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Poultry Press

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Brandy Alexander was a gentle and beloved rooster who was rescued from cockfighters in Virginia Beach to live in our sanctuary (July 27, 2018 – January 13, 2021). We grieve that his life was unexpectedly cut short. Photo by Karen Davis

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE is IMMORAL: an anthology

Sailesh Rao, Editor

Cover design by Suzanne King

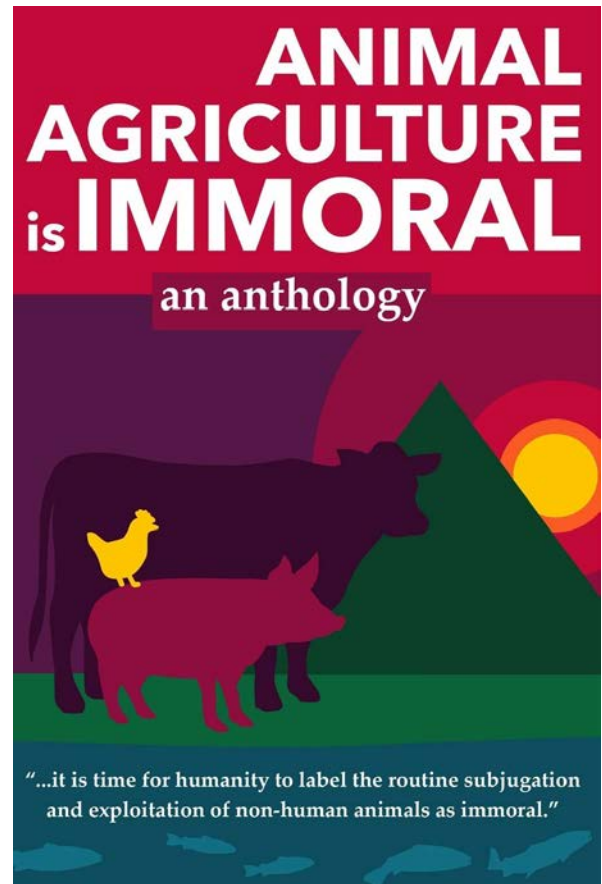
A Climate Healers Publication (2020)

Reviewed by Karen Davis, PhD,
President of United Poultry Concerns

Dedicated to all of the animals with whom we share this beautiful planet, and to all of the children who will inherit the consequences of our choices.

Animal Agriculture is Immoral is a collection of short scholarly essays assembled in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic to explore the question of animal production and consumption through the lens of social and religious history and contemporary information about the state of the planet and the moral implications of how we treat each other and our fellow forms of life. Contributors ask, “How much horror do we want to contribute to this world?” Why do we subject innocent, defenseless creatures to “such cruelty, anguish, and grief”? Can we create “a new normal of compassion and care for everyone – animals and the planet included”?

Many of us have hoped that the global coronavirus pandemic that erupted into public consciousness in early 2020 would awaken people to the myriad dangers



posed by global animal agriculture and the immorality of this massively destructive system in which billions of land animals and aquatic animals suffer in surrealistic misery and filth. The coronavirus responsible for



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covid-19 originated in Chinese “wet” markets, where wild and domestic birds, mammals, reptiles, fishes and virtually every creature that can be caught or raised jostle together in squalid shops where customers pick out animals and all manner of carnage to consume.

But it isn't just them. The exact same squalor characterizes the industrialized confinement buildings and slaughter complexes, commonly called factory farms, that arose in the 20th-century United States and Europe to replace traditional farming. Factory farms pollute the planet and spread diseases, including novel zoonotic diseases and strains of old pathogens that infect the animals and the humans who handle and consume them and their “products.”

One difference between factory farms and live animal markets superficially is that the live animal markets, situated in ethnic neighborhoods in U.S. cities and elsewhere, hide nothing, whereas factory farms hide everything that takes place before the final products appear in restaurants and supermarkets, “sanitized” and dissociated from the living creatures whose suffering, however invisible, is incorporated into every bite and swallow.

Even so, with the Internet, we can no longer assume that mainstream people “don't know.” The growth of vegans/vegetarians and vegan/vegetarian food products in the past 20 years can be traced in large part to Internet revelations and social media. By contrast, if you follow the mainstream media, you will not learn from them what animals or their slaughterers go through. Rather, you will hear about “meatpackers,” and “poultry processors” and “essential workers” and “euthanasia” – a rhetoric signaling the corporate advertisers to whom these outlets are beholden.

