Spring 2023

Volume 32, Number 4

Poultry Press

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl

Celebrating 33 years of dedicated activism for domestic fowl

United Poultry Concerns

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Photo of Lucetta by Rich Cundari, September 21, 2022 at United Poultry Concerns

Rituals of Spectacular Humiliation and Violence

By Karen Davis, PhD, President, United Poultry Concerns

Recreational rampages against other animals have been part of human society forever. In England, for example, bull-baiting, bull-running, badger-baiting, bear-baiting, dog fights, cockfights, cock-throwing, bird-shooting parties, fox hunting and other animal-abusing sports were routine and in some rural enclaves today undoubtedly still are. In rural America, sadistic entertainments such as "hog bagging" are proudly hailed by communities steeped in traditions of explicit animal torture for which people are invited to "spend the day and bring the kids."

Socializing children into compliance with their parents and the adult community is an important part of these events in which child abuse and animal abuse converge. Children with violent tendencies are encouraged to be vicious while sensitive children are bullied into submission with the animals. The adults do to their children what their own enforcers did to them, displacing their fear of "their fellow man" and nature onto creatures they Do Not want to be identified with for fear of Other People – the adults who were themselves cowered, baited, bullied and rewarded into submission to "community standards."

Robert W. Malcolmson in *Popular Recreations in English Society 1700-1850* notes that "Human beings, it seems, have always had a strong disposition to manipulate animal life for 'sporting purposes.'" For example, he quotes an 18th-century description of cock-throwing, which consisted of hurling cudgels and broomsticks – "scails" – at roosters tied to a stake, an activity that was part of the pre-Lent saturnalia of Shrovetide (Mardi Gras), the carnival season:

And thus their legs are broken and their bodies bruised in a shocking manner . . . and wonderful it was that men of character and circumstance should come to this fine sight and readily give their children a cock for this purpose.

Cockfighting was already established in England by the time the Romans took over in the first century CE. "There is nothing more diverting," according to an



The Cockpit (1759) by William Hogarth

18th-century enthusiast quoted by Malcolmson. Rituals of animal abuse such as cockfighting have frequently been justified not only as acceptable outlets for human aggression; they have been sentimentally defended as social levelers in which Men of All Ranks could join together in a common enterprise etched in "the inner recesses of the masculine psychic life," say Page Smith and Charles Daniel in *The Chicken Book*. Whatever else might have brought men together on English social occasions in the past, Malcolmson writes that the "common denominator was particularly noticeable in the practice of animal sports."

In An Unnatural Order: Uncovering the Roots of Our Domination of Nature and Each Other, Jim Mason identifies two basic types of animal abusing entertainment: "rituals of spectacular violence" and "rituals of spectacular humiliation." These rituals overlap, but in terms of emphasis, whereas rituals of spectacular violence "reinforce myths about vicious animals and evil nature," rituals of spectacular humiliation "reinforce myths of animal stupidity, inferiority, and willingness to submit to human domination."

Viewed thus, cockfighting is a ritual of spectacular violence, the circus is a ritual of spectacular humiliation, and rodeos manifest the convergence of both types of ritual with an emphasis on humiliating animals raised to be slaughtered for food. Roping baby calves, goats

and chickens epitomizes the Ritual of Humiliation: they enact a human desire to degrade and defeat the defenseless among us. Ironically, those who defend these rituals will insist that those who oppose them are anthropomorphizing the animals.

Such rituals do not explain away easily. At a deep, if conflicted, level they testify to a hatred many human cultures have had for nonhuman animals through the ages, rooted in our hatred of ourselves for being animals (vulnerable, ephemeral mortals subject to dusty death and not "divinity"), which we project onto them. In *An Unnatural Order*, Jim Mason calls this hatred of the animal *misothery*. He writes:

I have coined the word misothery (miz OTH uh ree) to name a body of ideas that we are about to discuss. It comes from two Greek words, one meaning "hatred" or "contempt," the other meaning "animal." Literally, then, misothery is hatred and contempt for animals. And since animals are so representative of nature in general, it can mean hatred and contempt for nature— especially its animal-like aspects.

He continues:

I deliberately constructed the word misothery for its similarity to the word misogyny, a reasonably common word for an attitude of hatred and contempt toward women. The similarity of the two words reflects the similarity of the two bodies of attitudes and ideas. In both cases, the ideas reduce the power, status, and dignity of others.

At the same time that many human rituals and institutions exhibit rampant misothery toward nonhuman animals and the "degrading" condition of animality, because we are animals and because the knowledge that we are animals is embedded in our biology and in our status as creatures rooted in the natural world, we are ambivalent. Hence, human misothery toward animals and the condition of animality may be considered "hypocritical" in the cautiously optimistic sense offered by Eli Sagan in *Cannibalism: Human Aggression and Cultural Form*, in which he says that we must "treasure and expose that hypocrisy, because within it we will find the possibilities of further change."

A basis for cautious optimism is the amity that many people feel for animals, which may be gaining ground on the animus that has distorted so much of our relationship with other species and nature and that is contributing, together with economic ruthlessness, to the destruction and deformation of both nature and animals. – *Karen Davis*

Completely agree with you Karen: anything that involves animal abuse that children are brought into to witness, model, participate in is undoubtedly child abuse. Denying what the children say they perceive and denying their opposition to participating in such cruelty is also abuse. For example, I've seen many kids at youth fishing events expressing their sadness at the suffering of the fishes or expressing that they don't want to be involved, being called names like "don't be a girl" or being told things like "the fish don't feel pain" or "it's the circle of life." There should definitely be a challenge towards getting kids to participate in abusive events like the chicken roping and other rodeo events. In fact, children are often encouraged and pressured by their parents to partake, as it brings their parents joy and fulfillment. Much of the time the children are too disconnected and brainwashed to understand what they're participating in and the harm that it causes. It's a terrible cycle. – *Unparalleled Suffering, March 18, 2023*

Urge Wyoming Officials to Oppose Unlawful Chicken Roping Contest



officials and animal protectors to join us in opposing a chicken-abusing event that we seek to eliminate. The event is a chicken roping contest conducted in a bar & grill called Dewey's Place in Moorcroft, Wyoming. This year the chicken roping contest, which has been going on for nine miserable years, was held on Saturday night, February 18th and we sent an investigator to document it.

