

THEIR VOICE

ANIMAL EQUALITY'S MAGAZINE - Nº 13

HISTORIC PROGRESS

for male chicks
in Italy's egg industry

WHAT IT'S LIKE AS AN
UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR

A LIFE CONFINED

ADVOCATING FOR PIG PROTECTIONS

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Exposing animal cruelty in 2022

animaleQUALITY

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I bring you this message with a heart full of gratitude for your unwavering support of Animal Equality's mission—to end cruelty to farmed animals. It is because of you that we find ourselves towards the end of yet another year of historic progress for animals. It's your dedication that allows us to continue exposing the meat industry through investigations.

Our work began 16 years ago with Jose Valle, Javier Moreno, and I protesting the treatment of farmed animals in Spain. We started with a small table covered in a piece of cloth. A few photocopied flyers and handmade posters and a tin canister for donations was all we had. But this didn't deter us from using our voices to talk about the cruelty facing animals inside factory farms.

Our first public action was at a slaughterhouse in Madrid. Javier and I, along with two other activists, chained ourselves to its entrance. We held signs that read "Respect animals" and "Don't consume their exploitation."

We went on to use a "human meat tray" demonstration to represent the need for consumers to reject meat. We lowered banners from some of the most notable bullfighting rings, calling for their end. We held public protests denouncing circuses and the Canadian seal slaughter. And we demonstrated at the headquarters of one of the biggest meat companies in Spain, Campofrio.

Our actions were gaining a lot of media attention. But cynics didn't believe what we told them about the cruelty of animals used for food.

We took a camera and set out to show them the truth.

Our first investigation was in a Spanish slaughterhouse—SEMAGI. Soon after, we completed our second investigation inside a pig farm that supplied the very meat company we demonstrated against—Campofrio. From there, we spent years investigating farms and slaughterhouses. We were exposing the industry's attempts to grow profits by exploiting animals. And we were inspiring those watching to eliminate meat and dairy from their diets.

The animal agriculture industry was furious. They began to follow me, my friends, and other advocates. They tapped into my private conversations and went after my family.



2006



2011



2011

I walked out of that cell in Spain, promising the animals I would do it all again.



The police finally arrested me, alongside ten other advocates, as we were on the way to film a slaughterhouse. I found myself in a cold, damp cell with only a mattress, a toilet, and a sink to drink from. As I was counting how many years I could spend in jail, advocates around the world were protesting my release and the release of my friends.

Five days later, I walked out of that cell in Spain, promising the animals I would do it all again. I would fight for their lives until the end.

I have since kept my promise and have personally gone on to film inside 51 factory farms across the world.

These investigations are at the heart of Animal Equality. They are the most powerful tool we have to protect farmed animals. Without these images, no one would believe how animals suffer for their meat. We wouldn't have the proof needed to fight for animal legal protections or to encourage consumers to make compassionate, plant-based choices.

But it's not without your support that we have these images needed to create a brighter future for farmed animals. And it's because of you that Animal Equality grew from that small table with a few handmade posters to an international animal protection organization that has carried out over 820 investigations.

Just this year, Animal Equality celebrated the end of the killing of male chicks in Italy's egg industry. We launched a powerful campaign against the world's largest food services company, Compass Group, demanding they keep their promise to mother pigs. We released the most extensive investigation by an organization showing the suffering of animals inside slaughterhouses. We continue to defend the United States' strongest farmed animal protection law—Prop 12—in the Supreme Court. And so much more.

Our work is far from over, but each meaningful step forward and those still to come are all because of you! Thank you for supporting Animal Equality's mission and helping us create a world where all animals are respected and protected.

With gratitude,

 **SHARON NÚÑEZ**
PRESIDENT
ANIMAL EQUALITY

HISTORIC PROGRESS

for male chicks in Italy's egg industry

"In Italy, you are making history," Animal Equality's President Sharon Núñez told Alice Trombetta, Director of Animal Equality in Italy. The unnecessary killing of day-old chicks in the egg industry had just been banned—progress that would protect around 35 million baby chicks every year.

This step forward for animals didn't come easily. Animal Equality campaigned to protect these chicks for two years as part of our global campaign to ban the killing of male chicks. As over 100,000 people showed their support by signing our petition, we lobbied the Italian Parliament to put a stop to the inhumane, though legal, practice.



Why are male chicks in the egg industry killed?

Ground up alive or suffocated, male chicks in the egg industry are killed because they cannot produce eggs. These chicks are also not one of the "fast-growing" breeds used for meat. Their lives are deemed worthless because they aren't profitable.



As part of Animal Equality's global work to denounce the suffering of chicks, we have documented this practice across five countries—the United States, Mexico, India, Italy, and Spain. These images were used to educate the public about what really happens inside factory farms and encourage plant-based eating. They were also shown to government officials as proof of the need for stronger legal animal protections.