Animal Agriculture is Immoral cites religious bases for a vegan world, particularly in ancient Hebrew teachings. A Muslim contributor makes a passionate plea to people to “be brave and advocate for a transition from animal agriculture to horticulture.” These pleas for justice, compassion and a cared-for planet reflect sorrow for the Earth and its creatures in our contemporary world. Contributors, including myself and UPC projects manager Hope Bohanec, maintain that “supremacy” doctrines – not just White Supremacy but the arrogant speciesist belief in Human Supremacy – are a curse. The question is whether we care enough to change or whether we're content to continue down our dark path and drag every living soul down with us. – *Karen Davis*

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Capturing Fluffy in the Freezing Cold: “My Love for this Special Creature Who Honored Me by Choosing Our Home”



Outside in the freezing cold and snow, a hen who'd appeared some months earlier out of nowhere drew the anxious attention of a New Hampshire resident named Mary. Fearing this hen would freeze to death or be attacked by a predator, Mary contacted United Poultry Concerns in early December 2020 about the best way to capture her. Weeks went by. Sometimes the hen disappeared for days. Worried sick over the elusive soul being out there somewhere on the frozen ground, Mary was determined to save her friend, whom she named Fluffy. Here is Mary's story of how she succeeded after months of fear and frustration over the fate of Fluffy. – *Karen Davis, UPC*

December 21, 2020

Dear Mary, How is Fluffy? Do you see her these days? Is she still Out There, or have you succeeded in capturing her?

Mary: Yes, finally! Every day more than 3 times a day I went outside with her, because she needed company besides food. A week ago we bought a used picnic table, covered it with cardboard & a tarp, reinforced the base with rocks on the two long sides, but left it open on both ends.

Fluffy entered after I moved food and water closer to it each day. She was reassured because the opposite end was open and she could escape when she wanted. The cardboard floor with hay and dried oak leaves was dry and warmer than outside. Five days of that, gaining

her trust. The rains and snow came and she sheltered until 2:30pm when she sought a tree roost for the night. Freezing nights with 50mph winds, driving sleet, snow and temps down to 6 degrees. Breaking my heart. Not sleeping.

Finally, Saturday at 6 am, in deep snow I found her clutching a branch in a hemlock, just three feet off the ground. She was afraid of dropping into the snow so I shoveled the base to show her the soil and she went for it. Came for her food and warm water, amazed at the snow on her legs and feet. Yes, she looked at her poor feet as she lifted them.

I'd secured the opposite end of the table so she couldn't get out, and as she entered the enclosure, I closed the entrance behind her with plywood. I felt like I betrayed her trust, but I had to do it so she would survive. I called the New Hampshire SPCA at 8:30 am.

They came and the most wonderful young woman simply pulled up a portion of the tarp and crawled in. In minutes, with much squawking from Fluffy, she placed her in a large carrier. I was so cold, exhausted, and overwhelmed, I burst into tears and hugged this competent, compassionate, young, bright light of a woman. Three months and Fluffy did not die. What a survivor. She is smart (confirming all those reports), and she knew me. I've learned that chickens can recognize so many faces, see colors we can't see, and Fluffy had a trust in me that overrode her concerns. She *saw* me; isn't that what we all want?

For the first time in three months, I saw Fluffy sit that Saturday morning. All these months she was on the alert and never really resting. Can you imagine? She gathered herself on the blanket in the carrier and looked into my eyes. She wasn't agitated one bit. Jordan, the rescuer, said she'd be in a warm stall with hay in the shelter. I gave them all the leftover chicken food and asked if I could visit. No. She will be quarantined from other animals for about a month. Because of COVID I am not allowed in.

Karen, I want so much to see her. I will call around to see if someone who keeps chickens will adopt her

after a month because I am concerned someone who is not careful enough could adopt her and she'd be in danger . . . again.

I'm telling you all this because you understand my feelings. You've known these lovely animals for so long. I had to share with you my love for this special creature who honored me by choosing our home.

Thank you for caring and checking back with me. –
Mary



Epilogue, January 27, 2021

Dear Karen,

Finally, after looking for Fluffy's new home, I FOUND it! I went to a feed store and checked their bulletin board. Checked so many other things over these weeks, but I don't give up. I called a woman who

pet sits farm animals! She and her husband said, "Yes" They are going to take her AND they live 10 minutes from me AND I have visiting rights. The yard is totally fenced and her other chickens enjoy a garden.

On Saturday, January 23, I got to see Fluffy in her nice large carrier ready to go to her new home. She was even more beautiful. She quieted down in the backseat of the car when I spoke to her. She had to know my voice. I was so sorry to let her go, but that's what I want for her – to be safe and happy with her new life. –
Mary