Participants included men, women and children as documented in text, photographs and video showing how the chickens were tormented by inebriated adults yelling and carrying on as loud music blared in a display of unabashed sadism directed at the defenseless birds on the floor at their feet. One child can be heard in the video yelling: "You're probably killing that poor bird." Our investigator reported:

One of the highlights of the evening was the repetition of chokings that the birds had to endure again and again. Who in the world would want to have a cord or a rope around their neck and then be hoisted

into the air? What can that be other than torture? Even Renee Jean, the business and tourism reporter for *Cowboy State Daily*, who published an article about this event, began her article with "Saturday was not a good night to be a rooster in Moorcroft" and later on stated "it's clearly a stressful night for them."

At our request, veterinarian Dr. Nedim Buyukmihci and veterinarian Dr. George Bates reviewed the video footage and photographs and wrote to the Wyoming State Veterinarian and the Moorcroft Police Chief. Their letters can be read in full here: www.upc-online.org/entertainent.

From Dr. Buyukmihci's letter:

I viewed a video of this event and observed the following treatment of the chickens:

- 1. purposeful shaking and poking of an individual (presumably to agitate them)
- 2. chasing and lassoing of individuals (especially around the neck)



- 3. lifting of individuals off the ground, the weight of their bodies supported only by their necks
- 4. pulling of individuals along the ground by their necks
- 5. stretching individuals between a lasso around the neck and one around the legs

I consider all the above to be inhumane for the chickens and cruel behaviour on the part of the people. Observations 2-5 represent extreme inhumanity and cruelty. Not only were the chickens frightened and struggling to get away, they were being put at risk of severe injury, particularly of the neck, possibly even resulting in death. Some of the chickens lay flat on the ground after being lassoed and hoisted into the air and dropped, no longer struggling. I could not determine if this was due to injury or the tonic immobility seen in chickens who are highly stressed or distressed.

From Dr. Bates's letter:

I am writing out of concern about "chicken roping" contests being held at Dewey's Place in the town of Moorcroft, Wyoming. I have reviewed testimony from an observer and video images of the event taken on 18 February 2023. In my judgment, based on what I've seen and heard, what is going on here clearly constitutes animal abuse. The chickens used in the event are handled inappropriately and are no doubt traumatized by being dragged and/or suspended by their necks from a rope. This, according to a witness at the event, happened multiple times to individual birds during the course of the evening on February 18. No mammal or bird, not excluding human beings, appreciates having their



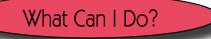
necks stretched by a rope and their breathing impeded or stopped by compression of the airway. Strangulation, even when it does not result in death, is never an appropriate animal handling practice, most especially when it is done purely for entertainment purposes.

The chickens in the video are clearly frightened and anxious as they are being chased around by adult men and women, and some appear at times to be stunned and

unresponsive, possibly due either to hypoxia from being choked or tonic immobility ("scared stiff"). As a veterinarian I am disgusted to see any animal handled in such a cruel fashion let alone one handled that way for the sake of amusement. Were this to be done at a similar venue to more familiar domesticated animals like dogs, cats, rabbits, or parrots I'm sure the overt cruelty would become apparent to even the patrons at Dewey's.



(cont.) Urge Wyoming Officials to Oppose Unlawful Chicken Roping Contest



Not only is the chicken roping contest intentionally cruel and inhumane: it violates WY § 6-3-1002. Cruelty to animals: (iii) Knowingly carries an animal in a manner that poses undue risk of injury or death.

Please write a polite but urgent letter to the Wyoming State Veterinarian and the Moorcroft Police Chief urging them to uphold the WY state law that is violated by the chicken roping contest. Even if the chicken roping did not violate the law, which it clearly does, it could not and should not ever be condoned by law enforcement or anyone else. It is nothing but ugly bullying and mistreating of small, defenseless birds and teaching children to take pleasure in deliberate cruelty.

Contact:

Dr. Hallie Hasel

Wyoming State Veterinarian

Wyoming Livestock Board Office 1934 Wyott Drive Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7515

Website: https://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/admin/

contact-us

Email: hallie.hasel@wyo.gov

Bill Bryant, Police Chief Moorcroft Police Department

104 North Big Horn Avenue

PO Box 70

Moorcroft, WY 82721 Phone: 307-756-9504 Fax: (307) 756-3323

Website: http://townofmoorcroft.com/police.aspx

Email: police@townofmoorcroft.com

Learn more about this animal abuse including our success in halting a chicken roping contest in New Mexico in 2000: www.upc-online.org/entertainment.



New Podcast Series! Thinking Like A Chicken – News & Views!



Photo of Karen and Rainbow by Unparalleled Suffering Photography

"I want to influence people to perceive chickens and turkeys in their own right, apart from the categorical traps in which they are typically held captive." – Karen Davis

aren Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns, has launched an informative biweekly podcast series of 10-minute episodes featuring life from a chicken's point of view. If you were just "poultry" to most people, what would you want them to learn, say, think, and do about you?

