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# ARC NEWS

## The Poultry Issue

Fall 2007

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*A publication of the Animal Rights Coalition to promote a compassionate world*

## A Day in a Life in the City with Chickens

by Mary Britton Clouse, Chicken Run Rescue

It's just before sunrise. Classical music seeps softly from the clock radio. The floor creaks as I step out of bed and the roosters stir from their sleep just below in our basement. Wings slap a warning that the first crow will come from Roseman – ARK-A-ARK-A-ARKGGG in his old, gravelly voice. We've been hearing that crow for almost five years now. Young Bing, named after Bing Crosby, chimes in with a melodious and melancholy greeting that sounds much like the first few notes of the Air Force anthem "Off We Go" – an appropriate way to start a day.

I dress and pad downstairs. I sing a good morning song to my beautiful birds as I tug on the lights. All seven girls are already up and pacing at their pen door, anxious to trundle up the stairs to the shed door and outside and see what garden snacks are left from yesterday's treats. They have been thinking about them all night. Several also have plans to lay eggs in a little while.

The boys must wait until at least 8:30 a.m. on weekdays, even later on weekends, before they can go out and share their jubilation with the rest of the neighborhood.

Bing gets to come out of his pen and supervise as I sweep up the soiled wood shavings with last night's "deposits." He alternately runs up the stairs to look out the screen door and see where the girls are, and thumps back down to see what the foster boys are doing, all the while muttering to himself.

This week we have two rescued adolescent Bantam roosters, Rosco and Chirrido. They may be brothers, dumped at a local shelter when the novelty wore off. They have decided they do not like each other and so sleep in separate but adjoining wire kennels. If there is time today, we will have another socializing session and see if we can resolve the conflict. Otherwise, they will have to go to separate homes – twice the challenge.



### A beautiful day at Chicken Run Rescue

Rosco gets his eye drops for a slight infection. Roseman gets a half tablet of Baytril for a persistent foot infection. Bing has just recovered from a very serious and unsolved illness, perhaps from some toxic berry he found in the garden. Two weeks of drugs, force feeding, and subcutaneous fluids and he is back to his happy-go-lucky lovable self. I am so grateful I hug him extra hard.

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## Meetings

### ARC in Action (AIA) Meetings

ARC in Action meetings are held the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the ARC office. At these informal meetings we work on current projects and campaigns. This is a great way to meet other people who care about animals. The ARC office is located at 3249 Hennepin Ave. S. in the Uptown Office Park Building, lower level.

### ARC Speaker Series

Farmer Brown will make a stop in Minneapolis in 2008 as part of the ARC Speaker Series. Harold Brown was raised on a cattle farm in Michigan and spent half of his life in agriculture. As Outreach Coordinator for Farm Sanctuary, Harold coordinated a campaign to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices, and he hosts the AskFarmerBrown.org web site. He also appears in Tribe of Heart's documentary, *Peaceable Kingdom*, where he tells the powerful story of his transformation from "beef" farmer to vegan farmed animal advocate. Watch your mailbox for more details.

### ARC Online

ARC web site: [www.animalrightscoalition.com](http://www.animalrightscoalition.com)

Circle of Compassion (ARC's blog): [www.circleofcompassion.typepad.com](http://www.circleofcompassion.typepad.com)

ARC on MySpace: [www.myspace.com/animalrightscoalition](http://www.myspace.com/animalrightscoalition)

ARC email address: [animalrightscoalition@msn.com](mailto:animalrightscoalition@msn.com)

## THE ANIMAL RIGHTS COALITION



The Animal Rights Coalition (ARC) is a Twin Cities-based non-profit organization dedicated to ending the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals through information, education, and advocacy. The Animal Rights Coalition advances its goals through community outreach activities, strategic campaigns and investigations, media outreach, and person-to-person contact, as we strive to fundamentally change how society view and treats all sentient beings.

### ARC News

A newsletter from the Animal Rights Coalition, published twice yearly  
P.O. Box 8750  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
612-822-6161  
Issue number 78

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## *In Honor and In Memory of*

Thank you to all those who remembered a special person or animal with a donation to the Animal Rights Coalition. This is a wonderful way to honor someone special and help animals at the same time.

### **In Memory Of:**

**Gypsy**, taken from this world on November 9, 2007 by human ignorance, ego, and pride. May she find more compassion over the rainbow bridge than she found in this world.



