footage of the plundering and pollution of the planet's natural resources in Mexico to the rest of the world, revealing that this destruction's common thread is industrial animal farming. All of this sadness, all of this pain—and yet, I still feel hopeful.

Each and every day, and thanks to your support, our team rose to the challenge. Our campaigns to end practices like the killing of baby chicks and confinement cages gained tens of thousands of new supporters and yielded positive results that will impact millions of animals. Our legal advocacy, including stopping the continued false advertising from companies marketing themselves with terms like “humane,” proved that we can and will use the law to hold producers accountable. The world is watching, and reacting, to our work and calls to action.

I'm optimistic about the future, too. Our departments are preparing for the year ahead, putting the finishing touches on new campaigns and initiatives that will protect animals from cruelty. I look forward to sharing more details of these developments with you in the coming months.

Thanks to your continued support, we've been able to accomplish so much. With you by my side, we will rise into this future together, one step at a time.

With hope,



SHARON NÚÑEZ
PRESIDENT
ANIMAL EQUALITY



PROGRESS!

JANUARY

Animal Equality and Champion Petfoods resolved legal claims, filed by Animal Equality in 2020 in D.C.'s Superior Court, related to the pet food company's marketing of the rainbow trout in its products. The company corrected 'wild-caught' advertising claims on its website and agreed to provide additional transparency regarding its fish sourcing practices.

FEBRUARY

Animal Equality released undercover footage from a slaughter facility operated by The Scottish Salmon Company. Read more on page 13.

In collaboration with Italian television, Animal Equality released a new investigation into pig farms in Northern Italy. Find the whole story starting on page 24.

Animal Equality brought to light distressing scenes from a farm in Catalonia, Spain—a region home to the highest concentration of intensive pig farms. See what our investigators found starting on page 24.

In India, Animal Equality exposed the country's fishery and aquaculture sector and showed the inefficient use of precious resources, like water and land. The investigation can be found on page 12.

DECEMBER

In India, we released a new investigation into the country's chicken production industry, detailing numerous animal welfare and food safety violations. This is our second investigation into India's chicken farms, and recommendations to reduce the suffering of chickens have been presented to the Indian government.

Following our campaign in Italy to eliminate the routine mass culling of male chicks in the egg industry, Assoavi, the trade association that represents major egg producers in the country, committed to implementing technology that will prevent this.

In honor of International Animal Rights Day, Animal Equality released a new investigation revealing that wet markets in China continue to sell and slaughter dogs and cats for meat, despite media reports and statements from the country's government proclaiming otherwise. According to research, more than 10 million dogs and 4 million cats are killed for consumption each year in the country.

Animal Equality published distressing footage of chickens suffering on a German farm used by the country's largest chicken producer, Wiesenhof. We then filed a complaint against the farm with the relevant German authorities.

MARCH

Animal Equality launched a national campaign in the U.S to ban the egg industry's routine killing of baby chicks. Chick culling is a practice used by egg producers in which male chicks are killed the day they are born because they are not considered profitable by the industry. In the U.S. alone, around 260 million male chicks are killed each year—that's 30,000 freshly hatched chicks every hour.

In response to thousands of cows and calves being stranded on the Mediterranean Sea for many months, Animal Equality held numerous demonstrations in Spain to protest the cruelty of live animal transport. Read their story on page 22.

APRIL

A new report produced by Animal Equality details the alarming impact animal farming has on the environment in Mexico. Faced with this overwhelming evidence, Animal Equality filed complaints against 44 farms with local authorities and called for the facilities to be shut down.

Animal Equality filmed at P&G Sleigh Pig Unit in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and found very troubling scenes as well as a number of serious legal violations. Learn more starting on page 24.

MAY

In Brazil, Animal Equality released an investigation into the country's meat industry and its practice of slaughtering pregnant cows. What we are doing about it can be found on page 16.

JUNE

Animal Equality, alongside other animal protection groups, helped to secure the passage of a bill in Nevada that would ban cages for hens in the egg industry. The legislation also requires eggs sold in the state to be from cage-free facilities no matter where the eggs were produced, and requires specific enrichments for hens and a minimum of one square foot (.09 square meters) per bird. The new law will impact around 3.5 millions hens per year.

Animal Equality released an investigation documenting what happens to pigs inside an Italian slaughterhouse, revealing the terrible cruelty that animals endure within these places. The investigation was filmed at Zema Srl slaughterhouse located in the province of Cremona—a facility known for its “quality” products, as well as being a representative company of “Made in Italy” marketing, both in Italy and abroad.

Animal Equality's campaign to ban live animal markets won Eurogroup's #Campaign4Animals 2020 Award. The award was created and promoted by Eurogroup for Animals—a pan-European animal advocacy organization, comprising 77 member organizations, whose key focus is to improve the wellbeing of as many animals as possible through effective legal advocacy and public awareness work. The campaign was highlighted for its tremendous impact on animals, as well as how it responded to the COVID-19 crisis and mobilized supporters.