"Thinking Like a Chicken" features short, articulate talks about these birds and our advocacy on their behalf. Topics range from inside the poultry industry to life in a sanctuary, a cockfighting ring, a school hatching project, a backyard. Ideas and situations that highlight these birds are discussed. Karen describes her personal experiences with chickens, turkeys and other domesticated birds for more than three decades along with the challenges and ethics of plant-based and "clean-meat" advocacy.

"While I would not presume to speak for 'voiceless' birds — their voices speak for themselves! — I do seek to be their Voice in the public domain to help them be heard. Please join me for these biweekly podcast episodes." — Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns

Each podcast episode is posted permanently on our website. To listen, click on Podcasts & Videos at www.upc-online.org/videos.

Would you like to do more to help the birds?
Just go to www.upc-online.org/email and sign up to

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Poultry Press

is published quarterly by United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a national nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. Federal ID: 52-1705678

EDITOR: Karen Davis

Graphic Design: Franklin Wade

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Leafleting for Animals: A Time Honored Activist Tradition

ven people who care very much about animals and animal advocacy can find it hard to take to the streets with our message. The

general public continues to resist information about animals and animal abuse. Who wants to learn about the terrible things we do to chickens, pigs, cows, horses and others? People aren't lining up to learn about the animals whose "products" they like to eat.

Fearing rejection, many advocates wince at the thought of getting "Out There" and facing people directly – complete strangers. In my experience over many years, the person to whom I hand a brochure in a friendly way will usually accept it and keep walking, and I will say to them, Thank You. Others will



walk rapidly past you with a look of "Don't bother me." Others will stop and ask a few questions expressing at least casual interest. And then there are those wonderful people who thank you for what you are doing and tell you that they are already vegetarian or vegan. They're happy to see you. And we are happy to see them!

Some, of course, will say things like "Oh, I LOVE chicken" and think they've scored a point. There can be pleasure in wounding the advocate for animals, being mean however nice and polite we are. Nothing is easier than scoring points in the mind of a person who assumes the whole world shares his or her negative attitude.

Being with a group of fellow activists, rather than being alone, reduces our fear of handing a brochure to a passerby. Even so, some who leaflet hold their brochures in a way that invites people to reject taking one. They hold a brochure closer to their own chest than to the person they hope will take one. This approach invites passive rejection by the intended recipient, reinforcing the activist's feeling of futility and anxiety. The reality is that hesitancy and timidity are always on the losing side of activism. A confident, friendly attitude is necessary. This attitude can and must be cultivated.

Years ago I realized that a big reason I cringed, inwardly if not outwardly, at approaching anonymous people on behalf of animals, particularly with posters depicting scenes of chickens or turkeys suffering on farms, was that I hated exposing these defenseless, innocent birds, and their helpless, wounded bodies and faces, to the indifferent eyes of the public. I wanted to protect them from those callous eyes and sometimes hurtful retorts.

Harder than leafleting and holding posters and banners in the company of one's allies is speaking up and holding out a brochure, to a stranger when one is alone, say, in a store or the office or the airport or some other public place. I know because I've done it often enough. Actually I've made some friends that way and have elicited from folks, who at first seemed hostile, some touching stories about a rooster or hens or a turkey or a duck they are currently caring for or have cared for and loved in the past.



UPC Correspondent & Database Manager Ronnie Steinau, Encinitas Street Fair, CA, 2022



One person recently explained to me how hard it is to intervene in discussions about food among her colleagues at work. She said food is a constant subject among them and it isn't about how much they love to cook and eat vegan.

I totally get her point about the unfeasibility of intervening in an endless run of frequent discussions in the same location day after day. It would be like, each time I'm in the checkout line at the supermarket, I would call out the people in line with me about the contents of their shopping cart. I do say something sometimes, but would soon be a basket case if each time I went to buy food I felt I must say something to each non-vegan customer.

That said, there are many occasions when I do say something or politely put a brochure or a card (like our "Dying for Dinner" card about the FEAR in each chicken's eyes as the chickens hang upside down on the slaughter line) in a person's hands without getting into a dispute with them, but simply saying, "Please look at this when you have a chance. The chickens suffer so much." No one has ever said, "No thanks."

One thing I will not ever agree with is the idea that leafleting or acting alone is a waste of time and a hopeless cause. Many people use that excuse because they are timid about approaching a stranger, a friend or a relative. No one likes to face rejection or ridicule.

Social anxiety is in fact a big reason why so many

compassionate people hide their feelings about animals and reject an animal-free diet. Fear of Other People.

As animal activists, we cannot control what others are going to do with our information, but we do have control over our own activist behavior. And we must never forget that most people, including ourselves probably, have become animal advocates and vegans because someone held up a graphic poster or put a brochure in their hand. Even if they did not respond immediately, eventually, they did.

When opportunities arise, the anxiety of speaking up or offering a brochure lasts only a minute or two. When we seize the opportunity, we feel good afterward – as

we should. When we forego feasible opportunities, the burden of guilt and self-recrimination lasts a lifetime. This, anyway, has been my experience. – *Karen Davis*



Mary Finelli (Fishfeel.org) holds a dead chicken in front of a churlish chicken-eater at our rally in Eastville, VA, June 1999.

Ruby & Ivy, photo: Jim Robertson

International Respect for Chickens Day May 4

"Please do an ACTION for Chickens in May!"

INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR CHICKENS DAY, MAY 4 is an annual project launched by United Poultry Concerns in 2005 to celebrate chickens throughout the world and protest the bleakness of their lives in farming operations. The entire month of May is International Respect for Chickens Month!

Please do an ACTION for chickens on or around May 4. Ideas include leafleting on a busy street corner, holding an office party or classroom celebration, writing a letter to the editor, doing a radio call-in, tabling at your local church, school or shopping mall, hosting a vegan open house, or simply talking to family, friends or strangers about the plight – and delight – of chickens and how people can help them.