Following negotiations with Animal Equality, Mantiqueira became the first Latin American company to commit to not working with hatcheries that kill male chicks in Brazil. The company is the largest egg producer in South America.

Alice Trombetta

Director for Animal Equality, Italy



"For years, Animal Equality has made the precise and conscious decision to dedicate our efforts to those who are the most exploited and least protected beings in the world: animals raised for food...It didn't take long before we decided to also deal with the issue of the millions of male chicks involved in the egg industry. The terrible practice of killing them through suffocation or shredding was immediately unacceptable to us and we worked hard to put an end to it."



The Italian Senate approves the ban on the killing of male chicks by an absolute majority—346 votes in favor, 10 against, and 19 abstentions.

More progress for baby chicks!

In Italy, government officials saw the images captured by Animal Equality and could no longer deny the need for progress. On June 30, 2022, the Italian Senate banned the killing of male chicks.

PUTTING THE LAW ON THE SIDE OF ANIMALS

Animal Equality's investigations provide invaluable evidence of how farmed animals are mistreated so we can propose legislation that improves their lives. With these images, we collaborate with other notable organizations, animal welfare experts, and government officials. We sit next to politicians inside parliaments and senates and influence government policy. And we ensure that existing laws are strictly enforced and violators are brought to justice.

■ Since 2016,

Animal Equality has filmed in over 50 slaughterhouses across Mexico. This is the most extensive investigative work completed by an organization in these facilities. Investigative footage shows animals' capacity to experience pain, stress, and suffering. The images were crucial in advancing the legislative efforts in Mexico this year.

Mexican Constitution Animal Sentience Initiative

Animal Equality introduced a bill this past April that would recognize animal sentience in the Mexican Constitution. Salvador Caro Cabrera, a member of the Citizen Movement Parliamentary Group, presented this initiative. The bill would recognize all animals with a complex nervous system as sentient beings with welfare protections under the law. If passed, this would help increase the protection of nearly 2 billion land animals raised and killed every year in Mexico.

Animal Sentience in Nuevo León, Mexico

This past July in Nuevo León, Animal Equality introduced an initiative to recognize the sentience of animals in the state's Constitution. The bill was presented and supported by Congresswoman Iraís Virginia Reyes de la Torre, alongside ten other legislators from the Citizen Movement Party. If approved, the law will recognize and protect more than 42 million animals killed for their meat in Mexico.

PROP 12 UPDATE!

Animal Equality continues to fight against the National Pork Producers Council's (NPPC) lawsuit challenging California's Prop 12. This bill is considered the world's strongest farmed animal protection law. On October 11th, oral arguments were presented in front of the United States Supreme Court as part of the opposition to the NPPC's lawsuit. Animal Equality was part of the coalition that prepared to defend Prop 12 in the oral arguments. A decision is expected by Spring 2023.

Hidalgo, Mexico Dedicates Chapter to Farmed Animal Protections

In June, the Hidalgo Congress unanimously approved an initiative promoted by Animal Equality. Deputy Elvia Sierra Vite worked with us to present the initiative. Hidalgo is now the first state in Mexico to recognize farmed animals in law. This chapter of law makes acts of cruelty to these animals punishable with prison sentences of up to four years. Nearly 50 million cows, pigs, and other animals used for food are now more protected from abuse.



Animal Equality stands with Deputy Elvia Sierra Vite at the Congress of the State of Hidalgo, which became the first state in Mexico to protect farmed animals in law.



■ June 30th, 2022

Italy banned the killing of male chicks in the egg industry! This historic progress will protect around 35 million baby chicks every year.

UK Parliament Passed the Animal Sentience Bill

In April, the Animal Sentience Bill passed through the UK Parliament. Animal Equality campaigned for this bill for nearly three years as part of a coalition. Politicians across party lines supported the campaign. Passing this initiative means that animals' ability to feel will be recognized in government policy decision-making. Over 1.1 billion animals on factory farms will now have increased protections in UK Law.

OUR LAWSUIT against a major US hatchery

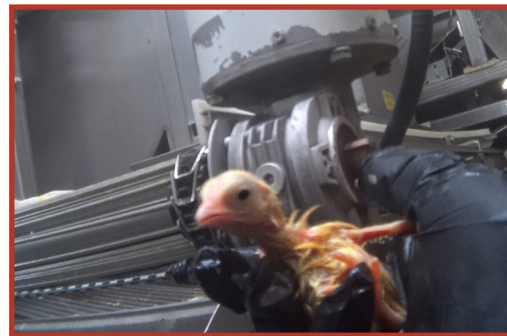
Our investigative team went undercover inside a major US hatchery owned by Foster Farms over several months last year. What we uncovered was not only inhumane, but was also illegal and expressly prohibited by California's anti-cruelty laws.

Live chicks were being mutilated by fast-moving machinery and were drowning in water and chemical foam on the facility floor. Injured chicks were dismembered by workers with shovels or thrown into buckets, where they were crushed by the weight of shells, yolks, and dead birds.