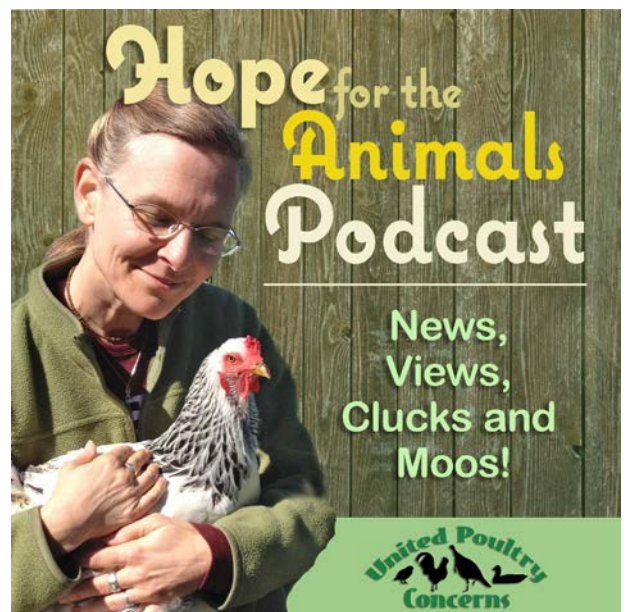


Fluffy in her new home, February, 2021.

Hope for the Animals Podcast

In this lively new podcast series sponsored by United Poultry Concerns, UPC's Projects Manager Hope Bohanec covers a variety of farmed animal issues including the ethical, environmental, spiritual, heartbreaking and heartwarming aspects of fighting for farmed animals and living vegan. Each episode includes a very special guest. To listen to each prerecorded episode at any time, just visit www.hopefortheanimalspodcast.org. Tune in! You'll be glad you did!

"I love the Hope for the Animals podcast. Hope Bohanec has the absolutely most beautiful voice to listen to!"
– Marian Erikson, www.plantbasedbriefing.com



The Role of Farmed Animal Sanctuaries in Promoting Animal Liberation

By Karen Davis, PhD,
President of United Poultry Concerns

Twenty-one years ago, in September of 2000, United Poultry Concerns held the first ever conference organized to define and discuss the place and practice of farmed animal sanctuaries in promoting Animal Liberation. What do they teach? How do they advance animal rights? Where does vegan advocacy fit in? Are they a good use of financial resources? Thinking of starting a sanctuary?

The questions we raised then are as timely as ever now. Although farmed animal sanctuaries, including microsantuaries, have proliferated over the past two decades, some animal advocates still question their value, since no matter how many chickens, pigs, cows, turkeys and other animals are rescued, their numbers are infinitesimal compared with the billions of farmed animals who cannot be saved.

Our own sanctuary for chickens, with occasional turkeys, ducks, and peafowl over the years starting in the mid-1980s, confirms my belief that a good farmed animal sanctuary offers a unique opportunity not only to save a portion of otherwise doomed creatures, but to learn from them and educate the public on their behalf.

Direct experience conveyed through storytelling, photographs, video footage, and sanctuary visits provides an informed challenge to the misinformation about these animals spread by the animal farming industry intended to convince people that these animals have nothing in common with “wild” animals or “our pets,” and that farmed animals are merely “food” in the making.

Among the many important thoughts about a successful farmed animal sanctuary presented at our conference in 2000 are these:

VINE cofounder pattrice jones, who at the time was running the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary in Maryland, said, “I think giving sanctuary is an important form of direct action. It’s an action that actually does something about a problem. If there is no direct action of this kind, you get either demoralized doing animal

“It isn’t enough to rescue animals and get a grant for doing just that. You need to have a program, not just a place filled with animals and one person doing all the work, or perhaps living in an insular, shaky paradise with rescued animals.” —*Jim Mason*

advocacy work, or you become abstract—abstract as a defense against demoralization. Will our educational efforts make a difference? This is purely speculative, but saving that chicken is saving that chicken.”

Terry Cummings of Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Maryland pointed out, “You never know what effect you may be having upon your visitors.” For example, a group of staff people from a local humane society who toured her sanctuary showed “no reaction.” Terry felt they were unmoved, but later she encountered one of them who told her that after their visit, “they all became vegetarians.”

Terry also said: “We should not just focus on factory farming, but on *farming*. Non-farming people are surprised to learn that most slaughtered animals are babies.” She asks visitors “to think about how much of their lives you’ve taken away if you’re not yet a vegetarian, even if the animals had a good life.” She said the hardest young people to reach are kids from traditional farming families. One child from 4-H marveled that the Poplar Spring chickens ran up to her, and that some liked to be held and petted. The child said the usual way of handling chickens where she comes from is to kick them out of the way. She seemed genuinely surprised that this could be why her chickens never ran up to her or wanted to be held and petted.

As for how a sanctuary is different from a farm, **Terry gave this example:** “Sanctuaries take farmed animals to the vet. Farmers normally don’t. Getting the veterinary profession to recognize an obligation to treat individual farmed animals medically and with respect is one of the changes farmed animal sanctuaries are creating.”

Lorri Bauston, codirector of Farm Sanctuary at the time, put the animal rescue and public education issues together this way. She asked, “Why is public education

as well as saving animals so important? We owe it to all the animals who didn't get away to tell their story."