# The Life of a Chicken

by Colleen Timmer

I cannot count how many people I've encountered in the past few years who have proudly exclaimed, "I don't eat red meat." It makes me want to tear my hair out! Apparently, chicken is believed to be some kind of health food. This is, of course, a joke as the truth of the matter is that in addition to other dangerous chemicals you may be eating by consuming chicken and other poultry, it is believed that arsenic is sometimes placed in chicken feed to increase growth. The ill-informed "health-food" issue aside, what really bothers me about the "I don't eat red meat" craze is that the life of that chicken breast is one of the saddest and cruelest stories on earth.

## Broiler chickens

Chickens are used and abused by the food industry and are labeled several ways. Those raised for their flesh are called "broilers." Birds exploited for their eggs are called "laying hens" or "battery hens."

In the 1940s, it took approximately 12 weeks for a broiler chicken to reach market weight (approximately 4.4 pounds). Today, due to intensive confinement and the unnatural elements of industrialized production methods, broilers now reach that weight and are killed in about half that time. In essence, their life span is 45 days!

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**"Broilers now grow so rapidly that the heart and lungs are not developed well enough to support the remainder of the body, resulting in congestive heart failure and tremendous death losses."**

—*Feedstuffs*, a meat industry magazine

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Broiler chickens spend their entire lives packed by the thousands in grubby, windowless sheds. The confinement is so intense the birds are not able to spread their wings. Moreover, the crowding and filth lead to outbreaks of disease and infections. The birds are forced to breathe ammonia and particulate matter from feathers and feces all day long. The smell is so intense many suffer from chronic respiratory diseases, bronchitis, weakened immune systems, and a painful eye condition known as "ammonia burn." To keep them alive under these appalling conditions, they are pumped full of large quantities of antibiotics. Chickens are given nearly four times more antibiotics than human beings or cattle.

In nature, chickens may function well in groups of up to 80 or so, as long as the number is low enough to allow each bird to find his or her spot in the pecking order. However, in these crowded groups of thousands, no social order is possible, and they relentlessly peck each other in their frustration, causing injury and even death.



**Chickens in broiler shed**

With tens of thousands of chickens packed into each building, the sheds become increasingly crowded as the animals grow larger. Chickens often have to walk on top of one another—and over the bodies of others who have died—to get to food and water.

They are bred, drugged, and genetically manipulated to grow very large at a rapid rate. Because of this unnaturally accelerated growth process, these young birds often die from heart attacks and lung collapse. In addition, many become crippled under their own weight, with large numbers of them dying because they are unable to reach the water nozzles. By the age of six weeks, a broiler chicken is so obese, the chicken can no longer walk.

If a chicken lives to six or seven weeks, he or she will be hand-caught by a worker and crammed into a cage for transport to slaughter. The birds are often thrown in head first, their legs and wings breaking in the process. During transport, they must endure exposure to weather extremes as well as food and water deprivation. Many will die before they reach slaughter.

Like other birds in food production, chickens are not protected by any laws and thus are not required to be stunned before slaughter. Most are shackled upside down and electrically stunned in a water-bath stunner. Their vertebral or carotid arteries are then cut with a knife, and they are released into a tank of scalding hot water for plucking. Over 90% of birds flap their wings due to the pain of shackling, and evidence shows the birds suffer intense pain while being electrically stunned. High-speed production lines only increase the possibility of the animal being injured and tortured.

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## Battery hens

Battery or laying hens endure a nightmarish life of about two years. They are crammed together in wire cages where they don't have enough room to spread even a single wing. A cage measures about 18 by 20 inches, and holds five to 11 birds. So, imagine putting a chicken in a file drawer and cramming four other birds in beside her! The cages are then stacked on top of each other, and the excrement from chickens in the higher cages constantly falls on those below. Horrible stench and disease is rampant, and many birds die. Survivors are often forced to live with their rotting cage-mates.



Chickens in battery cage

Prior to their arrival in a battery cage, a portion of each bird's sensitive beak is cut off with a burning-hot blade. This "debeaking" process is done to prevent the birds from harming one another due to the constant stress and frustration of their intense confinement. During their lives, the birds will be force molted (intentionally starved) to shock their bodies into a constant laying cycle.

The male chicks of egg-laying hens are killed as they are unable to lay eggs and are not bred to produce excessive flesh for the meat industry. Every year, more than 100 million of these chicks are ground up alive or tossed into bags to suffocate.