What Wings Are For!

Thank you for making every day Respect for Chickens Day!

"Root for Roosters!" Stickers Send a message with your mail! Order our eyecatching color stickers! 2" x 2 3/4", 100 for \$10

See our merchandise pages for posters & brochures, also available at www.upc-online.org/merchandise.



"Dying for Dinner" Cards

Place in stores, mail, etc.!

3" x 4", 25 for \$2.50



Send check or money order to UPC or order online at www.upc-online.org/merchandise.

Put Your Animal Rights-Vegan Wishes in a Separate Document with Requests to Your Family

any of us who are active in animal advocacy have families and friends who do not share our participation in advocacy for animals. Not long ago, a fellow activist spoke to me of attending a funeral where some attendees made light of the veganism practiced by the person who had died. The food served after the funeral was to please the carnivores in attendance, not the advocate who was being remembered.

Now is the time to think through what we want to happen immediately after our death and how we wish to be remembered. (Often a person's wishes are never discovered or only when it is too late - President Franklin D. Roosevelt left requests for his funeral in a drawer at Warm Springs GA. Unfortunately, his requests were not found until years after his death.)

So the document should be a companion piece to a Will, and those who will handle our affairs should either be given the document when it is written, or if we do not wish them to see it while we are still here, they should know where to find it and read it as soon as we are gone.



It can include any special requests for our funeral service, list of people to contact, also any informal distributions not specifically in the Will. Anything you want your family to know that is not in your Will and that merits immediate attention. Here is a sample document.

Please Respect My Wishes as Follows:

My vegan life was very important to me. Some of my family and friends did not share these values, so here is a reminder. Even if you do not share my belief that extending care and respect to include all animals is important and necessary, please read and remember that I want my decision not to hurt and kill animals for "food" to be noted at any memorial service and related gathering on my behalf.

In addition to being respected by clergy, family and friends, I want at least one vegan friend to say a few words about me and what I cared about deeply, and why. Finally, I request that any food served at any function relating to my death be totally vegan. To do otherwise is to hurt and dishonor me and the animals whose advocate I was during my life.

Whoever is reading this, please feel free to use and share it. Thank you!

Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns

Freddaflower Memorial & Appreciation Fund

The pain of losing them is the price we pay for the privilege of knowing them and sharing their lives . . .

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent donations *In Loving Memory and in Honor and Appreciation of* the following beloved family members and friends, both those who have passed away and those who are with us.

Dear UPC, I've enclosed this donation in honor of our 35 years of chicken rescue work and in memory of Preston, a beautiful barred-rock rooster killed by a possum, and Boots, our precious crippled Dutch rabbit who passed away in late December. Thank you so much for all your hard work for turkeys, chickens and all domestic birds. – *Barbara Moffit*

Dear UPC, my donation is in celebration of Tammy Gott's Birthday – February 14, 2023. – *Kai Ce Burton*

My gift is in memory of Stuart Gittleman. – Ronnie Steinau

In honor of Nero, Fredericka, Julie, Nathaniel, Leonard, and Bertha, remembered forever and sadly missed. – *Paul Deane*

My gift is in honor of All God's Creatures. – *Brien Comerford*



Freddaflower

cost of remailing, we can no longer provide this service. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep up your membership. We need your continuing financial support.

UPC Letters Cite the Suffering of Hens,

the Sickness of Eggs

'Cage-free' eggs are not humane for hens, Portland (Maine) Press Herald, March 3, 2023

Letter to the editor:

One of your readers asked me to write a letter explaining how cage-free eggs differ from free-range eggs, in response to a Feb. 18 letter, "Mainers should take action on cage-free eggs."

Cage-free hens are more humanely treated than battery-caged hens, who are not treated humanely at all. However, cage-free hens do not go outdoors; they do not range in the open air. Cage-free hens are typically confined in crowded windowless buildings. They are almost always debeaked ("beak-trimmed") at the hatchery before being moved elsewhere. Though chickens are designed by nature to scratch in the ground for food with their beaks and claws, they do not get to do this in a cage-free facility housing 25,000 or more hens.

Chickens love sunlight – they sunbathe daily outdoors. Cage-free hens are denied this simple pleasure. And while cage-free hens would normally live five or more years, they are usually slaughtered after a year of laying eggs.

For these reasons, and because avian influenza and salmonella have become intrinsic to all sectors of the egg industry, consumers would do well to consider egg-free cooking and baking. As many of us have learned, eggs are not necessary.

Karen Davis

president, United Poultry Concerns Machipongo, Va.



Photo by Unparalleled Suffering Photography, August 2022

UPC Chides Egg Shortage Complaints, LA Times, January 11, 2023

To the editor: It is heartening that many states are passing legislation to provide at least a modicum of "welfare" laws on behalf of farmed animals.

As for egg shortages, please. Birds and pigs since a year ago or more have been tortured to death slowly in the procedure of mass extermination known as "ventilation shutdown-plus."

In this process, they are deprived of air to breathe and subjected to extreme heat designed to induce heatstroke. Anyone with a conscience who has watched chickens and pigs dying under this merciless procedure can only be sickened by the bottomless cruelty of agribusiness and the helpless agony of our innocent victims.

As long as chickens are forced to live in squalor, avian influenza will recycle. This is "egg-xactly" a fact.

Karen Davis, Machipongo, Va.

The writer is president of the group United Poultry Concerns.