UPC's Sanctuary in Machipongo, Virginia

Our sanctuary in rural Virginia is designed to provide a home for chickens who already exist, rather than adding to the population and thus diminishing our capacity to adopt more birds. For this reason we do not allow our hens to hatch their eggs in the spring and early summer as they would otherwise do, given their association with the roosters in our yard. That said, I must confess that on three separate occasions over the years, an "unexpected family" emerged from some sneaky hens and roosters. These surprises allowed me to observe firsthand the devoted care of a mother hen for her babies.

Otherwise, all of our birds have been adopted from situations of abandonment or abuse, or else they were no longer wanted or able to be cared for by their previous owners. Our 12,000 square-foot sanctuary is a predator-proof yard that shades into tangled wooded areas filled with trees, bushes, vines, undergrowth and



Photo by Karen Davis

UPC Sanctuary, November 2020

"I think giving sanctuary is an important form of direct action. It's an action that actually does something about a problem. If there is no direct action of this kind, you get either demoralized doing animal advocacy work, or you become abstract—abstract as a defense against demoralization. Will our educational efforts make a difference? This is purely speculative, but saving that chicken is saving that chicken." —*patrice jones*

the soil chickens love to scratch in all year round. It also includes several smaller fenced enclosures with chicken-wire roofs, each with its own predator-proof house, for those chickens who – before we turned the entire sanctuary into a predator-proof outdoor aviary in 2014 – were inclined to fly over the fences and thus be vulnerable to the foxes, raccoons, hawks, owls, and possums inhabiting the woods and fields around us.

In the summer and early fall we invite people to visit our sanctuary by appointment for 2-hour morning visits. We do not accept impromptu visits, and we are not looking for volunteers at this time. We pay our local sanctuary assistants to ensure their commitment to our birds and because every employee who does good work receives an equivalent wage.

An animal sanctuary is a Labor of Love, but anyone thinking of starting a sanctuary needs to remember not only the LOVE part but also the LABOR and FINANCIAL parts. Rain, sleet, snow, or shine, the animals and their living areas have to be physically attended to each and every day. And a sanctuary cannot be maintained without money. As **Jim Mason, author of *An Unnatural Order***, said at our conference:

"It isn't enough to rescue animals and get a grant for doing just that. You need to have a program, not just a place filled with animals and one person doing all the work, or perhaps living in an insular, shaky paradise with rescued animals."

To learn more about our historic farmed animal conference in 2000, visit www.upc-online.org/forums and scroll down to 2nd Forum: Role of Farmed Animal Sanctuaries (September 16-17, 2000).

For a list of Farmed Animal Sanctuary websites, see www.upc-online.org/sanctuaries.

Letter: Cockfighting Roosters Can Be Rehabilitated

UPC President Karen Davis's Letter to the Editor appears Jan. 15, 2021, in *Voices of Monterey Bay*, a nonprofit online news source serving California's Central Coast. The letter is a response to "Quieting the rooster chorus," by Royal Calkins, Jan. 10, 2021, regarding the response of Monterey County officials to the campaign by the animal rights investigative organization SHARK (Showing Animals Respect & Kindness) to crush illegal cockfighting in the county.



Illustration by Barry Kent MacKay

To the Editor:

Thank you for covering this important milestone in the effort to eliminate illegal cockfighting in Monterey County (and elsewhere). Contrary to the claims of cockfighters, roosters bred for cockfighting are not born surrogates for their trainers. Roosters rescued from cockfighters can usually be rehabilitated to live like normal chickens with their hens in a place where they lose their fear of abuse and enjoy foraging in the soil, sunbathing, dustbathing, perching in trees, and socializing as Nature intended. We currently have four roosters rescued from cockfighting operations in our predator-proof outdoor aviary in Virginia. Over the years we've adopted roosters from raids in Mississippi, Alabama, and Virginia.

I hope this new task force will effectively curb staged cockfights in Monterey County. Studies of feral chickens, such as the McBride study of flocks off the coast of Queensland, Australia in the 1960s, report that roosters are busy foraging, raising their families, and keeping an eye out for predators: "No serious fights were observed," the McBride researchers wrote. (McBride, G., et al. 1969. "The Social Organization and Behaviour of the Feral Domestic Fowl," *Animal Behaviour Monograph*, pp. 127-181.)

Thank you for your attention.

Karen Davis
President
United Poultry Concerns

Protest NPR Shows Denigrating Chickens and Encouraging Sarcastic Violence Toward Them



Chickens on their way to being slaughtered.
Photo by Anita Krajnc courtesy of Free from Harm.

On Saturday, January 16, the National Public Radio quiz show “*Wait Wait . . . Don’t Tell Me*” joked about slapping dead chickens to prepare them to be eaten: “how hard do I have to slap a chicken to cook it?” And “How many light slaps would it take?” Chickens are stereotyped in the segment as “smelly,” though any “smelliness” they may have is the result of the filth people force them to live in. The segment ends with an ugly “Chicken Fried” song.