After the hens' bodies are exhausted and their production drops, they are shipped to slaughter, generally to be turned into cat or dog food, as their flesh is so bruised and battered that it is deemed unfit for much else. These "spent" hens often travel through severe weather conditions to arrive at the slaughterhouse, where their fragile legs are snapped into shackles and their throats are cut. By the time they are sent to slaughter roughly 29% of the hens suffer from broken bones due to neglect and rough treatment.

Many people believe that eating eggs is not harmful to these birds, when the truth is, battery hens are some of the most abused animals on this planet! 🐣

## The Truth about "Hatcheries"

by Colleen Timmer

In a hatchery, chicks enter the world inside the drawers of huge incubators. No mother has sat on a nest keeping them warm. In fact, they will never know their mothers.

After they are a day or two old, their sex can be determined and they are sorted. Male chicks, 50% of those hatched, are killed immediately as they are of no value in the production of eggs. A quarter of a billion male chicks are thrown away like trash each year. They are suffocated in the garbage or ground up alive for fertilizer or feed or sold for meat production. Since no laws govern the treatment of poultry, hatcheries may dispose of the unwanted males in any way they choose!

Baby chicks are transported live in the mail. Newly hatched chickens, ducks, geese, partridge, pheasants, guinea fowl, quail, and turkeys do not travel as "cargo," as would a companion animal. To cut down on costs, they are shipped like luggage and are subject to heat, cold, and food and water deprivation. Postal regulations require only that birds be delivered within 72 hours of hatching. As a result, they suffer and die in transport in enormous numbers. In nature, when chicks hatch under a mother hen, the earliest hatched chicks must wait for all the chicks to hatch. They survive by absorbing their yolk nutrients during this time. A clutch of chicks normally hatches between 24 and 48 hours – not 72 hours. Because they have been held in commercial incubators, the earliest hatching chicks may already be 36 hours old, having had no food or water, before they are loaded onto a plane.

In addition to the extreme temperatures and food and water deprivation that results from transport, baby chicks may die from being banged around in their boxes, stress, or dehydration. An average of 30% to as high as 80% of birds arrive dead according to the airlines. In addition, baby roosters may be used as "packing material" alongside the baby hens to provide extra warmth during shipping.



This baby is still alive, standing in a dumpster on the corpses of other male chicks discarded by the egg industry.

Many people mistakenly believe that there is no death involved in the egg business. Sadly, that is untrue. **For every laying hen, there is a dead male chick, and for every laying hen that survives the transport, there is a female who did not.** 🐣

## Compassionate Kids

by Charlotte Cozzetto

Ears perk up, eyes widen, and imaginations spark when Amy Leo Barankovich brings her Compassionate Kids workshops to local community events. Sponsored by ARC, these workshops teach young children about the many wonderful creatures with whom we share the planet through fun, interactive activities using visual art, dramatics, stories, music, and movement.

Through creativity, imagination and fun, the workshops introduce children to compassionate, accurate views of animals and the environment. Among other things they learn why lions and tigers prefer to stay in the wild and why that little bumblebee is better off not being squished.

Most recently, Amy presented Compassionate Kids programs at the EarthFusion Festival in Loring Park, Minneapolis and the Northland Bioneers Conference in Minneapolis.



### Compassionate Kids at EarthFusion Festival in Loring Park

ARC has been busy spreading the word about compassionate living in other venues as well. The ARC booth at the Education Minnesota Professional Conference at River Centre in St. Paul attracted scores of teachers with its display of children's books that promote humane values and its free humane educational materials on subjects such as dissection, product testing, and animals in the classroom. The previous weekend ARC's booth at the Twin Cities Festival of Books at Minneapolis Community & Technical College was well attended.

Coming up early next year, ARC will have a booth at the Twin Cities Pet Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17. Mark your calendars now for this fun event, which features a wide range of products and services for companion animals. 🐾

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Once all the boys have been escorted outside to their assigned pens and all the dishes filled with fresh food and water, the joyful work of being a chicken begins.

Though it is November, the weather is warm, the sun is out and it is dry, a perfect excuse for the humans to putter in the garden mending fences and gates, pulling up the towering amaranth that provided so much shade and entertainment for chickens, sparrows, squirrels, and mice all summer, generally just getting set for what's ahead.