We presented the extensive findings to Stanislaus County District Attorney Brigit Fladager and Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. We detailed how the company routinely subjects animals to needless suffering and allows injured chicks to be without proper care and attention. We urged for prosecutorial action. But we have not received a response from local authorities.

So with the representation of Advancing Law for Animals, Animal Equality filed a lawsuit against Foster Farms and is now awaiting their response.

We will stop at nothing to bring these chicks justice. Our work to strengthen animal protection laws means nothing if we don't also expose and hold accountable those who violate them.



Animal Equality investigator holds an injured chick during an investigation inside a major US hatchery owned by Foster Farms.

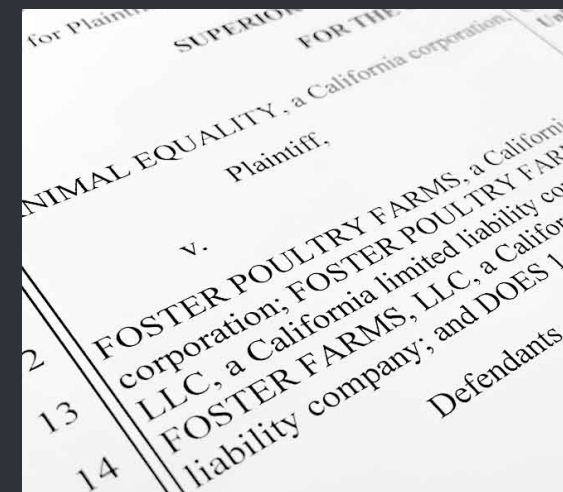


Chicks are thrown from a machine during processing. Some baby birds were also filmed crushed by this machinery during Animal Equality's investigation.

Who does Foster Farms supply?



The investigated facility—Ellenwood Hatchery—ships out approximately 3.3 million chicks every week to factory farms owned by Foster Farms.



WHAT IT'S LIKE AS AN UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR

From Animal Equality's beginning in 2006, Co-founders Sharon Núñez, Jose Valle, and Javier Moreno knew they needed proof of what happens to animals inside factory farms. During their protests in Spain, they were met by cynics who didn't want to believe in the suffering of animals inside slaughterhouses.

"The first investigation we did as Animal Equality was as rudimentary as one of our Co-founders, Jose, getting on a bus and traveling to slaughterhouses in the north of Spain and filming as much as he could. We still use that footage today," recalls Sharon during a LIVE interview with Animal Equality's International Director of Investigations, Sean Thomas.

Sean's undercover work began in the 1990s while he was protesting a monkey laboratory near his college campus. He was similarly met with naysayers who called him "just a fervent animal rights activist." From then on, Sean would travel around with his camera to document cruelty towards animals before becoming involved with larger animal rights groups.

His early work included an investigation that resulted in one of the first felony animal cruelty charges against workers on a factory farm in the US. Now, Sean leads Animal Equality's international team of undercover investigations.

The work of our investigators is brave and oftentimes grueling. From the first interview, Animal Equality vets candidates to make sure they are both mentally and physically prepared for investigative work.

"It's industrial factory work...It's not caring for animals. They're not hiring farm animal stewards. They're hiring people that can manage a warehouse full of animals, that can pull out the dead pigs that die every single day," Sean explains during the interview with Sharon.

After eight to twelve hours of this work, the second job begins.

"You might get back home at about 4:30 in the afternoon, but then the second job begins. You have to switch back into the clerical work that goes into looking at the files and taking down your notes of what you saw and who did what," said Sean. "Then trying to fall asleep and repeat it over and over again for weeks at a time."

In addition to the manual labor and late nights, there are safety risks that can come with undercover work:



"I definitely worked on farms where there was a lot of talk about what they would do if they ever found an undercover investigator working at the farm. In one place, a worker carried a gun in their truck all the time. They said if they ever found anyone they would go to their truck and get the gun and shoot them."

Sean Thomas
International Director of Investigations



Photo by Jo-Anne McArthur / Animal Equality / We Animals Media



Sharon Núñez recalls her most memorable investigation on a rabbit farm, where she was joined by photographer Jo-Anne McArthur. During this investigation, Sharon found a live rabbit, later named Garu, in a trash container:

"We see animals as sentient living beings and we're fighting an industry that sees animals as trash. [They throw] them into the bin when there's no economic benefit to their lives."

Sharon would take Garu with her to a vet. He later passed from his extensive injuries and illness.

The work of our investigators is crucial to showing what is really happening to animals used for food. To capture this important footage, they must remain headstrong.

"Does it really matter if we stay an extra day to try and get a photo that's better than the ones that we have or show something in a clearer way? You have to fight through that and say it's better to have a hundred photos or videos than just to have one and think that you've done enough," said Sean. "That mental fortitude to keep pushing through and be able to get these clear examples of what's happening to animals on factory farms can be the biggest challenge."