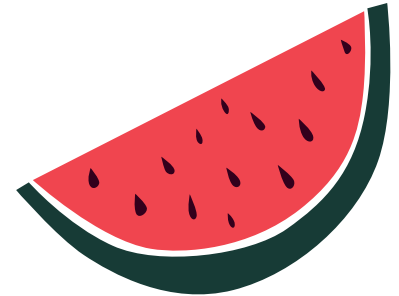
Taco Bell is Testing Plant-Based Meat

Following in the footsteps of other popular fast-food chains such as Del Taco, Burger King, and Carl's Jr., Taco Bell is testing plant-based meat. The new product, which the chain calls "boldly-seasoned plant-based protein," was available for a limited time at one location in Southern California. "The Cravetarian Taco" could be made vegan by omitting the cheese and sour cream and was super affordable at \$2.19 per taco.



Johnny Rockets Adds Vegan Cheeseburgers and Milkshakes Nationwide

The 1950s themed burger chain is now offering the Impossible Burger with Daiya cheese at 80 participating locations. Wash it down with your choice of a vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry milkshake made with Craig's hand-scooped vegan ice cream and vegan whipped cream.



PLANT-BASED REVOLUTION



Target Rolls Out Its Own Plant-Based Food Line

One of America's retail giants, Target, is launching its own plant-based line, called Good & Gather Plant-Based. To start, it will contain 30 plant-based products in the categories of meat alternatives, dips, spreads, salad dressings, creamers, and more, to satisfy the ever-growing demand for plant-based options.



Plant-Based Food Sales Skyrocket Past 7 Billion

New data shows that the plant-based food industry is now worth more than 7 billion dollars and growing twice as fast as overall food sales. The report, commissioned by the Good Food Institute and the Plant-Based Foods Association, shows that plant-based retail sales grew 27 percent over the past year, and dollar sales grew 43 percent from 2018 to 2020, compared to just 17 percent growth for total U.S. retail food dollar sales over the same time period.

The UN Confirms: Plant-Based Diets Make a Difference

A report by Chatham House and supported by the United Nations titled “Food System Impacts on Biodiversity Loss” says that the world’s broken food system is the “biggest driver of destruction of the natural world” and that people must decrease consumption of animal products in order to stop the damage. A shift toward plant-based diets is necessary to combat climate change, with a reduction in the consumption of animal products crucial to reducing the risk of pandemics and disease. “A switch from beef to beans in the diets of the entire U.S. population could free up the equivalent of 42 percent of U.S. cropland for other uses such as ecosystem restoration or more nature-friendly farming,” says the report.



Plant-Based Breakfast Is Served

Starbucks started testing out a new “Plant-Powered Breakfast Sandwich” which comes equipped with a mung bean-based egg, vegan cheese, and a plant-based sausage patty. While waiting for the Starbucks sandwich to become available nationwide, those lucky enough to live near a Peet’s Coffee can enjoy the “Everything Plant-Based Sandwich,” which is made with a seasoned Beyond Meat breakfast sausage, JUST egg, and vegan cheddar on a toasted thin everything bagel.

ANIMAL ABUSE FILMED AT MISSISSIPPI CATFISH SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Animal Equality Demands Criminal Charges After Investigation Reveals Routine Suffocation and Mutilation

Fish are routinely overlooked in animal welfare laws, and in the U.S., aren't even covered by the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Unfortunately, this means fish are abused in untold ways, and our second U.S. investigation exposes the depths of this cruelty.

In August, Animal Equality released disturbing scenes of animal suffering filmed at a Simmons Farm Raised Catfish slaughterhouse



located in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Simmons, which kills over 21,000 catfish per day (animals who are raised in the company's intensive confinement ponds), is one of the largest USDA-inspected catfish slaughterhouses. The company supplies national restaurant chains Cracker Barrel and Captain D's, as well as grocery stores Kroger, Save A Lot, and Piggly Wiggly, among others.

Our month-long investigation revealed fish kept out of water for prolonged periods—up to an hour—before they were finally beheaded. While fish pass through an electrical stunning device during processing, many regain mobility and begin gasping and moving their fins long before they are finally decapitated. Rejected catfish, mudfish, and turtles were removed from production lines and placed in buckets without water. Later they are placed onto a conveyor and transported to a macerator where they were ground up alive.

Our investigator's hidden-camera footage and eyewitness statements reveal:

- Hundreds of catfish regularly left out of water to slowly suffocate while workers went on breaks
- Thousands of fish beheaded while conscious
- Turtles and rejected bycatch fish placed in buckets to be later ground up alive and, according to one employee, used as feed for Simmons' still-growing catfish
- A turtle thrown onto a moving conveyor carrying severed catfish heads and then desperately trying to crawl in the opposite direction as they were carried towards the macerator
- Undersized, deformed, and parasite-scarred fish left alive in bins without water on the slaughter floor for hours

"Catfish are extremely resistant to being stunned, and even though they appear to be paralyzed and immobile, many are still awake and capable of experiencing fear, suffering, and pain as they enter the beheading machine."

Sean Thomas

International Director of Investigations



Unlike many states, Mississippi's animal cruelty laws do not explicitly omit fish from protection. Given our findings at Simmons, we submitted evidence to the Yazoo County Sheriff's Office and County Prosecutor of severe violations, including of the statutory prohibition on needless mutilations and cruel manners of "carrying" or "conveyance," such as transportation upon the conveyor equipment.