**Bert Clouse takes a break from working in the garden and enjoys the company of some curious friends**

There is a joy and excitement that the humans will be scratching the ground today – and the humans are so honored to share the flock's world of sunshine and soft dirt for a time.

The sun sets way too early and the chickens line up at the back door; if they had watches they would be looking nervously at them –hungry for their evening snack and shaking the evening chill from their feathers in a warm, cozy, safe home filled with love. 🐔

*Photos for this story and story on page 7 courtesy of Chicken Run Rescue.*



**ARC SPEAKER SERIES: DR. KAREN DAVIS**

ARC continues to bring in nationally recognized speakers to reach a larger audience with the animal rights message. Dr. Karen Davis spoke at Macalester College in St. Paul this fall on the topic, “The Life of a McNugget.” Karen is President and Founder of United Poultry Concerns, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl.

Macalester College  
Sunday, October 14, 2007 6pm

**The Life**  
of a  
**McNugget**

Lecture / Book signing by  
Dr. Karen Davis  
United Poultry Concerns

Olin / Rice Science Center, Room 150  
1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105  
Sponsored by the Animal Rights Coalition  
co-sponsored by fast & furless & Chicken Run Rescue

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# The Hatching of Chicken Run Rescue

by Mary Britton Clouse

Every year, domestic fowl, mostly chickens, are impounded by Minneapolis Animal Control (MAC). These birds are victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment, sometimes used as a source of eggs or intended for slaughter, fighting, or ritual sacrifice. Some are the discarded outcome of “nature lessons” for children or a hobby that no longer holds interest. After their release from MAC, Chicken Run Rescue (CRR) provides the birds with temporary shelter and vet care, locates and screens adopters within 90 miles of the Twin Cities, and transports the birds to their new homes.

The evolution of CRR has been as unlikely as it was inevitable – shaped each step of the way by the conviction that every animal has a right to a life of their own that is of importance to them apart from their usefulness to us. The unlikely aspect was that my husband Bert and I live in the inner city and neither of us had ever held a chicken before. Our beliefs made CRR inevitable once we discovered that chickens needed help and had no one else.

CRR is the only urban chicken rescue organization in existence. This is remarkable and tragic since chickens represent the most abused land animals on the planet both in terms of sheer numbers and magnitude of suffering.

My first involvement with chickens came in 2000. An installation at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts included two live chickens, Mabel and Scott, who were to hang in a cage on a wall for the duration of the exhibit. As a visual artist, I was disturbed by the increasing use of animals as inanimate art objects for the shock value. United Poultry Concerns and local activists mounted a vigorous campaign and the birds were removed from the show.

In 2001, MAC seized 13 Thai roosters in a cockfighting bust. We learned that MAC routinely impounded domestic fowl and, with rare exceptions, euthanized them as they had nowhere for them to go. Since I was known to the management of MAC through my work with the Minnesota Spay Neuter Project, they allowed me to find homes for six of the roosters (seven had to be euthanized due to injuries). The next time a chicken came in, they called to see if we could place her and the rest is history.

Initially, we transported the birds directly to new homes, but the timing was often stressful. In searching for rural adopters I met Carmen Vaz Altenberg, a wildlife biologist and rehabilitator who had just founded Minnesota Wildlife Haven in North Minneapolis. Carmen allowed the chickens to stay at the Haven until homes could be located and she adopted many of the birds into her own family. I volunteered at the clinic to learn acute care skills so I could better care for the chickens.



## Enjoying a sunny day at Chicken Run Rescue

As the number of incoming birds increased, we needed to make a long-term commitment to continue the work. We built a coop, added fenced pens to our backyard, and applied for a City poultry permit to house the birds at our home. We can't imagine a life without them now and they are welcome residents in our neighborhood. We have seven permanent family members now and average about four additional fosters at a time.

Every bird is an individual so I write personal profiles and photograph each bird, creating a database of history, health, and adoption records. Through the CRR Adoption Chronicles e-mailed to list members and a web site on PetFinders we connect available birds with potential adopters. At this writing we have placed over 233 birds.

Chickens and other domestic fowl deserve the same standard of care as other companion animals so we have developed a list of vets willing to provide chicken care. Exposure of veterinary and animal control professionals to personal contact with chickens has been met with enthusiasm and new respect for the birds. We receive daily inquiries about care and behavior from all over the country.