Just as Sean and Sharon realized early on, the images our investigators capture continue to serve as Animal Equality's most powerful tool. They persuade policymakers and companies to make meaningful changes for animals. And they encourage consumers to make plant-based decisions.

This is why investigations are at the heart of what we do. And it is because of our supporters that Animal Equality has been able to investigate over 820 facilities across 13 countries since our beginning—resulting in about 90 facilities being shut down. But our work to educate about and expose the suffering of animals used for food is far from over.



We will bring her abusers TO JUSTICE!

In Animal Equality's most shocking investigation so far this year, we uncovered the abuse of a female buffalo in India. Released this past July, Animal Equality in India filmed outside a dairy farm in Paglahat Village near Kolkata. The investigation revealed workers beating and abusing a female buffalo as they attempted to load her onto a transport truck with five other buffaloes headed for the slaughterhouse.

The workers beat her and twisted her tail for several minutes. They poured water over her mouth and nose to make her feel as if she was drowning. And they violently and repeatedly introduced a stick into her genitals, causing bleeding wounds and extreme pain.

These practices are routinely used to make animals submissive in the dairy industry. Animal Equality also documented them in 2018 during an extensive investigation inside 107 dairy farms across India. We have conducted similar investigations in the United Kingdom, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States.



Animal Equality has taken necessary action to hold these animal abusers accountable and denounce these crimes. Evidence of her suffering has been given to the Animal Welfare Board of India, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, and the Calcutta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. We continue to demand local authorities take action.

The images of her abuse will be crucial in bringing her abusers to justice. And, though her life could not be spared, her story will continue to shed light on the suffering of animals in the dairy industry.



**Amruta
Ubale**
Animal Equality in India

"These abusive practices are a common part of dairy production. We, as consumers, have the power to end this abuse. Remember, when the demand stops, the production stops too."



A female buffalo in India was shown during an Animal Equality investigation to be violently abused while workers attempt to load her onto a truck to the slaughterhouse.



Three pig farm workers from El Escobar Farm received the highest penalty for cruelty to farmed animals in the history of Spain. The conviction came four years after Animal Equality released footage captured by a whistleblower, showing workers violently abusing pigs.

Investigations bring animal abusers to justice!

Defending animal rights by prosecuting those who are cruel to them is very important. It shows these industries that they cannot get away with abusing animals.

Though it can take years for a successful animal cruelty prosecution, with the images obtained by our investigators we have helped bring eight farm workers to justice in the UK and Spain.



THE POWER OF INVESTIGATIONS

Exposing animal cruelty in 2022

With images captured during Animal Equality's investigations, we are helping strengthen the legal protections of animals and fighting back against laws that harm them. We continue to encourage millions to try a plant-based diet. And we continue to create a future where all animals are respected and protected.

UK Dairy Farm Investigation

An Animal Equality investigation uncovered disturbing scenes at UK's Madox Farm over several months. The footage reveals the abuse of cows—including one left in excruciating pain after her unborn calf had died inside of her. And it reveals the cruel practice of calf-cow separation. Footage from the investigation was broadcast on BBC's popular show "Panorama." Over 1.7 million viewers tuned in the night it aired. The footage even captured the attention of actress Miriam Margolyes, known for playing Professor Sprout in "Harry Potter."



Miriam Margolyes

Actress and Supporter of Animal Equality

"I don't mince my words, so I will tell you the truth: it broke my heart. But I am also thankful that this has been brought to my attention. Everyone deserves to know the truth. If we're successful, more people will choose plant-based options and they'll drink less cows' milk, which means fewer cows will be separated and killed. I really believe we can make a difference. The world is harsh. Let's make it kinder."

Investigation Inside Large Italian Chicken Farm

An undercover investigation conducted from 2019 to 2022 shows how chickens bred for their meat suffer extensively. Investigators collected the bodies of seven chickens from the farm and had them analyzed by a team of specialized veterinarians.

These chickens are one of the "fast-growing" breeds used for meat. They are genetically selected to grow much faster and larger. The vets found this caused significant health consequences. Chickens on this farm were unable to walk to their food or water because of their size. They were also forced to live among their dead companions in a filthy environment.

Animal Equality in Italy is demanding that the Italian Government prohibits the breeding of animals with genetic traits that cause them to suffer for most of their lives. This would help reduce the suffering of 550 million chickens in Italy every year.



Italy Investigation Showing the Transportation of Lambs

This past April, Animal Equality documented the live transport of lambs to Italian slaughterhouses. We obtained this footage while assisting with patrols over the Easter holiday in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The investigation revealed lambs that were unable to stand due to insufficient space, non-functioning watering systems, damaged temperature-monitoring systems, and a lack of appropriate dividers between animals with horns.