Dangerous, Dreary "Chick Days" Resume at Tractor

Supply Stores

"TSC is continuing its brutal Chick Days program once again in 2023, with no improvements from last year after all my discussions with them about the rampant problems." – Employee to UPC, March 8, 2023



Tractor Supply Company store, 2021

n employee at one of the Tractor Supply stores reports being told by the store manager that the company wants to stop "the crap about the chicks this year." Intrepidly, this employee continues to document the response of TSC leadership and the suffering of the chicks and ducklings who often arrive dead and dying after their long transit by airmail to local post offices. This employee tells UPC that, 2 weeks ago, "our first shipment was sent to the wrong post office, over 25 miles away." The next day the manager claimed that the "tanks" into which the chicks were supposedly placed once they reached the store were empty already because "they all sold within the first few hours." Sounds hinky. In a following shipment, the



employee wrote that "One duckling was dead and several chicks barely survived had I not nursed them back."

In the past few years, UPC has received increased complaints and photos from customers and employees documenting, at TSC stores across the country, sick baby birds, vents impacted with encrusted feces, and filth in the tanks and trays including unwashed, often empty, fecal-filled food and water dishes.

We think that, in addition to documenting and protesting the inhumane treatment of these baby birds by Tractor Supply Company, the link between factory-farm hatchery birds and the rampant spread of Avian Influenza should be stressed. The online publication *Sentient Media* reported in March:

"Public health officials are urging governments to prepare for possible avian flu spillover to humans. The disease is now spreading between mammals including **foxes**, **otters**, **sea lions** and **bears**. And while human cases remain extremely rare and the risk to the human population is low, health officials warn the situation — and risk level — could change at any moment."

The good news is that one of our members in New Jersey, Suzanne Dragan, learned that two TSC stores in NJ will NOT be selling chicks or ducklings this year.

The two stores are the Middletown NJ TSC store and the Tinton Falls NJ TSC store.

This new practice is "at the request of the local town government asking them not to sell them." Suzanne told UPC: "This gives me an idea that residents of towns where there is a Tractor Supply store could contact their local Mayor/Town Council/Board of Health asking that the town's Tractor Supply store NOT sell chicks or ducklings."

What Can I Do?

Contact your local government administrators where there are TSC stores. Talking points can include the human health perspective – the spread of Avian Flu. These fragile birds arrive at the stores typically from out of state and are often dumped in parks and ponds exposing them to avian influenza. Avian influenza is known to jump species including humans, so this is a health concern as well as a humane issue.

Poultry factory farms and transport methods, added to traditional farming practices, live bird markets, cockfighting, and the wild-caught bird trade, have created the conditions responsible for



the spread of avian influenza viruses capable of infecting birds and humans. Backyard-poultry keepers and their birds are not immune to the contagion. *Salmonella* infection of backyard birds, children, and adults is also a risk. More and more children have egg allergies and complications of seasonal flu. The risk of infection, says Dr. Pascal James Imperato of the State University of New York's Health Sciences University, is "especially high for young children who come into contact with baby chicks and ducklings."

- ✓ Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper(s).
- Express your concern to store managers and to the head of Tractor Supply Company:
 Hal Lawton, CEO
 Tractor Supply Company
 5401 Virginia Way
 Brentwood, TN 37027

Phone: 615-440-4600 extension 4601 Website: www.tractorsupply.com Customer Solutions: 1-877-718-6750 customersolutions@tractorsupply.com



"Dominance Through Mentioning" – The Fiction of Fair Coverage of Farmed Animals

By Karen Davis, PhD

ominance Through Mentioning" is a concept I encountered while researching my book More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality. I was interested in how, and why, the news media routinely denigrated turkeys in their Thanksgiving coverage. Then as now, turkeys were treated in a demeaning and mocking manner. At the same time, starting in the mid-1980s, inserted into the standard coverage there would often be a Food or Lifestyle feature

about rescued turkeys *eating* a meal instead of *being* the meal – a trend that was begun by Farm Sanctuary in the mid-1980s.

The media practice of ignoring, trivializing and demeaning farmed animals is a strategy that is well characterized by Dominance Through Mentioning, whereby disturbing truths and unorthodox viewpoints are "mentioned" so that the press can claim "balanced" coverage, without having to disturb the dominant worldview.

In particular, Dominance Through Mentioning is the *attitude* of the coverage toward the information presented that constitutes the "dominance." Sociologist James Loewen in his book *Lies My Teacher Told Me* notes that his classroom students seldom or never recalled the European plague that destroyed the Native American town of Patuxet that enabled the Pilgrims to take over the town and rename it Plymouth (Massachusetts). He attributes the students' ignorance to the fact that American textbooks have traditionally ignored the plague or buried it in a few bland phrases surrounded by glorification of the Pilgrims.

The strategy of Dominance Through Mentioning appeared in Canadian filmmaker John Kastner's documentary *Chickens are People Too*, which aired on the



Here's a photo you are never likely to see in the mainstream media.

Photo by Unparalleled Suffering Photography.

Canadian Broadcasting Company's weekly television show *Witness* on November 14, 2000. Kastner and his crew spent three days filming our chicken sanctuary here in Virginia, for the purpose of creating what Kastner called a "dialogue" between our perspective and sanctuary versus the point of view and violence of the poultry and egg industries. Hatchery operators, chicken farmers and chicken catchers freely acknowledge in the film their lack of compassion for the chickens.

Despite scenes of horrific cruelty to the chickens along with images of the chickens in our sanctuary, Kastner manipulated the "dialogue" by gorging on eggs and chicken parts in almost every scene. The show ends with him sitting in a tree with a bucket of fried chicken, listening in his head to our slogan, "Don't just switch from beef to chicken – get the slaughterhouse out of your kitchen." The shape of the show circles back to the beginning without any notable change of attitude or behavior in the investigator. His mockery dominates and surrounds the "mentioning" of the chickens.