Our promotion of chickens as companion animals is an effort to introduce them to the world as individuals and cause people to examine why some animals are “pets” and others are “meat”. Each year in the U.S., over 10 billion chickens suffer from intense confinement, cruel handling, and painful terrifying deaths. “Free range” and “cage free” birds live much the same tortured lives and meet the same horrific fate as their factory farmed cousins at the same slaughter plants. ♪

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Editor's Note: Chicken Run Rescue depends entirely on donations and sales of art merchandise and the Chicken Run Rescue Photo Contest Calendar to continue helping chickens. Please consider purchasing the Chicken Run Rescue calendar and greeting cards at:

<http://www.brittonclouse.com/chickenrunrescue/>

## Our “Protections” for Fowl are Downright Foul!

by Colleen Timmer

There is a lot of talk these days about animal welfare and regulation. As such, it is helpful to arm yourself with the facts about what those regulations mean.

The *Animal Welfare Act* (AWA) is the first and one of the only major pieces of legislation that sets standards for the care and handling of certain animal species. Specifically, it covers all warm-blooded animals used in regulated activities. Reptiles, fish, amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates are cold-blooded animals and are not covered under the AWA. The Act does not provide authority to regulate animals used for food and fiber or for agricultural research; therefore, only farmed animals used for biomedical research are covered.

The AWA’s definition of *animal* means any live or dead dog, cat, non-human primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warmblooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a companion animal. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice genus *Mus* bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farmed animals, such as but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber.

So, what does all this mean? As you can see, the use of animals in agriculture is the most lightly regulated area of animal use in the United States. Sadly, *there is absolutely no protection or regulation for poultry*. Chickens and their fowl relatives are specifically excluded from any protection and, as a result, are without a doubt the most abused animals on this planet!



Shackled for slaughter

Roughly 90% of the 10 billion animals used in animal agriculture in the U. S. each year are chickens. USDA statistics from 2003 show that about 8.7 billion broiler chickens are killed each year for food, and over 337 million battery hens are used for egg laying. Yet, despite these enormous numbers, chickens, turkeys, and other poultry are explicitly excluded from protection.

Furthermore, there are no federal regulations regarding the breeding, rearing, sale, transportation, or slaughter of chickens and poultry. How does this translate into the real world? In San Diego County, California, an egg producer slaughtered 40,000 spent hens by throwing them alive into a wood chipper. In Florida, the egg-producing Cypress Foods declared bankruptcy and abandoned more than 200,000 laying hens, leaving them to starve to death. Neither action violated any state or federal law and neither producer was charged with animal cruelty under state anti-cruelty laws.

### The Humane Slaughter Act

The Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act (HMSLA), more commonly known as the *Humane Slaughter Act*, was passed in 1958 and was designed to protect animals during the moment of their slaughter.

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**“We are the people who are charged by Congress with enforcing [the HMLSA], but most of our inspectors have little to no access to those areas of the plants where animals are being handled and slaughtered.”**

— Arthur Hughes, president of the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals

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According to the law, animals should be stunned into unconsciousness prior to their slaughter to ensure a quick, relatively painless death. The most common methods are electrocution or a metal bolt to the head. Frequent on-site monitoring is necessary, as is the employment of skilled and well-trained personnel. An animal is considered properly stunned when there is no “righting reflex;” that is, the animal must not try to stand up and right himself/herself. Only then can he or she be considered fully unconscious. The animal can then proceed down the line, where slaughterhouse workers commence in cutting up his or her body.

The Act covers cattle, pigs, and sheep, **but specifically excludes any poultry**. And, don’t get too excited about its effect on the intended recipients. A 2001 *Washington Post* article reported that “enforcement records, interviews, videos, and worker affidavits describe repeated violations of the Humane Slaughter Act” and “the government took no action against a Texas beef company that was cited 22 times in 1998 for violations that include chopping hooves off live cattle”. 🐔

# The Life of a Turkey

by Colleen Timmer

Turkeys are hatched in large incubators, never seeing their mothers or feeling the warmth of her body or a nest. After only a few short weeks, the chicks are moved into the homes in which they will spend the rest of their miserable lives. Their permanent residence consists of a filthy, windowless shed, where they are packed in so tightly with thousands of other turkeys that they cannot spread their wings. To prevent the turkeys from killing and harming one another under such stressful confinement, part of their toes and beaks are cut off, as well as the flap of skin – otherwise known as the *snood* – of the male turkeys. This is all done without anesthetics or pain relievers. In essence, imagine having the skin on your chin cut off with a pair of scissors! Millions of these birds will not even make it past the first few weeks, dying of stress, starvation, and infections or diseases.