The two trucks investigated were operated by one of Hungary's largest live animal transport companies. Both were fined for their violations by law enforcement during our investigations.

Carla Lettieri

Executive Director of Animal Equality, Brazil

"It's a fight not only for animals. Animal Equality, with other animal protection organizations, is fighting for animals. But the group is also fighting for being on the right side against the abuses of larger corporations in disregard of life."



Brazil Investigation Shows the Dangers of Self-Regulation

Animal Equality released an investigation this past June inside three slaughterhouses in Brazil. The footage we captured demonstrates how animals already suffer in Brazil's facilities. Workers were shown beating, kicking and shocking cows. Cows were seen fully conscious while being slaughtered and skinned alive. It also revealed sanitary violations.



The investigation was released in response to Brazil's proposed "Self-Control" bill, which would give slaughterhouses the power to conduct their own inspections. This legislation would have negative impacts on both farmed animals and human health, and the effects would be felt around the world, as Brazil remains the world's largest exporter of meat from cows.

Animal Equality is fighting this issue globally by deepening the debate around this bill internationally. And we are working alongside 35 animal and environmental protection, human health, and labor union organizations in Brazil to stop this law.



The Most Extensive Investigation Into Slaughterhouses to Change the Mexican Constitution

Over the past six years, Animal Equality has investigated over 50 slaughterhouses across Mexico. The images collected show that cows, pigs, and other animals experience pain, stress, and anguish. Our investigators exposed workers hitting, kicking, and shocking animals with electrical devices. Investigators also found that cows and pigs were still conscious at the time of slaughter due to ineffective stunning.

These images are being used to promote a historic amendment to the Constitution that will legally recognize animals as sentient beings. If passed, this amendment will protect 2 billion land animals killed for food every year in Mexico.

September 30th, 2022

Animal Equality held a public hearing at the State Assembly in São Paulo, Brazil, to oppose the "Self-Control" bill.

Animal Equality's Love Veg website launched in Mexico in September 2018. The site continues to be a resource for supporters who want to do their part by leaving animal suffering off their plates.

A LIFE CONFINED ADVOCATING FOR PIG PROTECTIONS

Animal Equality has been fighting to protect pigs inside factory farms since our first pig investigation in 2008. We have shown the painful mutilations, deprivation of natural behaviors, and extreme confinement of these intelligent and curious animals. With your help, we are continuing our fight to end their physical and psychological trauma caused by a lack of protection.

Crates for Mother Pigs:

In the pig industry, females suffer especially. Confined to crates barely bigger than their own bodies, mother pigs are unable to walk, turn around, or stand comfortably for up to four months while they are pregnant. They spend most of their lives in a cage, then give birth in another cage where they remain for four weeks before they are re-confined in gestation crates for their next artificial insemination. Scientific research shows that these crates cause physical and psychological suffering.

Crates for mother pigs have been described by Professor Ian Duncan, a scholar of animal welfare at the University of Guelph, as "one of the cruelest forms of confinement devised by humankind."

Gestation crates are so cruel they are banned in ten states in the US: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, and Rhode Island, as well as in the United Kingdom and Sweden.

December 2019,
Animal Equality was joined by actress and animal rights activist Rooney Mara on an investigation inside two factory farms:



"Nothing prepares you for looking into the eyes of a mother pig whose life is to be impregnated and left in a cage until she's slaughtered."

Rooney Mara
Actress and Supporter of Animal Equality



Castration:

The castration of male piglets on factory farms is a common practice in the United States. In most cases, a worker uses a knife or scalpel to perform the procedure without using pain medicine. In some instances, investigators have documented workers ripping the testicles away from the piglet's bodies. Castration is extremely painful for the piglet, and the pain can last for hours.

Cutting their teeth:

Piglets are born with sharp canines that they use to compete with littermates for teat access. On intensive pig farms, workers clip the piglets' teeth without pain medicine soon after they're born to reduce injuries caused to one another and the mother pig as they nurse. Teeth cutting is a painful procedure for piglets and can often lead to infection, gum damage, and abscesses. The clipped teeth can also fracture and bleed.



Mutilating their tails and ears:

Pigs living in crowded conditions and barren environments will often bite each other's tails out of frustration. To prevent this behavior, workers cut the tails of piglets at just a few days old. Workers also cut patterns into the piglets' ears for identification. Both of these procedures are painful for the piglets and are done without anesthesia.