"Every day at Simmons' slaughterhouse, thousands of catfish and countless other animals suffer. Our investigation revealed persistent violations of Mississippi state law. Charges must be brought against Simmons to stop the ongoing abuse."

Sharon Núñez

President



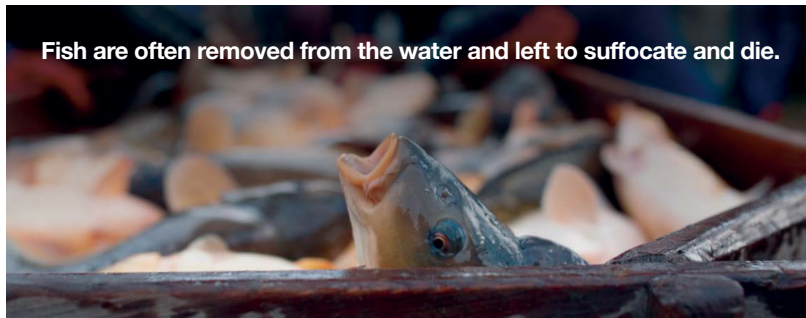
In addition to requesting that charges be filed against Simmons for animal cruelty violations, we are also asking for federal legislation that would protect fish under the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, as aquatic animals are currently excluded from the Act's protections. To that end, we have created a petition asking Congress to act. Please, let your voice be heard on behalf of these animals and add your names to those asking our representatives to prevent fish from being killed while still fully conscious. You can also make a difference for fish by sharing this investigation and leaving them off your plate.

Sign the petition here:

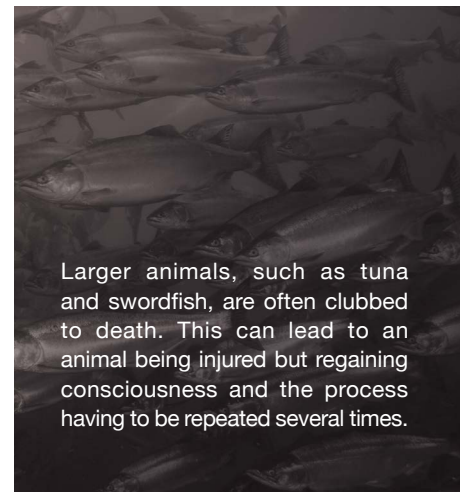
animalequality.org/action/simmons-catfish

THE PROBLEM WITH THE FISH INDUSTRY

In the United States, there are no specific laws regulating the welfare of farmed fish as they are raised or slaughtered. Even though they are sentient, they are not protected by the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.



Fish are often removed from the water and left to suffocate and die.



Larger animals, such as tuna and swordfish, are often clubbed to death. This can lead to an animal being injured but regaining consciousness and the process having to be repeated several times.

Groups of fish become infested with parasites that feed on the gills, organs, and blood of fish. Bacterial infections also run rampant on fish farms.

Fish farms are overcrowded, causing stress and even injuries to the fish.

On aquaculture farms, fish suffer for up to two years in water that has high levels of ammonia and nitrates.



Carnivorous fish that are farmed, like salmon, are fed wild-caught fish. Globally, over 69% of fishmeal and 75% of fish oil is used to feed farmed fish, driving overfishing and illegal fishing.



INCREASING PROTECTIONS FOR FISH



Animal Equality is continuing to pursue legislative initiatives in the U.S. and the U.K. to extend basic protections to fish at the time of slaughter. Other animals such as cows and pigs are legally required to be rendered insensible to pain prior to having their necks cut. Despite widely accepted scientific evidence that fish are capable of feeling pain, fish do not receive these same legal protections. Animal Equality is therefore calling on lawmakers to address this discrepancy.

One example of Animal Equality's effort to eliminate this double standard is our work in the state of Oregon, where we have been educating state lawmakers about the issue and pushing for the introduction of legislation that would address the problem. Our Legal Advocacy team has even drafted a model bill that lawmakers can use to introduce legislation in their home states.

At the national level, Animal Equality recently launched a public petition calling on Congress to amend the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act to mandate effective stunning for fish at federally

inspected slaughter establishments. Our recent investigation into a catfish slaughter operation in Mississippi clearly demonstrates the need for this federal oversight. Despite regular USDA inspections, catfish in this slaughterhouse were routinely found to be beheaded while fully conscious. This is because, under current law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not have the authority to ensure these animals are effectively stunned. This could change with a simple legislative amendment, and millions of fish would be spared unnecessary suffering at death as a result.



THE GROWING PROBLEM OF INDIA'S FISH FARMS

In India, Animal Equality released an investigation that exposed abuses in fish and shrimp farms, hatcheries, and fish markets in several states in the country.

The investigation revealed fish bred in overcrowded ponds and fed antibiotics to help grow their bodies quicker. Fish were shown being crushed to death during capture, with many desperately trying to escape back into the nearby water, to then gasp and slowly suffocate to death.

Fish farming pollutes the water around the farms with fish heads and carcasses, as well as liquid waste, including blood and brine. Also, due to the antibiotics fed to the fish, the farms' waters are heavily laden with antibiotic residue. After every fish harvest, the ponds are completely drained and refilled with fresh water, with the runoff posing a high risk to humans and animals alike.