Similar sarcasms dominate *New York Times* columnists Nicholas Kristof and Mark Bittman, who for years have devalued the suffering of chickens and other farmed animals revealed in the investigations they reported on. They adopt a dominantly playful narrative of how delicious eggs and meat are. How much "we"

Americans love these things and how "our" taste buds transcend the cruelty shown in the investigations.

In 2007, 2015, and 2022-2023, articles about the avian influenza epidemic have ignored or totally underplayed the torture of millions of birds by the poultry and egg industries, focusing instead on the "suffering" of consumers deprived of the usual abundance of cheap eggs. Birds being agonized to death by agribusiness killing crews are falsely said to be "euthanized."

Typically, an article in *The Washington Post* on January 10, 2023, titled "Egg prices haven't come down with inflation. Here's why," quotes an industry spokesperson on avian influenza, who says: "Infection slows a hen's egg production if it doesn't kill the bird first, and infected flocks are euthanized under practices approved by [the] American Veterinary Medical Association to avoid further spread."

Violating the Veterinarian's Oath to "prevent and relieve animal suffering," the AVMA does in fact approve suffocating and inflicting heatstroke on the hens and other unspeakable cruelties, while saying nothing about relieving the crowding, stress and filth that spread the disease. Nothing at all about ethics, compassion, or hygiene, except to call "discussions of ethics and morality . . . fruitless."

Thus are the victims "mentioned" ("A hen's egg production") in a dominant narrative by corporate media siding with agribusiness to ensure public ignorance and apathy toward the brutal massacres, while hyping consumer distress over egg shortages. In

2015, chickens sickened by avian influenza were called by *The New York Times* the "live inventory." Farmers, we were told, were "forced to euthanize their own live inventory."

Animal advocates are understandably happy when a Letter to the Editor or an Op-Ed focuses attention on the animals themselves, particularly in *The New York Times, The Washington Post* or *The Wall Street Journal.* While we are thankful for these additions and challenges to the dominant narrative, in terms of both information and attitude, we must understand that they are "mentionings" – inserted into coverage that overwhelmingly ignores and trivializes the animals and their experience. Unlike the "news," they are "opinions."

So, we may ask, what is the difference between an Op-Ed or a Letter to the Editor versus an opinion piece by a Nicholas Kristof or a Mark Bittman? The difference is between writers who are *unaffiliated* with the news organization in which their piece appears, and writers who *are affiliated* with the news organization in which their piece appears. Affiliates like Bittman and Kristof are on the staff of *The New York Times* (or were when they wrote) and are thus part of the Establishment, not mere guest columnists like you and me.

The criteria for Freedom of Speech are thus, ironically, met by the corporate media, who thereby control the coverage that bypasses the animals while seeming to show "both sides." – *Karen Davis*

Free Ways to Help United Poultry Concerns Raise Much-Needed Funds

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Every time you shop at any of 1900+ online stores in the iGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits United Poultry Concerns. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through iGive. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy iGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales. To get started, just create your free iGive account. Earn a \$5 bonus when you make your first purchase within 30 days.

Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/UPC and help UPC get every possible donation when you shop or search online!



Vegan Recipe Corner

Vegan Irish Hand Pies

Pie Crust Dough

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup canola oil
- 6 tablespoons ice water

Mix together flour, oil, and ice water. Keep refrigerated while working on the filling.

Recipe by Vaishali holycowvegan.net slightly modified

Filling Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon oil (any neutral oil)
- 6 cloves garlic (minced)
- 2 medium red potatoes cut into small cubes
- 1 cup cabbage (cut into small pieces or shreds)
- 14 oz brown lentils (cooked or canned)
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme (or oregano)
- 2 heaping tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon tamari (or soy sauce)
- 1 teaspoon vegan Worcestershire sauce (optional)
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 4 scallions (finely chopped)

Make the filling

- 1. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and stir until lightly golden. Add the potatoes with salt and ground black pepper. Saute until the potatoes start caramelizing.
- Stir in the cabbage and saute until the cabbage wilts and the potatoes are nearly cooked. Stir in the tomato paste and thyme and cook for a couple of minutes.
- 3. Stir in the cooked lentils, tamari and vegan Worcestershire sauce. Add more salt and pepper if needed. Cook until the filling is warmed through.
- 4. Add scallions, mix them in, and turn off heat. Set the filling aside to cool.

Assemble and bake the hand pies

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
- 2. Divide the pie dough in two to make handling it easier. Keep one half refrigerated while you work with the other.

- 3. Roll out the dough between two pieces of plastic wrap to a thickness of ¼th of an inch. Use a 3-inch cookie cutter or the lid of a jar to cut out discs of dough. Gather up the dough scraps, roll, and cut out more discs.
- 4. Place approximately two heaping teaspoons of filling in the center of one disc. Place a second disc above the disc with the filling and press the edges to seal. Use the tines of a fork to press the edges. Cut a cross in the center of the pastry using a sharp knife.
- 5. Place the hand pies on a baking sheet and brush with some vegan butter to get a nice color. Bake 25-30 minutes or until golden-brown and flaky. Remove the baking sheet to a wire rack and let the pies cool slightly before you serve.

For more great recipes, go to www.upc-online.org/recipes!



POSTCARDS

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"Peaceable Kingdom"



"Chickens To Know Them
is to Love Them"

"Misery is Not a Health Food"



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"Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation"

"The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay" (free-range egg production)

"Intensive Poultry Production: Fouling the Environment"

"Philosophic Vegetarianism: Acting Affirmatively for Peace"

"The Rhetoric of Apology in Animal Rights"

"Providing a Good Home for Chickens"

"Chicken Talk: The Language of Chickens"

"Celebrate Easter Without Eggs"

"Chicken for Dinner: It's Enough To Make You Sick"

"Guide to Staffing Tables: Do's & Don'ts"

"Henny's New Friends"

"Avoiding Burnout"

"The Life of One Battery Hen"

"Bird Flu - What You Need to Know"

"How I Learned the Truth About Eggs"

"Peeper the Turkey, a Story of Endless Love"

"Factory Farming vs. Alternative Farming: The Humane Hoax"

BROCHURES

20 for \$3.00

"A Wing & A Prayer" (Kapparot ritual)

"Don't Plants Have Feelings Too?"