JANUARY.		<i>Animal Equality's first investigation into a pig slaughterhouse.</i>
2008		
JULY.		<i>Animal Equality's first investigation into pig farms.</i>
2012		<i>An investigation into British pig farms results in the closure of Harling Farm and the prosecution of its workers for animal cruelty.</i>
2016		<i>Three pig farm workers on El Escobar Farm receive the highest sentence for cruelty to farmed animals in the history of Spain.</i>
2018		<i>Investigation helps convict three pig abusers on Fir Tree Farm in the UK.</i>
2021		<i>Animal Equality helps pass Question 3 in Massachusetts to eliminate confinement—like crates for mother pigs.</i>
2022		<i>The European Commission advances the End the Cage Age initiative to phase out cages for animals, including pigs. The initiative was supported by Animal Equality and other animal protection organizations.</i>
2022		<i>To date, Animal Equality has released 33 investigations across the world covering hundreds of pig farms.</i>

INSIDE THE ITALIAN SENATE TO DENOUNCE THE DOG MEAT FESTIVAL

This year, Animal Equality was invited to the Italian Senate to speak about China's Yulin Dog Meat Festival. The meeting coincided with the start of the Festival, which Animal Equality has been working to end since our first dog and cat meat investigation in 2013. Since then, we have conducted six investigations and contributed to the closure of 33 dog meat retailers and one slaughterhouse.

Animal Equality's Director in Italy, Alice Trombetta, attended the meeting to speak about our investigative work and the need to end this cruel practice.



In setting out on an investigation so complex and dangerous, our investigators prepared for various scenarios. But never could they have thought that the most difficult of all would have been not being able to demonstrate any affection to the animals that were victims of this carnage. Nor to be able to show any compassion for their suffering. The smallest gesture of kindness would have exposed our investigation and would have prevented its continuation.

When people hear about the Yulin Festival, what horrifies them the most is the thought that someone somewhere in the world could feed on dogs. We are used to thinking of them as companions—faithful for thousands of years now. For many, it is mostly a matter of principle: dogs are not eaten.



“As some of you may know, investigations are the heart of Animal Equality's work, as well as the starting point for so many of our initiatives... For Animal Equality, the painful investigative journey within the dog meat trade began ten years ago with an investigation conducted in southern and eastern China. For these investigations, it only took a few images seen on the internet to convince our investigative team to buy a ticket to China.

Arriving in Zhenjiang, it was not difficult to identify the first clandestine slaughterhouses... We said we were interested in doing business with them... They agreed to give us a tour of the facility, including the filthy and dilapidated area where the animals were confined. Before our eyes, dozens of dogs were left for days without food or water, surrounded by their own excrement, and literally paralyzed by fear.

The truth is, the problem goes far beyond that. It is not merely a cultural bias. If so many organizations dedicate their own efforts to this issue, it is because the abuse that these animals endure is really among the most vile and indescribable... It comforts us to know that our investigations are not in vain. For example, the images obtained by investigators of Animal Equality have been used by local activists to make complaints. In a short span of time, 33 dog meat retailers and one slaughterhouse were shut down by Chinese authorities... As much as it is a drop in a sea of suffering, this marked an important step in the right direction.

Although China has removed dogs from the list of animals considered livestock, no national ban has been placed on the consumption of dog and cat meat. In many places in the country, investigators have repeatedly documented dogs and cats kept in cages still alive, piled on top of each other. [They are] skinned and slaughtered in markets to satisfy the demand for fresh meat, all without compliance with any hygienic or health standards. This creates fertile ground for the proliferation of diseases.

In the wake of our latest investigations, we have collected over 700,000 signatures to ask the Chinese government to ban the market and slaughter of dogs and cats... Thus, sparing animals from a hell on Earth and protecting the public from threats to their own health and safety... The fate of millions of dogs and cats killed for human consumption is still in our hands.”



Meet Vita: Dog Saved from Slaughter

During Animal Equality's second investigation into the dog meat markets, our investigators were approached by a dog inside a clandestine slaughterhouse. This dog, later named "Vita," had so much will to live despite the mistreatment and fear. So our investigators planned her rescue. While returning to Europe, our team understood why Vita had the will to live, even while facing a sad fate. She was pregnant with nine puppies.

Today, Vita is free. She and her puppies were adopted. And Vita's legacy lives on in the heart of Animal Equality as a symbol of hope for all animals exploited by humans.

Our team named this dog "Vita," meaning "Life." She is a symbol of hope for all animals exploited by humans.



TAKE ACTION

MAKE THE ULTIMATE COMPASSIONATE CHOICE

Every day around the world, millions of animals are violently slaughtered after enduring a life of cruelty on factory farms. Animal Equality has filmed in over 820 factory farms and slaughterhouses to show these animals suffering from the moment they are born until they are killed.

On dairy farms, we have heard the cries of mother cows who have been repeatedly impregnated just to have their babies ripped away from them moments after birth.