On February 6, NPR’s “*All Things Considered*” ran another segment, this time promoting “chicken wings” for Super Bowl watchers, with host Michel Martin and a food writer joking about how to eat the wings.

NPR’s love affair with the chicken industry is heartless. NPR needs to hear from people who care about these birds who are living and dying in pain and fear for the sake of the very diet of carnage and cruelty that spawned the coronavirus pandemic – the connection about which we don’t hear a peep from the corporate media, including NPR.

Given the torture inflicted on chickens from the hatchery to the slaughterhouse, including dragging them, face down fully conscious, through electrified water to fit them to the slaughter machinery and facilitate removal of their feathers after they are dead, smirking “advice” about slapping their corpses and

how to eat their wings promotes cruelty and ignorance toward chickens, and we are asking our supporters to express their disgust and demand a stop to NPR’s irresponsible rhetoric.

What Can I Do?

Please express your concerns by contacting:

🐔 Kelly McBride, Public Editor
Office of the Public Editor at NPR
1111 North Capitol Street, NE
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Thank you for sticking up for chickens
✍

for ethical media treatment of all animals.

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.

In memory of dear Emily, who led her small flock of golden girls and lived for 8½ years. – *Valerie Greenberg*

My donation is for Selkie. – *Susan Shaw*



UPC sanctuary photo of Miss Rhoda Rhody by Davida G. Breier

In loving memory of Miss Rhoda Rhody. – *Christa Vegas*

Our donation to UPC is in memory of “George,” JC Corcoran’s father. – *JoAnn & Joe Farb*

In memory of my bird, Zeke. Thank you for your work helping birds. – *Alene Anello*

In honor of the turkeys. – *Salene Seymour*

Enclosed is a donation in honor of the long-term animal activism of Allan Brison. Please use my donation for education, with gratitude and admiration. – *Susan Rothman*

My donation is in honor of my wife, Jamie Kordack. – *Vincent Kordack*

My donation is for Mary Finelli’s birthday. – *Howard Edelstein*

My donation is in memory of Nellie. Please use wherever it is needed most. – *Holly Pearson*

In honor of Kevin Tubbs’ birthday. – *Janelle Hall*

This donation is in loving memory of Peace Kitty. Thank you for all you do to help the birds and promote veganism. – *Victoria Hart*

This donation is in the name of Maria Theresa. – *Marci Shimoff*

In memory of my mother, Ruth Thomas. – *Joan Martin*

In honor of our country’s poor turkeys. – *The Gilbertson Family*

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

For The Birds: From Exploitation to Liberation

Reviewed by Marit de Haan

www.facebook.com/nala.bournezeau

ⓧ **Activiste pour le vivant/planète/nature**

For *the Birds* is a new book I am reading at the moment. The first chapters I read with a feeling of constant anger as Karen Davis describes the ideas people had and still have about birds and in particular about chickens, turkeys, etc., those animals that one doesn't want to take into consideration, or more precisely include in their sphere of compassion, as they "live and die to be eaten."

She describes the way these animals are manipulated to fit into the generally accepted breeding facilities that everyone who eats chickens or eggs blindly supports: Laying hens having their beaks chopped off, broiler chickens being bred to be so big for their muscles that at the end of their very short life they cannot stand on their own feet anymore or die from heart failure.

For the Birds also describes the intentions of industry researchers to breed chickens who are blind or without a brain or feathers, claiming they believe the birds would suffer less [and be more "productive"]. If you want to know more, take a look at this:

www.nextnature.net/story/2006/featherless-chicken.



It is plainly disgusting and horrible what people do to these birds, amongst the most numerous on our earth but the most humiliated and abused of all farmed animals. The part I just finished reading in *For the Birds* is the part about sexual abuse: Sexual assault is the basis of all meat, egg, and mammary milk production around

the world. Do you want to support that?

Research is showing us that we cannot ignore anymore that chickens are feeling all sorts of emotions like we do. "*Birds have been shown to share with humans a complexly evolved brain that processes information and experience in much the same way as the human cerebral cortex*" (The Avian Brain Nomenclature Consortium, 2005).

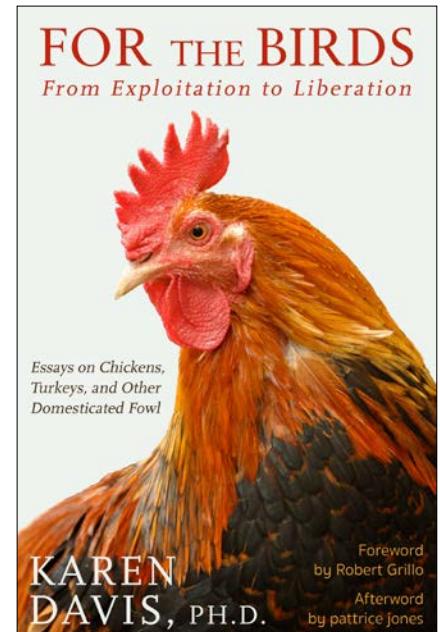
I hope the rest of Karen's book, where she describes how special these birds are, will be more pleasant to read. I know that not many people would like to read this after I have given you this short description. Even if I wouldn't have, I'm afraid that not many people would read it anyway, as most still see these birds as meat or egg-machines. I share some more positive aspects of poultry on my page of Fowl Faces at www.facebook.com/fowlfaces.