On turkey factory farms, baby chicks spend their first few weeks of life in giant, crowded incubators.

To keep up with demand and to maximize profits, turkeys are drugged, bred, and genetically manipulated to grow as big as possible, as fast as possible. According to the Goveg.com web site, one industry publication stated that modern turkeys grow so quickly that if a 7 pound human baby grew at the same rate, the infant would weigh 1,500 pounds at just 18 weeks of age!

This grossly abnormal growing process results in a litany of problems for these birds. For one, they are so obese they cannot reproduce naturally. Thus, all turkeys born in this country today are conceived through artificial insemination.

In addition, their gargantuan size causes many turkeys to die from organ failure or heart attacks. Their legs often cannot support their own weight and they become crippled and may die of starvation. As a result, the mortality rate for these intelligent, beautiful creatures is extremely high.

Many turkeys also fall ill because of the filthy, crowded conditions. Birds that become ill, crippled under their own weight, or otherwise unsuitable for slaughter and consumption are often killed by farm workers via bludgeoning, beating, kicking, or having their necks wrung. Dead and/or dying birds are thrown into piles and then tossed into wheelbarrows for disposal.

After the turkeys are “reared,” they are shipped off for slaughter. Up to 2,000 turkeys can be crammed onto a single truck heading for the slaughterhouse. Turkeys are grabbed by their legs and violently thrown into crates by workers. Their legs and wings are often broken in the process. The crates are tossed onto trucks and birds may travel long distances through hot and cold weather extremes without any food or water before they reach the slaughterhouse. Millions of turkeys die each year from heat exhaustion, freezing, or accidents during transport.

Once they reach their final slaughterhouse destination, the turkeys are hung upside-down by their deformed and weakened legs. Their heads are dragged through an electrified “stunning tank.” This is to immobilize their bodies, but it does not prevent them from feeling pain. Their throats are then slit, many of them improperly, so that finally, they are scalded alive in the tank of hot water used for feather removal.

And there you have it. The life of a modern turkey. So, when you sit down to a Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey, know that you are pulling up a chair and sticking your fork into pure misery. 🍴

## Did you know?

Minnesota is currently ranked # 1 for turkey production in the United States. According to information from the Minnesota Turkey Grower's Association, Minnesota's turkey farmers raised approximately 44.5 million birds in 2005. Minnesota has approximately 250 turkey producers who operate 600 turkey farms. The majority of turkeys raised in Minnesota are more likely to be shipped outside the state. 90% of turkeys raised and slaughtered in state are exported out of Minnesota. Of that 90%, approximately 15% are exported to international markets. The top five export markets for U.S. turkey meat (2005) were: Mexico, China, Canada, Russia, and Taiwan.

## Hatching Projects: Poor Lessons for Children

Compiled from information provided by United Poultry Concerns and TEACHkind

Every year, kindergarten and elementary school teachers and their students place thousands of fertilized eggs in classroom incubators to be hatched within three or four weeks. No one knows how many eggs are used, but in 1994 one egg supplier sold 1,800 eggs to New York City schools alone.

Many educators have stopped using chick-hatching projects to teach embryology because of concerns about student safety, animal welfare, and childhood development.

Chick-hatching projects can pose hidden dangers to school children. A 1999 analysis of chicks in Seattle schools found that nearly all chicks tested were infected with *E. coli* and salmonella, leading to a ban on all hatching projects in Seattle schools.

There are other concerns – many of the birds grow sick and deformed because their needs are not met during incubation and after hatching. Few, if any, schools provide for the veterinary care of chicks who are hatched in the classroom. Teachers can be overwhelmed when faced with sick or deformed chicks, and the deaths of the birds can be traumatic for children.

When the experiment is over, the problem of what to do with the surviving chicks can be frustrating for teachers because many schools do not plan for this. Animal shelters already overwhelmed with unwanted cats and dogs are left to deal with chicks every spring and most do not have the facilities to care for them. Commercial farms will not take the chicks because of the danger of infecting their flocks with disease, so the chicks are usually put to death.