Animal Equality presented these findings to the Indian government, along with a list of recommendations to reduce the suffering of fish. These include setting up a committee to monitor the welfare of fish, with requests for the use of stunning and increased living space. We also proposed discontinuing the use of unregulated antibiotics and hormones, and asked for veterinary care and animal protection measures for fish during transport.

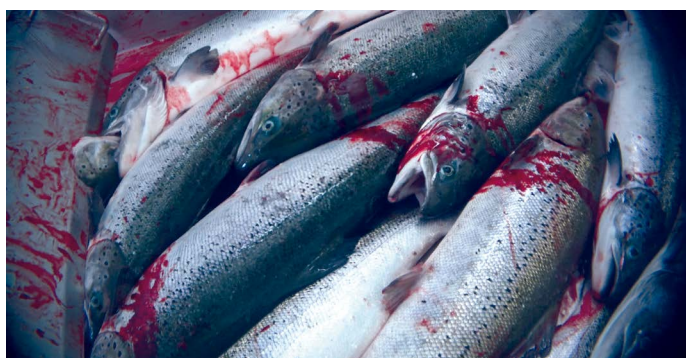


"India is the second-largest producer of fish in the world, and its fishery and aquaculture industry is increasingly adopting more cruel and destructive practices as it becomes more commercialized."

Amruta Ubale
Senior Policy Director
Animal Equality India



BREAKTHROUGH INVESTIGATION REVEALS THE CRUELTY OF THE UK SALMON INDUSTRY



The Scottish Salmon Company, a supplier of major U.K. supermarkets and numerous international retailers, including in the U.S., claims to have the “highest standards of animal husbandry.” Unfortunately, this boast hides what really happens inside its production facility.

Animal Equality conducted an undercover investigation to show how farmed salmon are killed at Scottish Salmon. The investigation, published by The Times, revealed several animal welfare abuses, including thousands of fish who were killed while fully conscious.

“This footage is alarming. A significant number of salmon are clearly conscious when their gills are cut, which could result in extreme pain for as long as seven minutes,” commented Mark Borthwick, Head of Research at the Aquatic Life Institute. Concerned by the investigation’s findings, 70 world-leading animal experts signed on to Animal Equality’s letter to the U.K. government calling for specific and meaningful protections to be put in place for fish and other aquatic animals.

“Just like Nemo, all fish are intelligent and sensitive beings. Unfortunately, there aren’t U.S. laws in place to spare them from the routine pain and suffering involved in the aquaculture industry. That’s why I’m supporting Animal Equality’s work to protect fish. Nemo’s friends need our help.”

Alexander Gould
Voice Actor in Finding Nemo



DOCUMENTARIES CHANGING HOW WE THINK OF AQUATIC ANIMALS

Movies have always been a powerful tool in fighting for justice—especially in the animal protection movement. Documentaries, for one, have changed the way we think about animals and the industries that abuse them, and have led to countless people making more compassionate choices.

With the help of streaming services like Netflix, these documentaries are reaching an even wider audience. Here are two films from the past year that might change everything you thought you knew about aquatic animals and the fishing industry:



SEASPIRACY

Seaspiracy debuted on Netflix in March 2021, and the eye-opening documentary has been making waves ever since. The film sheds light on rarely talked-about issues inherent to the fishing industry, such as misleading “sustainable” and “dolphin safe” labels, animal exploitation, and the environmental devastation caused by commercial fishing. Most importantly, it has started a global conversation about an exploited but often forgotten animal—fish.

MY OCTOPUS TEACHER

My Octopus Teacher won a BAFTA Award for Best Documentary, a Producers Guild of America Award for Best Documentary Motion Picture, and an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. It's a touching story about a free diver and filmmaker who gains the trust of an octopus as the unlikely pair form a strong bond over the course of a year.





ANIMAL ALLIES

Want to help even more animals? We're looking for Animal Allies, a community of determined, compassionate people like you who donate monthly to support our ongoing efforts to protect farmed animals all year long. As a member, you will receive exclusive updates on the historic changes that are made possible because of your dedication. It's easy to join. Learn more at animalequality.org/animal-allies

ANIMAL EQUALITY SHOP

Show your love for farmed animals and support us at the same time by purchasing some awesome Animal Equality swag. 100% of all profits from the sale of these products will go back into our programs and initiatives—it's a win-win for you and farmed animals! Use code AEMAG20 for 20% off until October 31st!





PREGNANT COWS KILLED IN BRAZILIAN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

About half of the cows slaughtered in Brazil are female, and when they are pregnant, it presents animal welfare issues for both the cows and their calves. In May, Animal Equality released a shocking investigation into Brazil's meat industry and its practice of slaughtering pregnant cows.

A

mong the cruelty that we filmed, our investigation found a pregnant cow shot and hung to bleed out while her live calf struggled inside her. We also found live calves cut from their mothers and dumped onto the processing room floor. Considered a violent animal mistreatment practice and condemned

by experts, we are urging Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture to forbid the killings of these at-risk animals.