I do hope that people who read *For the Birds* to the bitter end (and bitter it is, just like I am) and still think it is "OK" to eat meat or eggs, will stand still for a moment and "review the situation" as Fagin in *Oliver Twist* would say: "cause can a fellow be a villain all his life?" and reconsider their consumption habits for the New Year. – Marit de Haan

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I Stopped Saying “Meat” and Here’s Why

By Karen Davis, PhD,
President of United Poultry Concerns

“As bad as it is to use euphemisms, it seems even worse when a word like ‘meat’ isn’t even thought of as a euphemism by people.” – Mike Spurlino



Drawing by Leslie Goldberg, “With Friends Like These...”

When asked in the past if I ate meat, I used to say “No.” When pressed whether this included chicken and fish, I said “Yes.” Now when the question comes up, I say, “I don’t eat animals.”

In 1974 I stopped eating animals after reading Leo Tolstoy’s essay describing his visit to a Moscow slaughterhouse. Before that, I was, I regret, an avid meateater. I did not make the connection, before Tolstoy’s essay, between “meat” and animals. That essay, “The First Step,” changed everything. I instantly became one of those people who, in the words of former chicken slaughterhouse worker Virgil Butler and his partner Laura Alexander, “could no longer look at a piece of meat anymore without seeing the sad face of the suffering animal who had lived in it when the animal was still alive.”

Picturing the face of an animal in a piece of meat after Tolstoy’s revelation, I felt sick of meat, and now I am sick of the word “meat.” Why?

“Meat” versus “Flesh”

Philosopher John Sanbonmatsu writes in “Why ‘Fake’ Meat Isn’t”: “Only in recent decades have we come to associate the word ‘meat’ exclusively with the flesh of animals. The word derives from the Old English *mete*, for food, nourishment or sustenance.”

But do we in fact associate the word “meat” with the flesh of animals in modern industrial society? I think we do not. The word “meat” in contemporary experience is separate from the animals the “meat” comes from, whatever its association with animals and their flesh at a time when raising and slaughtering animals was an integral part of everyday life on farms and in cities and towns.

Unlike “meat,” the word “flesh” conjures more readily the fact of a once living creature. While the meat from an animal is indeed dead flesh, it evokes less an animal’s body and more just food, whatever the food’s origin. “Flesh” is more complex and inclusive by comparison. By standard definition, it is “the soft substance consisting of muscle and fat that is found between the skin and bones of an animal or a human.”

Consider further that in the Bible, “flesh” is not just a synonym for meat; rather, it encompasses *living* creatures, seemingly of all species, as in Isaiah 40.5: “*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*”

Forgetting “Meat” is Dead

So detached from the animals from whom “meat” is obtained are most people in modern society that I believe few even think about meat as something that is dead. What starts as the conscious employment of euphemism by exploiters and market manipulators morphs through conventional usage into a nearly or completely unconscious linguistic and perceptual event, similar to how the animals are transubstantiated literally into edible products called “meat,” divorced from living creatures and the violence that meat represents.

An article in the February 1, 2020 issue of TIME magazine, “How China Could Change the World by Taking Meat Off the Menu,” says that “Until recently, the primary motivation for people to shun meat was concern for animal welfare. Not anymore.” This article provides an encouraging look at the growing appeal of plant-based foods in industrialized countries. But, I wonder, when were the majority of people motivated to shun meat out of concern for animal welfare? Animal rights activist Cynthia Crusier wrote to me that the article “mentioned animal welfare only once, and referred to it as some irrelevant passé subject which has been replaced by really important matters.”

Animal Welfare, Animals’ Rights, Animal-Free

Indeed, the term “animal welfare” is itself a euphemism, akin to a dead metaphor, “which has lost the original imagery of its meaning by extensive, repetitive, and popular usage.” But the euphemism “animal welfare” is not only dead: it’s a lie that reduces the animals and their human-caused misery to an abstraction that amounts to nothing more at best than abusing animals less abusively, less traumatically, less horribly.

Those who speak approvingly of “animal welfare” compound the problem by defining it illogically as treating the animals “more humanely.” But you cannot treat animals who by definition are being treated inhumanely, “more humanely.” Animal welfare is an institutionalized term referring to animal *use* that, as such, precludes the animals so used from truly *faring well*.