### The Lesson Never Taught

The lesson never taught is that chickens are one of the marvels of nature. A mother hen turns each egg carefully as often as 30 times a day, using her body, her feet, and her beak to move the egg precisely in order to maintain the proper temperature, moisture, ventilation, humidity, and position of the egg during the three-week incubation period. Unhatched chicks respond to soothing sounds from the mother hen and to warning cries of the rooster. Two or three days before the baby birds are ready to hatch, they start peeping to notify their mother and siblings that they are ready to emerge from the shell, and to draw her attention to any discomfort they may be suffering such as cold or abnormal positioning.

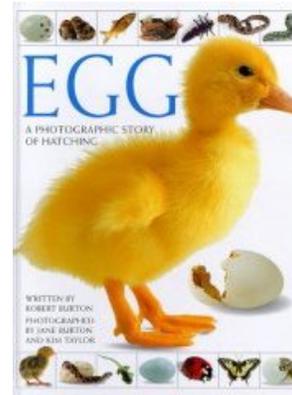
Instead of teaching these valuable lessons, hatching projects mislead children to think that chicks come from machines with no need of a mother or family life. 🐣

### What to do instead of chick-hatching experiments?

Chick hatching projects teach children that bringing a life into the world is not a grave and permanent responsibility with ultimate consequences for the life thus created. Elimination of this destructive idea from our schools is a practical extension of the socially responsible atmosphere we are trying to create for our children.

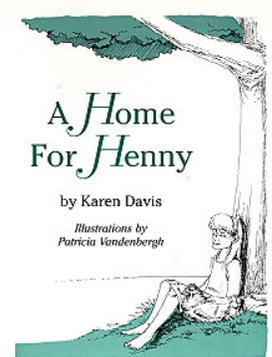
What to do instead of chick-hatching experiments?

United Poultry Concerns (UPC), a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the plight of domestic fowl, recommends several alternatives to chick-hatching projects. UPC's suggested resources include the following:



**Egg: A Photographic Story of Hatching** is a beautiful book that “captures the very moment of hatching in extraordinary close-up photographs from the first crack in the eggshell to the newborn bursting free” by Robert Burton with photographs by Jane Burton and Kim Taylor.

**A Home for Henny**, a book written by UPC founder Karen Davis and illustrated by Patricia Vandenberg, tells the story of a grade-school chick hatching project and a chick, Henny, who is going to be disposed of, but who finds a happy home at a sanctuary, thanks to a student named Melanie and her parents.



Egg: A Photographic Story of Hatching can be ordered online from amazon.com. A Home for Henny and other educational materials for children including Hatching Good Lessons: Alternatives to School Hatching Projects can be ordered online from United Poultry Concerns at:

[http://www.upc-online.org/merchandise/humane\\_child.html](http://www.upc-online.org/merchandise/humane_child.html)

## Catch up with Friends of Animals Humane Society

by Danny Johnson, Executive Director

Friends of Animals Humane Society in Cloquet, Minnesota was founded in the early 1980s by a group of women who had a vision and heart for the stray animals in our area. Today, our shelter houses 40 to 50 dogs and puppies and 60 to 70 cats and kittens.

FOA is in a position our founders could have only dreamt about. We have taken over Animal Control for most of the cities, townships, etc. in Carlton County. Our Animal Control Officers are also on call 24 / 7 responding to animal emergencies and animal abuse calls or responding to the needs of stray or lost animals.

One of the saddest times in any animal lover's life is the loss of a companion animal. That is why, last May, FOA started a Pet Loss Support Group. This group supports anyone who is grieving from the loss of a companion animal. If you know anyone in the Cloquet / Duluth area needing to share their memories or grief with a support group, please refer them to FOA.

To contact FOA, please call 218-879-1655 or email us at [info@foaonline.org](mailto:info@foaonline.org). You can also visit our web site at [www.foaonline.org](http://www.foaonline.org). 🐾

## Eggless "Egg" Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 16-ounce package firm tofu, drained and crumbled
- 3 green onions, minced
- 1 celery rib, minced
- ½ cup soy mayonnaise
- 1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Dill or celery seed, optional

Mix ingredients in a bowl and refrigerate, or serve immediately on toast. Makes 4 servings.



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Your membership dues are tax deductible. Send your check or money order payable to: Animal Rights Coalition, Inc., P.O. Box 8750, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Thank you!

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*For over 25 years ARC has been dedicated to ending  
the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals  
through information, education, and advocacy.*



**Compassionate Kids, sponsored by ARC, has provided humane educational experiences for many children at local community events.**