Live animal transport is considered a major animal welfare challenge, as it's extremely stressful for animals and even more harmful for those who are pregnant. Cows in the final third of pregnancy are at greater risk of health and welfare problems during and after transport, as they are more susceptible to spontaneous abortion or premature birth, and can experience heat stress, dehydration, injuries, and metabolic diseases. Because of this susceptibility, the World Organization for Animal Health and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations considers animals in late pregnancy unfit to travel, as they may suffer and not receive adequate welfare during their journey.

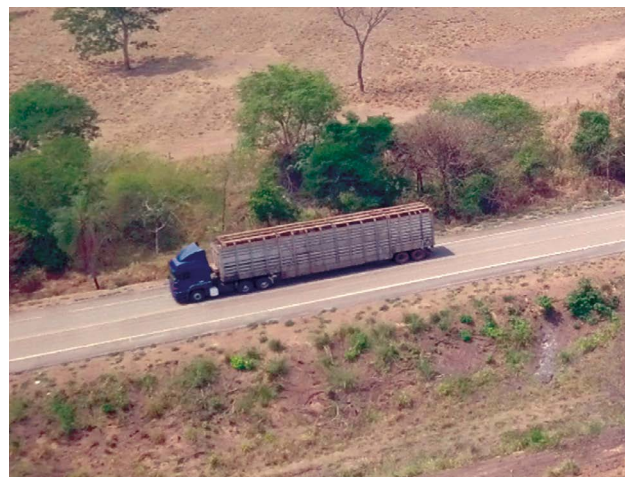
In 2017, Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) approved a regulation for industrial and sanitary inspection of animal origin (RIISPOA) that allows the use of pregnant cows' meat for consumption, and ever since, the number of pregnant cows slaughtered has increased. This regulation has been denounced as animal mistreatment by inspectors and animal welfare specialists.



"This is just one of the abusive practices that customers don't realize happen within the beef and dairy industries. We want to make sure that people know the truth."



Carla Lettieri
Executive Director
Animal Equality Brazil



Animal Equality is asking the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply to forbid the slaughter of pregnant cows by doing the following:

- Approve a new regulation that requires pregnancy tests for the shipment of live animals in accordance with the minimum standard (NI 46/2018) required by the World Organization for Animal Health (WAHIS) to prevent pregnant animal suffering.
- Increase animal welfare inspections at Brazil's slaughterhouses.
- Fine slaughterhouses that do not comply with Brazil's animal protection regulations.

OUR CAMPAIGN TO HELP MILLIONS OF CHICKS

In March, Animal Equality launched a campaign in the United States to draw attention to the widely unknown practice of killing male chicks as soon as they hatch, which is known as chick culling. Every year in the U.S., 260 million male chicks are killed because they can't lay eggs and are not profitable to be raised for meat. This means that about 30,000 freshly hatched chicks die every hour: either thrown into massive grinders to be shredded alive, tossed into trash bags to suffocate, or electrocuted.

Our campaign in the U.S. includes a petition calling on state legislators, stakeholders, and policymakers to ban the killing of newborn male chicks, which can be achieved by implementing a technology called in-ovo sexing that allows employees to determine the sex of a chick before they hatch. This provides an opportunity to stop the incubation process before the animal has the capacity to feel pain. Our efforts in Italy led to a public commitment from trade association Assoavi, which will spare more than 25 million male chicks per year. We have similar campaigns active throughout Europe, India, and Latin America.

GERMANY TO END CHICK-CULLING:

Germany will become the latest country to ban the egg industry's practice of slaughtering male chicks en masse, with the government announcing a new decree that will end the practice in 2022.



SIGNATURES SAVE LIVES!

If implemented, in-ovo sexing will be a huge step in the right direction.

You can help end the slaughter of male chicks by signing our petition at banchickculling.com and sharing this news with your social media networks. Just a few seconds of your time could be crucial to helping us win this campaign.



OUR EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE MEAL KIT INDUSTRY

Along with the help of supporters, Animal Equality has been calling on three meal kit companies to raise their chicken welfare standards by signing on to the Better Chicken Commitment. Home Chef, Gobble, and Yumble have all refused to address the extreme cruelty in their chicken supply chains, even though over 200 companies in the U.S.—including several meal kit companies—have already pledged to adopt better practices. To pressure these companies into acting, we launched a website called MealKitCruelty.com that allows the public to vote for the worst meal kit for animals. The site has generated over 25,000 signatures.

Of the three companies, Home Chef has received the most votes for the worst meal company. Combined with the fact that it's the largest of the three companies, we decided to focus our efforts on them. Our

campaign has included numerous actions and milestones, including petitions, calls, and emails to the company. Our Animal Protectors also left countless comments on Home Chef's social media account, participated in a tweetstorm, and shared our campaign videos with their followers. We reached out to the CEO, Pat Vihtelic, on LinkedIn, and singled him out in a new website we created: PatVihtelic.com. Additionally, we encouraged our supporters to participate in the USA Today's Readers Choice Awards for Best Meal Kit and asked them to nominate rival companies that have signed on to the Better Chicken Commitment, showing how Home Chef is falling behind.