"Chickens"

"The Battery Hen"

"Turkeys"

"Ostriches & Emus: Nowhere To Hide" "Japanese Quail"

"The Use of Birds In Agricultural and Biomedical Research"

"'Free-Range' Poultry and Eggs: Not All They're Cracked Up to Be" - New & Revised!

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Are for

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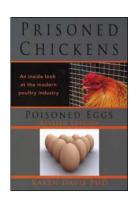


BOOKS

Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

By Karen Davis

This newly revised edition of *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs* looks at avian influenza, food poisoning, chicken suffering, genetic engineering, and the growth of chicken rights activism since the 1990s. Presents a compelling argument for a compassionate plant-based cuisine. "Riveting . . . Brilliant." – *Choice magazine, American*

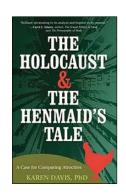


Library Association \$14.95. 40% off bulk orders of 5 (\$8.97 each) = \$44.85 for 5.

The Holocaust and the Henmaid's Tale: A Case for Comparing Atrocities

By Karen Davis

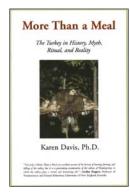
In this thoughtful and thoughtprovoking contribution to the study of animals and the Holocaust, Karen Davis makes the case that significant parallels can – and must – be drawn between the Holocaust and the institutionalized abuse of billions of animals on factory farms. "Compelling and convincing . . . this bold, brave book." – Charles Patterson, author of Etemal Treblinka \$14.95



More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality

By Karen Davis

Karen Davis shows how turkeys in the wild have complex lives and family units, and how they were an integral part of Native American and continental cultures and landscape before the Europeans arrived, while drawing larger conclusions about our paradoxical relationship with turkeys, all birds and other animals



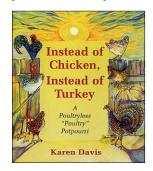
including other human beings. "The turkey's historical disfigurement is starkly depicted by Karen Davis in 'More Than a Meal.' " – The New Yorker \$14.95

Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless "Poultry" Potpourri

By Karen Davis

This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry

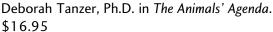
Concerns features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95

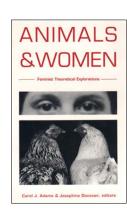


Animals and Women:

Feminist Theoretical Explorations Edited by Carol J.

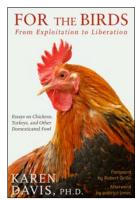
Adams & Josephine Donovan
"Karen Davis's brilliant essay
[Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm
Animals and The Feminine
Connection] brings together the
book's central concepts, leading
to conclusions that rightly should
disturb feminists and animal
advocates alike." – Review by





For the Birds: From Exploitation to Liberation

Essays by Karen Davis FOR THE BIRDS "Can Only Be Described with Superlatives" – Animal Culture Magazine. \$20



Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social

Justice Edited by Lisa Kemmerer, Forward by Carol J. Adams
Sister Species presents the experiences of fourteen women activists who are working on behalf of nonhuman animals and a more just and compassionate world. \$14.95



CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Hatching Good Lessons: Alternatives To School Hatching Projects

By United Poultry Concerns
A guide booklet for elementary school teachers and other educators including parents. 16 pages of information, storytelling, classroom activities & color photos. Grades K-6 (some activities are designed for K-12). \$2.50 per booklet. 5 for \$5. It can be viewed and printed out at www.upc-online.org/hatching.



A HOME FOR HENNY

A Home for Henny

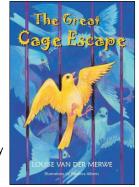
By Karen Davis

Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. A Home for Henny explores the challenges and concerns with school hatching projects

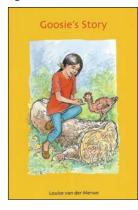
while evoking the lively personality of Henny and her loving relationship with Melanie. \$6.99

The Great Cage Escape

Grades 4-7. By Louise Van Der Merwe
The birds in a pet shop think they are
happy until a brown box punched full
of air holes is left overnight on their
front door step. The creature inside
looks very weird at first. But as his
feathers begin to grow, his true identity
becomes apparent, and the stories he
tells inspire the pet shop birds to pull



off a Great Cage Escape. This is a story that encourages respect for all forms of life and helps learners realize that heaven can be right here on earth if we choose to make it so. \$4.95



Goosie's Story

By Louise Van Der Merwe
A touching story about a "battery" hen who is given a chance to lead a normal life – a happy life. This moving book will be warmly welcomed and shared by children, parents and teachers, highlighting as it does the concern and compassion we ought to feel for all our feathered friends on this earth. \$4.95

A Boy, A Chicken and The Lion of Judah – How Ari Became a Vegetarian

By Roberta Kalechofsky

This wonderfully gifted children's story, set in modern Israel, is about a young boy's quest for moral independence. An intelligent book for all ages. Winner of the Fund for Animals "Kind Writers Make Kind Readers Award." \$10



DANE LOVES CHICKENS

Dave Loves Chickens

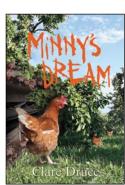
By Carlos Patino
Dave is a quirky monster
from another planet who
loves chickens and all animals on Earth. He encourages people to share
his love and not eat any

animals! Filled with fun and bold colors, this book is perfect for young children to learn compassion for chickens and all animals in a sweetly told, lovable story. \$10

Minny's Dream

By Clare Druce

What happens when a young girl from the city discovers a battery-hen operation in the country? What happens when a "battery hen" named Minny speaks to her? What must she do when her friend Minny is going to be killed? This book is a must for the young person(s) in your life, age 8-14. \$10



CHICKEN'S LIFE!