Even the term “animal rights” can obstruct the animals from view. For this reason, Veda Stram, managing editor of the All-Creature’s weekly newsletter and website, has proposed a shift from speaking of “animal rights” to saying “*animals’ rights*” in order to keep the animals in sight.

Of course, we can’t always avoid the term “meat” in our advocacy, but we could say flesh a little more often than we do, and we could put the animals into discussions of food more frequently. That said, it’s wonderful seeing the words “vegan” and “plant-based”

appearing more and more often on food, household, and personal care products. Time was when these terms never appeared in a supermarket.

In addition to “vegan,” “plant-based,” and “plant-powered,” I like to call vegan products animal-free. This puts the animals into focus and links them to the concept of liberation – their liberation and ours. “Free” conveys a welcome release from all sorts of captivity: Animal-free, egg-free, dairy-free, meat-free sound inviting, compared with “eggless,” “meatless,” and the like, which evoke blandness and deprivation.

Knowing Where Your Food Comes From

Thinking about putting the faces of animals back into the “meat” as an escape from euphemism and the dissociation of meat from animals, I’m aware that this project is also that of people who, in the opposite direction, enjoy slaughtering their own animals. Such people describe their pleasure in turning a living creature into something dead. They refuse “not knowing where your food comes from” and tout their liberation from such ignorance.

Similarly, the belief that “if slaughterhouses had glass walls, we’d all be vegetarian” is contradicted by people who prefer to select their own animals to be killed in front of them or behind a blood-spattered curtain in a live or “wet” animal market. They are not deterred by the sight or smell of suffering or the cries of the animals being slaughtered. Asked about it, they state a preference for this experience over buying meat in a supermarket.

One Day, All Flesh May Be Free

There is no shortcut to getting the majority of people to care enough about the animals who suffer and die for food to stop eating them on that account alone, whether the animals are visible or invisible. It’s exasperating, but we cannot succumb to frustration. Rather than give up, we must realize that the journey toward animal liberation has only just begun, and that we must stay the course in pursuit of the day when all flesh will, with our persistence, we hope, see this glorious day together. – *Karen Davis*

I want to tell you about the action we had in a chicken farm of the broiler industry

By Ahuva Binyamin



I want to tell you about the action we took in a chicken farm of the broiler industry in Israel. I have seen photos and heard stories, but never documented in a chicken coop.

The second I got in, I was extremely shocked by the ammonia smell there. I've been to many dairy farms and thought I had smelled everything already. It turned out I hadn't.

The second shocking thing was the number of the chicks, thousands of them . . . three weeks old, tiny, sweet and deformed.

Some of them couldn't even raise their head or walk because of the genetic manipulations they have gone through in order to reach a weight of 3 kg (6.5 lbs.) since a smaller weight is not profitable for the industry. A wild chicken weighs only 1 kg (about 2 lbs.) as an adult. We have met chicks who just recently hatched from their egg and already reached the weight of adult chickens.

I took a deep breath and sat down. The moment I sat down was the moment when I and the chicks united. For a few hours I became one of them, one of the small chicks who lives amid feces and urine, and smelling the ammonia vapor instead of fresh air. For a few hours I don't see the sunrise nor the day light. I'm sitting in the dark on a filthy ground, in artificial light and fan ventilation. Everything is sealed. There's no window. There's no air.

I've been sitting there, and suddenly the little chicks gathered around me and started playing with the zipper buckles of my bag. Curious babies who crave for a bit of love and empathy.

The moment arrived when we were told that the farmer is willing to release 11 chicks. I was privileged to be one of those who carried them from the prison to freedom.

I went out, deeply excited and overwhelmed by the announcement. I changed into sterile clothes with chills running through my body.

I received the little chick into my hands. I hugged and covered her. I held her pressed against my body and whispered to her: "You are heading for a new life, a life of freedom."

She understood me. I'm sure. She pressed against me and accepted the hug, leaned on me, her body next to my body.

It's hard to describe this moment. Any word I may write would belittle the incredible experience, the magnificent moment, the immense excitement. Understanding that now she begins a new life. A life of freedom, love and care. Understanding that she has won life, instead of being a schnitzel or a chicken slice on some plate. I realized that the phrase "Whoever saves one life saves the world entire" is not a cliché. It is true. I had the privilege of doing so.

I was among the first activists who received the rescued chicks, but on my way to the car that was supposed to take her to the sanctuary, I lingered a little. I wanted to be with her for a little while, to keep hugging and wrapping her with the love that rose inside me. To keep giving her the feeling of the pleasant wind and the caressing sun. I knew that from now on she's going to have a lot of all these: love, sun, wind, fresh air, fresh water to enjoy. But I didn't want this moment to end. I didn't want to depart from her yet, while she is hugged and wrapped in my arms, just the two of us in the whole world.

