



Conditions on Sonoma Foie Gras



Shortly After Feeding at Hudson Valley Foie Gras



Animals left to decompose on Hudson Valley Foie Gras



One of many ill ducks on Sonoma Foie Gras



Feeding at Sonoma Foie Gras



A feeder

# FOIE GRAS FACTS

## ➤ HOW FOIE GRAS IS PRODUCED:

To produce foie gras, ducks or geese are force fed to enlarge their livers to up to 12 times their healthy size. For up to a month, three times a day, deliberate and painful overfeeding occurs. This results in immense internal pressure; the birds pant incessantly and have trouble walking. It is at the point when the birds would otherwise die from organ rupture that the foie gras industry finds them to be ideal for slaughter. The process of forced feeding is so traumatic, and the conditions on foie gras farms so debilitating, that the pre-slaughter mortality rate for foie gras production is up to 20 times the average rate on other duck farms.

## ➤ WHAT THE ASPCA HAS TO SAY ABOUT FOIE GRAS:

“Foie gras is the grossly enlarged liver of a duck or goose, obtained by restraining the animal and inserting a long tube down his throat, through which large quantities of food are forced into his stomach. The bird’s liver becomes so enlarged that, according to the documentation of veterinarians, the animal must experience unspeakable pain and suffering. The results of necropsies performed on dead birds that had been force-fed have shown ruptured livers, throat damage, esophageal trauma and food spilling from the birds’ throats and out of their nostrils....Foie gras production involves, indeed necessitates, untold suffering and violates section 353 [New York State’s anti-cruelty statute].” —*Stacy Wolf, Esq., ASPCA*

## ➤ FOIE GRAS PRODUCTION IS ILLEGAL IN MANY COUNTRIES:

The forced feeding of ducks and geese to produce foie gras is so cruel that it is illegal in Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, England, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, The Czech Republic, Austria, South Africa and Luxembourg. Israel, the world’s third largest producer of foie gras has also ruled that force feeding violates their existing anti-cruelty laws. Most other countries would also find force feeding illegal if it were practiced there, but only a few countries have farms engaging in this cruelty.

## ➤ FOIE GRAS IS BANNED IN CALIFORNIA:

California has enacted a law to end the production and sale of foie gras, creating a permanent ban in the state starting in 2012. Further, six city councils have commended restaurants for removing foie gras from their menus. With increasing public awareness, other cities and states will likely legislate against foie gras in the future.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DALLAS RISING AT THE ANIMAL RIGHTS COALITION,  
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