Our work continues with more actions planned for this summer, and we'd love for you to join us to convince these companies to do better for chickens. Become an Animal Protector today and start making a difference for farmed animals at AnimalProtectors.us.







WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO IMPACT ANIMALS

Maral Cavner, Esq. manages Animal Equality's Corporate Outreach work in the U.S. She works behind the scenes with major food businesses to develop corporate policies that spare animals the worst suffering. In her 2.5 years at Animal Equality, the policies she has negotiated with companies have positively impacted over 12 million animals per year. That's on top of the legislative implementation work Maral does, impacting many millions more.



What is the most important thing you are working on right now and what is the possible impact?

I am devoting a large amount of time to making sure food businesses in California and Massachusetts are prepared to implement the welfare reforms that Proposition 12 and Question 3 will respectively bring to their states. Advocates worked hard to send a strong message at the ballot box that voters care about animals, but these reforms will only work if companies are prepared to act on them. We can impact hundreds of millions of animals this way.

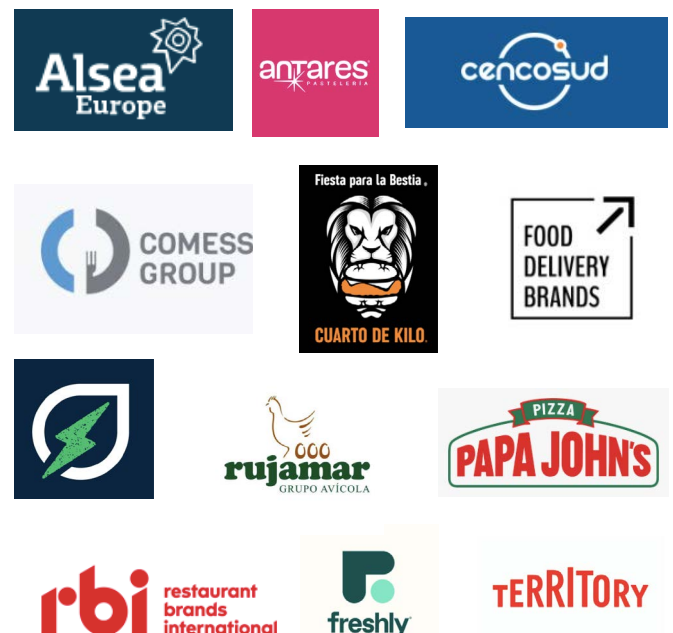
In the last 6 months, what is the most significant success the corporate outreach team has achieved for hens in cages?

We do a lot of our work behind the scenes, which means that I cannot disclose company names sometimes, but we helped hold one of the largest food service companies in the world to account for their cage-free pledge—that was pretty amazing. This company had fallen way behind on implementation, but once we got involved they hopped right to it, making more progress in a couple of months than they had in a couple of years. We also played a hand—again, behind the scenes—in passing a statewide ban on cages for hens in Utah.

How can people get involved in our current campaigns to help chickens?

One of the best and easiest ways to get involved with our campaigns is to become an Animal Protector. The Animal Protectors are part of our Online Action Team of dedicated animal advocates creating progress for millions of farmed animals around the globe. By taking part in easy online actions, such as signing petitions, commenting on social media, and emailing company executives, we can persuade some of the world's biggest companies to adopt better policies for animals while creating institutional change. Sign up at AnimalProtectors.us.

15 years ago, only 3% of the U.S. egg industry was cage-free. A new report released by the USDA in 2020 stated that this number has increased to 26.2%, representing 86.5m hens that are being spared from suffering in battery cages



THE IMPORTANCE OF ENDING LIVE TRANSPORT IN EUROPE



All eyes were on Spain after the news spread that two ships transporting hundreds of Spanish calves to the Middle East were sailing aimlessly through the Mediterranean. After a suspected outbreak of bluetongue disease—possibly caused by the extreme stress animals endure on these gruesome journeys—the destination ports refused to accept the baby cows, condemning them to three months at sea.

Animal Equality Spain immediately collected information on the vessels, the Karim Allah and Elbeik, and publicly denounced live transport by sea to countries outside the European Union. Many countries outside of the E.U. have no animal welfare laws in place that protect animals from unnecessary suffering during transport and slaughter.

During the crisis, Animal Equality officially denounced the Spanish government's inability to comply with regulations on animal welfare, and our supporters and teams protested multiple times to draw attention to the animals' plight.

After the Elbeik was ordered to return to Spain to initiate the emergency slaughter of the hundreds of calves, an inspection was carried out by local authorities finding:

- The crowding in the pens prevented the animals from lying down and accessing food and water; there were dying animals getting trampled by their companions, some no longer responding to stimuli, while others had broken legs or horns.
- The calves were so desperate when the ship ran out of feed and water that some of these gentle herbivores turned to cannibalism to survive.
- 224 calves died during the journey, and the boat crew dismembered the bodies and threw them overboard.

Considering the overwhelming evidence, we are asking the Spanish Government to ban the transport of live animals to countries outside of the E.U.



U.K. AND NEW ZEALAND TO BAN LIVE EXPORTS

The transport of animals over long distances causes extreme suffering. Thankfully, the U.K. government has unveiled plans to ban the export of live animals for slaughter and fattening in England and Wales. And on the heels of the Mediterranean Sea tragedy, New Zealand's government announced plans to ban live animal exports starting in 2023.