A Chicken's Life!

Grades 4-6. PETAkids Comics
This cute comic book illustrates a
group of children visiting an animal
sanctuary where they meet a flock
of chickens and learn all about them
including the differences between
Nature's Way and The Factory Farm
Way. "Are these chickens really
your friends?" they ask. "I've never
met a chicken before." A Chicken's
Life includes a puzzle for elementary
school students to unscramble

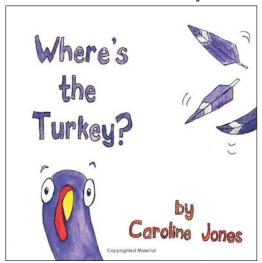
words including barn, beak, cluck, feathers, grass, hatch, peck, peep, wings, and lots more. \$1.50 each. 10 for \$10.

More Books, plus Videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise

(continued) CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Where's the Turkey?, by Caroline Jones, is a charming and adorable book for young children. The child is engaged in a journey, with visual clues in the illustrations, toward discovering where the turkey is, which is not on the table. Young children love the "look-and-find" challenge page by page. I recommend this book most highly. It illustrates a Happy Thanksgiving with the whole family and a delicious Thanksgiving feast for which the turkeys themselves can give thanks for enjoying the day in their own happy "turkey" way. \$6.99

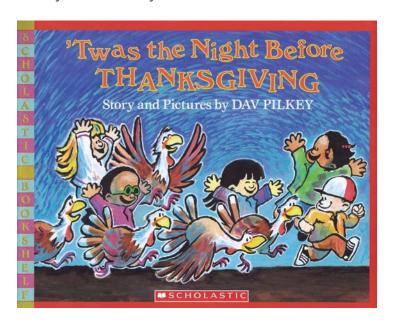
- Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns



'Twas the Night Before THANKSGIVING

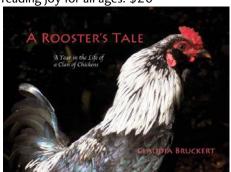
Story and Pictures by Dav Pilkey, Scholastic Book Shelf

Turkeys don't usually celebrate Thanksgiving. And they wish we wouldn't either! Here is a tale of eight children who meet eight turkeys who are in big trouble. Only the kids can keep the turkeys from meeting their Thanksgiving fate. But how will they save the turkeys? \$6.99



A Rooster's Tale: A Year in the Life of a Clan of

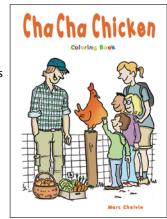
Chickens, by Claudia Bruckert, transports readers to the fascinating world of Change, who tells the real life story of his chicken family during his first year of life. Enchanting experiences and intriguing facts, chronicled and photographed beautifully over the course of one year, convey deep insights into the daily life of chickens. Grades 3-12 and a reading joy for all ages. \$20



Cha Cha Chicken Coloring

Book By Marc Chalvin

Narrated by Cha Cha the hen, this book invites children to visit Green Farm sanctuary and learn about the happy animals who live



there. Written by Marian Hailey-Moss and illustrated by Marc Chalvin, Cha Cha shows children that chickens are people too and invites them to color their world beautiful! Cha Cha Chicken Coloring Book is a delightful gift for children K-3. \$10

Chickens at Play

By United Poultry Concerns
This vibrant video shows chickens at the United Poultry Concerns sanctuary accompanied by lively music, with brief explanations of what the chickens are doing throughout their daily activities into the evening as, one by one, they hop up to their perches for the night. Narrated by a young child. 10:04 minutes. DVD. \$5. \$12.50 for 5. Watch: http://vimeo.com/13210456



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POSTERS



International Respect for Chickens Day

Celebrate 12.5" x 17" Wings 12" x 16"



A Heart Beats in Us the Same as in You

Photo by PeTA

Full-color poster vividly captures the truth about factory chickens for the public. Vegetarian message. 18"x22".



Today's chickens are forced to grow too big too fast. They're forced to live in filth. They go to slaughter with yellow pus, harmful bacteria, heart and lung disease, turnors, crippled legs, sick immune systems, and mors. Millions of dollars are spent hiding these facts.

Friends, Not Food

Photo by Franklin Wade Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower. Full color 19"x27" poster.



WHAT WINGS ARE FOR





CHICKS NEED THEIR MOTHERS

Photos by Jim Robertson & Karen Davis Great educational tool. Full color 11-1/2"x16" poster.

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Photo by Dave Clegg. Full color, 18"x22" poster.



"Battery" Hens

Roosting in Branches After Rotting in

Cages
Photo by Susan
Rayfield
This beautiful
color poster
shows the
rescued Cypress
hens at UPC.
Perfect for your
office, your home,
your school.
11.5"x16".



Turkeys Are Too Nead To Eat Child Polity Concerns. Inc. Name of the Conce

ys Great Are Too Neat To Eat Poster!

Photos by Barbara Davidson & Susan Rayfield The posters are in color, and come in two sizes: 11.5" x 16", and 18" x 27".

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INSIDE

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Two Letters for Hens
Dominance Through Mentioning
Freddaflower Fund
Recipe Corner & More!

Wishing you a Happy Spring!

Please renew your membership for 2023



Photo by Unparalleled Suffering Photography, February 18, 2023

Why aren't these children cheering? See inside.