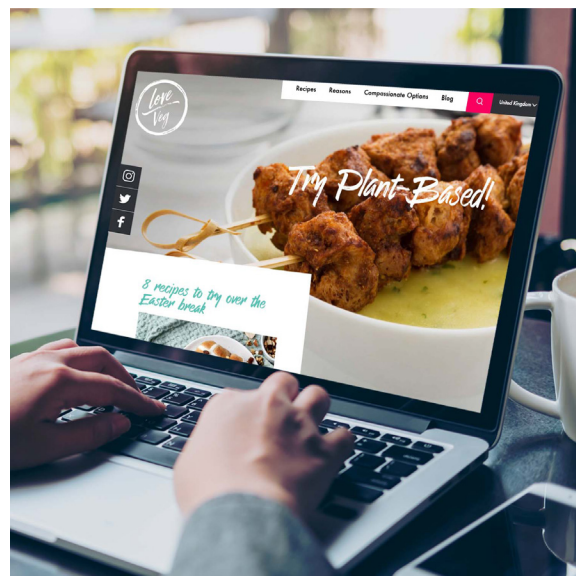
Inside the egg industry, we have seen the massacre of male chicks—disposed of like trash because they aren't "profitable" to the industry.

On pig farms, we have seen mother pigs living in crates barely bigger than their bodies. They have no room to turn around for most of their lives.

Our investigators have documented how animals are transported for hundreds of miles to slaughterhouses without food or water—many arrive weak, exhausted, or even dead from injury or disease. They have exposed how animals are forced to watch as other animals are killed right in front of them. When it's their turn, they are often painfully slaughtered while fully conscious due to ineffective stunning methods.

Unfortunately, these are just a few of the many inhumane practices the industry uses to keep costs low and profits high. But the animals pay the ultimate price.

Meat, dairy & eggs are produced through animal exploitation. They are never cruelty-free—but you can be. We'll only be able to end the cruelty of factory farming if we each do our part to make more compassionate choices. It's your choice. You have the power to directly reduce animal suffering by eliminating meat, eggs and dairy from your diet.



You may be just one person, but your choices can make a huge impact—especially in the lives of animals. By reducing or eliminating animal products from your diet, you can save up to 200 animals every year from suffering on factory farms. Choose animals every day by choosing plant-based.

Visit [LoveVeg.com](https://www.loveveg.com) to get inspired.

LOVE ANIMALS



Animal Equality is dedicated to promoting a plant-based diet as the best way to protect animals exploited by the meat industry. Started in Mexico in 2018, Animal Equality launched a resource for aspiring and long-time vegans—Love Veg. This campaign focuses on our individual responsibility and power to choose compassion every day by going plant-based.

Featuring alternatives to animal products, delicious, cruelty-free recipes, tips to ditch dairy, meat and eggs, and more, Love Veg has impacted more than 330,000 animals in Mexico so far this year. More accessible than ever, there's no better time than now to start positively impacting the lives of animals by going plant-based.

Need more convincing?

Here are the top 3 reasons to reduce your consumption of animal products:

1. You'll spare animals from unnecessary suffering

Cows, pigs, chickens, fish and other animals raised for food are individuals who are capable of thinking and feeling, and who want to enjoy their lives — just like the cats and dogs we share our homes with. They can suffer and feel pain in the same way and to the same degree that humans do. Unfortunately, the lives of farmed animals are filled with pain and suffering because they are minimally protected by law from cruelty.

All animals raised for human consumption will ultimately experience the same terrifying trip to a slaughterhouse and death. Even on award-winning farms considered “humane” and “free-range,” undercover investigators have documented extreme suffering time and time again. By going plant-based, you'll have peace of mind knowing you're not paying for animals to be killed, and that's a wonderful feeling.

2. You'll help the environment

Animal agriculture is a leading cause of climate change. In fact, the United Nations has named animal agriculture as “one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global.”

The meat and dairy industries are bad for the environment due to deforestation caused by the vast amounts of land needed to grow feed crops for the animals, and for pasture use. Animal agriculture is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions because of the massive amounts of methane cows produce.

Experts say that by 2050 the developed world will need to reduce their meat consumption by 50% to avoid an environmental disaster. What better time to start making a real impact on the environment than right now.

3. You'll likely be healthier

Research has shown that vegetarians and vegans live longer than meat eaters. Consuming animal products, including meat, puts you at an increased risk of several serious health conditions. The World Health Organization has even declared processed meat a carcinogen that increases your risk of colon or rectal cancer by 18 percent.

Animal products contain saturated fats which contribute to America's top killers: heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, and various types of cancer. Decades of scientific studies have linked saturated fat to cardiovascular disease – our country's number-one cause of death, killing nearly 2,200 people every day.

Following the airing of Animal Equality's investigation on a UK dairy farm on BBC's Panorama, Veggly—a vegan dating app—reported 35% of its UK vegetarian users made the switch to vegan!

Join the movement for animals: LoveVeg.com

PROGRESS for animals



First Latin American Egg Producer Bans Male Chick Killing

The first Latin American egg producer, Mantiqueira, has committed to not working with hatcheries that kill male chicks in Brazil. The company is also the largest egg producer in South America. Securing this commitment is part of Animal Equality's global efforts to end the killing of male chicks. It is a step in the right direction for baby chicks as we work to end this cruel practice altogether.