THE HEARTBREAKING SECRET OF THE SUFFERING OF PIGS

In the last few months, Animal Equality released three investigations into pig farms in three separate countries.



U.K. PIGS SUFFER IN THE SHADOWS OF ACCLAIMED FARM

In Aberdeenshire, Scotland, at the P&G Sleigh Pig Unit, our investigator filmed troubling scenes and serious legal violations on the farm owned by senior pig industry figure Philip Sleigh. Pigs raised on the “quality assured” farm are slaughtered at a nearby slaughterhouse contracted by Pilgrim’s Pride, a large meat company that supplies Lidl, Tesco, and Marks & Spencer, among other major restaurants and retailers.

The footage revealed piglets deemed to be too small or too weak killed by being slammed onto a concrete floor or hammered to death. One farmworker claimed that using a hammer to kill a pig was “as good as any bullet.” We filmed pigs showing signs of consciousness, such as gasping and wriggling, after multiple blows to the head. One piglet showed signs of life for over four minutes after the first hammer strike hit her.

As a result of our investigation, the farm has been removed from the Quality Meat Scotland assurance scheme and Philip Sleigh—who, before the release, held the role of Chair of the Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) Pig Standards Setting Committee—is now no longer a board member of the initiative.

“Philip Sleigh was entrusted with a position of power, and yet his own farm breached the very standards that he helped set. QMS boasts of being proud of its standards, yet it took Animal Equality to uncover these serious breaches on its board member’s farm. How can QMS claim to take animal welfare seriously when its own poster boy didn’t?”

Abigail Penny
Executive Director
Animal Equality U.K.



In response to our findings, we’ve sent letters outlining the breaches of animal welfare legislation to the relevant authorities, urging them to take immediate action against this facility. A criminal investigation is underway.

CRUELTY AND POLLUTION PRODUCED IN SPAIN

In an area where the highest concentration of intensive pig farms is located, Animal Equality brought to light distressing scenes from a farm located in Catalonia, Spain. Pigs were living among excrement in overcrowded living conditions that lacked natural stimuli, causing the pigs to bite each other's tails and ears due to the stress. We even found injured pigs who didn't have the strength to move, left to die without veterinary attention.

An environmental study commissioned by Animal Equality certified the illegal dumping of slurry that was leaking into the subsoil and polluting water near the Congost River.

“Environmental problems and animal abuse are inherent to intensive livestock farming. Due to the concentration of intensive pig farms, almost half of Catalonia’s aquifers are contaminated. Our investigation has revealed a systemic problem that needs to be addressed.”

Silvia Barquero
Executive Director
Animal Equality Spain



Along with this investigation, we started the #Secretolbérico campaign to expose the truth about the country's pig industry, and reported the irregularities to local authorities so that the farm's operators could be held accountable.



THE TRUTH BEHIND THE “EXCELLENCE OF MADE IN ITALY”

The Italian province of Brescia raises and kills 1.5 million pigs every year with a prideful seal of approval that translates to “Excellence of Made in Italy.” Joined by Italian journalist Roberta Spinelli, Animal Equality documented pigs abandoned and left to die in corridors, bodies of dead pigs among the living, and pigs with cysts and sores so grave they were unable to walk.

“Thanks to this investigation, the horrors of Brescia’s pig farms are clearly revealed. We can no longer turn our heads from the suffering which these sentient beings are forced to endure—mistreatment that happens behind the closed doors of these polluting farms, which are often beneficiaries of public funds. We need more checks and balances for these places, and we need them now.”

Alice Trombetta
Executive Director
Animal Equality Italy



In addition to a formal complaint against the owners of the farm, a petition addressed to the Presidency of the Council and the Minister of Health was launched, asking for more frequent effective inspections to be carried out to ensure compliance with the country's rules on hygiene and animal welfare.

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Every month, thanks to the dedication of people like you, the lives of farmed animals are improving. With your support of our vital work as well as your compassionate choices, the world is truly changing, one Good News story at a time. Here are just a few from the last few months.

CAGE FREE E.U.

In response to the “End The Cage Age” European Citizen’s Initiative, which called on the European Union (E.U.) to phase out the use of cages on its farms, the E.U. Commission said it would “put forward a legislative proposal by the end of 2023 to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for all the animal species and categories referred to in the initiative”, which includes chickens, rabbits, ducks, female pigs confined in farrowing and gestation crates, calves in the dairy industry, and other farmed animals. The formal announcement comes after the European Parliament overwhelmingly supported a ban on cages in a historic vote in June. This monumental news is the result of work by over 170 animal protection groups, including Animal Equality.

TWO MORE STATES BAN CAGES

Utah and Nevada become the 8th and 9th states, respectively, to ban cages for hens in the egg industry, joining Michigan, Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts, California, Rhode Island, and Colorado. Utah’s new law, beginning in 2025, not only mandates cage-free conditions for hens but also requires that the hens’ enclosures provide much-needed enrichment elements, like perches and dust baths. Nevada’s law, which goes into effect in 2024, has similar provisions and also requires eggs sold in the state to be from cage-free facilities, no matter where the eggs were produced. Furthermore, the law contains a minimum space requirement starting on July 1, 2022. Together, the new statutes will impact approximately 8.5 million hens annually.