Progress in Ending the Extreme Confinement of Hens

After launching an international campaign against RIU Hotels & Resorts, the Spanish hotel chain committed to banning cages for hens in its global egg supply chain. With hotels in 20 countries, this ban will be fully implemented by 2025 and impact 375,000 hens used for eggs each year.

TORIDOLL Holdings Corporation, one of the world's largest restaurant companies based in Japan, released a groundbreaking global policy for its restaurant locations worldwide. They pledged to not do business with suppliers that keep hens in cages. This is the largest commitment from a Japanese-multinational corporation to date, and will improve the lives of about 40,000 hens in the span of 16 months.

Arizona also became the tenth state to ban the sale and production of eggs from caged hens. And the Cheesecake Factory announced a comprehensive global animal welfare policy pledging to source all its eggs for all of their restaurant locations worldwide from hens not confined to cages.



Spain Requires Surveillance Cameras in Slaughterhouses

On August 23, the Spanish Government approved a measure that will make it mandatory for slaughterhouses to install video surveillance systems. These cameras will monitor the treatment of animals and prevent non-compliance with current slaughterhouse regulations. Though this is a step in the right direction, Animal Equality is working to ensure the footage is accessible by independent authorities for review.



Farmed Fish Protections Discussed in UK Parliament

On July 13, the UK Parliament hosted the first-ever roundtable to discuss the suffering of fish in slaughter facilities. Animal Equality UK participated and showed footage from its 2021 investigation inside a fish slaughterhouse operated by The Scottish Salmon Company.

Fish Slaughterhouse Inspections Made Mandatory in Scotland

This past April, Scotland mandated fish slaughterhouse inspections. This comes after last year's release of an Animal Equality investigation inside a Scottish Salmon Company slaughterhouse. Following this release, the Scottish government falsely claimed to have started inspections. Animal Equality applied pressure with the help of our supporters, resulting in the official passing of the mandate.

SUPPORTER IN FOCUS

Inspired by the work of Animal Equality, actor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist (and steadfast supporter of our work!) Bobak Bakhtiari opened the United States' first plant-based gas station convenience store. Hangry Planet launched in early 2022 and is located in San Bruno, California. The store has been carefully curated to keep animal products off the shelves and provide a unique experience for mindful shoppers.

Bobak decided to transition his 24-hour convenience store to fully plant-based and cruelty-free after viewing undercover footage from the dairy industry and reviewing the work of Animal Equality.

Since its launch, Hangry Planet has already become a destination, with mindful patrons

driving hours to shop and stock up at this cruelty-free market. The market offers carefully curated snacks, meals, desserts, and more that are sourced and vetted to assure that every single product in the store is plant-based and cruelty-free. This offers a unique experience for mindful shoppers who can now shop with a clear conscience, knowing no "fine-print" ingredients are present.

Bobak added, "It's time for retail to robustly advocate for sustainability, animal welfare, and healthy products that aren't derived from abusing animals."

Graciously, 10 percent of every sale goes to several different charities, including Animal Equality.

"Reviewing the prolific global work of Animal Equality was like being zapped by a truth taser that left me sporadically sobbing for weeks. What I learned of the systematic and fundamentally abusive practices on factory farms, alongside severe environmental consequences, inspired me to transition Hangry Planet to North America's first fully plant-based convenience store."

Bobak Bakhtiari



CLOSING REMARKS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Did you know you're writing history for animals?

This magazine is filled with some of the most profound changes you helped create as a part of a coalition of determined individuals. This is what happens when you sign an Animal Equality petition or send a letter to your local lawmakers asking them to take action for animals or donate to support our work.

The industry we're fighting against is relentless and will go to great lengths to defend its profits—no matter how many animals suffer. They mislead the public with images of "happy" animals. They lobby government officials and politicians to prevent new laws from being implemented. In some countries, like the US, they've even made it illegal for activists to conduct investigations inside factory farms in some states.

Our investigators have to go undercover inside each industry where they witness abuses to chickens, hens, pigs, cows, and fish.



The footage they capture from inside factory farms and slaughterhouses is incredibly powerful. It documents the truth and provides us with the evidence we need to create change. But the footage alone can't change the world. It needs to be seen by people everywhere so that others can stand against cruelty to animals. And it's generous donations from people like you that continue to fuel the work of our investigators.

I'm so thankful for every one of your contributions to help animals. Seeing what you and our teams have accomplished in recent months fills me with immense pride. It gives me the motivation to keep going despite all the challenges we'll face. But there's still much work to be done.

As we move into the end of another successful year of progress for farmed animals, your support to achieve change in 2023 is more urgent than ever. I humbly ask you to consider returning the donation envelope included to make a contribution. If you're not already, you can sign up to become a monthly donor to support our mission all year long.

However you decide to show your support, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With gratitude,

 **SHARON NÚÑEZ**
PRESIDENT
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