W.H.O. ASKS FOR LIVE ANIMAL SALES TO END

The World Health Organization has urged countries to suspend the sale of live wild mammals in food markets, warning that they may be the source of more than 70% of emerging infectious diseases in humans. Recognizing that these recommendations must go further, Animal Equality presented over half a million signatures to the United Nations (U.N.) along with a petition that called for the end of the sale of all live animals at the world’s wet markets. In letters directed to U.N. leadership, we asked the governing body to publicly acknowledge the risks live animal sales pose to global health and urging policymakers all over the world to restrict wet markets from selling live animals.

REVOLUTIONARY FARMED ANIMAL BILL PROPOSED IN MEXICO

In March, Animal Equality proposed a new farmed animal bill in Jalisco, Mexico, that includes animals raised for food in the state’s current animal protection law, and would add many meaningful protections for them. If passed, the legislation would mandate that animals be given access to adequate food and water, prohibit the forced molting of hens in the egg industry, and regulate the production of cage-free eggs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE LINE SPEEDS SLOWING

Increasing line speeds at slaughterhouses means more animals will suffer. Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Agriculture withdrew a proposed rule that would’ve allowed slaughterhouses to permanently increase chicken slaughter line speeds. The Agriculture Department also said it would comply with a court ruling invalidating key parts of a recent meatpacking rule and as a result, some facilities that slaughter pigs will have to slow the speed of their lines.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY AS AN ANIMAL ADVOCATE

With COVID-19 drastically altering our way of life, many civic-minded individuals are wondering how they can continue to help their communities as farmed animal advocates. We have some great suggestions for you!



DONATE TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK

On your next trip to the grocery store, why not stock up on healthy plant-based foods that can be shared with a local food bank?

Most food banks accept anything that's shelf-stable or non-perishable. Brown rice, pasta, beans, lentils, and oatmeal are inexpensive and nutrition-packed. Canned vegetable soup and vegan chili are affordable and readily available. Other options include non-dairy milk, nuts and nut butters, and protein bars.

Call your local food bank to find out if they have space for freezer items. Frozen produce maintains its nutritional value and is often cheaper than fresh.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME FOR FARMED ANIMALS

As an Animal Protector, you have the opportunity to stand up for animals wherever you are! You instantly become part of our team of passionate activists demanding change from the world's biggest companies. Through quick and easy online actions—such as sending an email or posting on social media—you will create change for the millions of animals suffering on factory farms all over the world. Sign up and learn more at animalprotectors.us.



PROMOTE A MORE COMPASSIONATE LIFESTYLE

Sometimes, the key to changing hearts and minds is showing people that making compassionate choices is easy to do. Using your social media—even advocating for animals at parties and get-togethers—you can let your network know how simple it is to swap in plant-based food options for recipes or how to make non-animal choices for clothing and shoes.

You can also tell people what you've learned about animal suffering from our investigations and campaigns by weaving these truths into conversations and in posts. Information is power, and many people are unaware of what really happens behind the closed doors of slaughterhouses and factory farms.

Remember to always be kind and without judgment. Change can be hard for most people—hopefully, with a little patience, your message will resonate.



SUPPORTER IN FOCUS

We could not achieve all of the work we do for animals without our generous supporters. In this issue, meet Hayley and learn what brings her hope for the animals and why she supports Animal Equality.

How did you learn about Animal Equality and what inspired you to become a supporter?

In 2020, I started following the great Joaquin Phoenix on Twitter and saw a video of him protesting in London with Animal Equality. That led me to learn about all the great work Animal Equality was doing. Animal Equality not only gave me hope, but I saw real action and change taking place. Not to mention, I also received calls-to-action, which was exactly what I was looking for—a way to affect real change and be actively involved.

How and when did you first become aware of factory farming issues?

I always knew factory farming existed (my brother-in-law owns one of the largest meat distribution companies in the nation) but I never knew about the abuse or the atrocities taking place behind their walls until 2020, when I saw some horrific undercover videos on Twitter. These videos not only made me physically sick, but I also had nightmares and cried for two weeks straight. I just couldn't believe humans could treat animals that way and

get away with it. It was there and then I decided to stop eating meat and get involved to help stop the abuse!

Tell us about how you came to be involved in animal protection.

It all started with me seeing undercover videos on social media. Then I started signing petitions, spreading the word, and donating monthly to Animal Equality. And this year, I went from being a pescatarian to a vegan when I learned about the horrific dairy and fishing industries.

What is your favorite vegan restaurant, dish, or food, and why?

I love Sage Plant Based Bistro & Brewery in Pasadena, CA. Their Brazilian Bowl with chips and guacamole on the side is the best thing ever! I rarely cook, so I'm truly grateful restaurants like these exist to make being vegan so easy. It's also encouraging to see more and more restaurants offering vegetarian and vegan options and making a conscious shift toward being more sustainable.

Animal Equality

8581 Santa Monica Blvd
Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90069

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