I'm not sure that I've managed to convey that emotional and exhilarating moment as I have experienced it. There are no words in the dictionary to describe such a powerful experience.

I hope that I've made you understand a little bit of what was happening inside my heart. And if not . . . you are welcome to join us for the next action and maybe you will have the privilege of feeling this way too.

*Ahuva Binyamin is an animal rights activist with the group, Meat the Victims IL in Israel.
Photos by Barak Mayer, courtesy of Meat the Victims IL.*



A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will.
Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150
(757) 678-7875



Karen & Mr. Frizzle ©2008 Davida G. Breier

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

Please make free fundraising a part of your online routine

Every time you shop at any of 1600+ 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. And when you search the web, do it through iSearchiGive.com where each search means a penny (or more!) for our cause!

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



International Respect for Chickens Day

May 4, 2021

May is International Respect for Chickens Month!

Please do an ACTION for Chickens in May!

May 4 is International Respect for Chickens Day and May is International Respect for Chickens Month. We urge people to do a positive action for chickens illuminating who they are and how we can help them.

Ever since we launched International Respect for Chickens Day in 2005, we've urged our supporters to celebrate chickens throughout the world and protest the bleakness of their lives in farming and cockfighting operations by doing an ACTION on their behalf. This year, coronavirus pandemic concerns may limit opportunities to meet directly with family, friends, coworkers, and the general public for face-to-face conversations about chickens. But don't let that stop you from being a voice for the birds!



What Can I Do?

- 🐔 If you can get out on a busy street corner or elsewhere in the “real world” to pass out our *Chickens Brochures* and speak to people at a social distance wearing a mask, please do!
- 🐔 Place our new “Dying for Dinner” cards discreetly in stores and insert them into every piece of mail you send out.
- 🐔 Use social media to share videos and information showing chickens who are loved and happy versus chickens who are suffering on farms and elsewhere in abusive captivity.
- 🐔 Submit a Letter to the Editor or guest column to your local newspaper or other media outlets about chickens, noting that your outreach is prompted by International Respect for Chickens Day/month of May.
- 🐔 Use virtual meetings via Zoom or Skype to inform your friends and associates about International Respect for Chickens Day and why chickens matter and need our help.
- 🐔 Call in to your local radio station. If you get on the air, be friendly and informative, but do NOT let the host lure you into making fun of chickens. Control the tone of the conversation.
- 🐔 Share your favorite chicken-free, egg-free recipes with the media and others. Remind people that plant-based “chicken” products are increasingly available at Walmart, Trader Joes and similar large-scale outlets. These products are free of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and other pathogens that make people sick with “stomach flu” as a result of handling and consuming contaminated birds.

New "Dying for Dinner" Cards

Place in stores, mail, etc.!

3" x 4"
25 for \$2.50
Order Now!

Send check or money order to:
United Poultry Concerns
PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405

**For brochures, buttons, and posters, see
our merchandise pages in this magazine.**

**Order all materials online at
www.upc-online.org/merchandise.**



Photo by L. Parascandola

Are You Dying for a Chicken Dinner? They Did!

(Front)

"We could no longer look at a piece of meat anymore without seeing the sad face of the suffering animal who had lived in it when the animal was still alive." He told how, at the slaughter plant where he worked, "The chickens hang there and look at you while they are bleeding. They try to hide their head from you by sticking it under the wing of the chicken next to them on the slaughter line. You can tell by them looking at you, they're scared to death."

—Virgil Butler, Ex-Tyson Slaughterhouse
Voice for Chickens

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(Back)

Chickens
"Chickens are great companions. If only people knew how smart and lovable they can be."

Chickens enjoy being together in small flocks, sunning, dustbathing, and scratching in the soil for food. A mother hen will tenderly and even fiercely protect her young brood, driving off predators and sheltering her little chicks beneath her wings.

The rooster proudly keeps watch over the flock. He alerts the hens if he senses danger, and when he finds a tasty morsel for his family to share, he calls them excitedly. Roosters often join in the hen's egg-laying ritual, which is an extremely important and private part of a chicken's life.



WHAT WINGS ARE FOR

CHICKS NEED THEIR MOTHERS

United Poultry Concerns, Inc.
P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, VA 23405-0150 • Phone 757-678-7875 • Fax 757-678-7876 • Web Site www.upc-online.org

International Respect for Chickens Day, May 4th

What Wings Are For

United Poultry Concerns PO Box 150 Machipongo, VA 23405
757-678-7875 www.upc-online.org

*Vegan Recipe Corner***Southern Sweet Potato and Black Eyed Pea Stew**

Recipe by Kayli Dice at OneGreenPlanet.org

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 4 celery stalks, diced
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne
- 2 sweet potatoes, washed and cubed
- 3 cups cooked black-eyed peas
- 2 cups corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- 2 cups chard or collard greens, chopped
- 1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Instructions

1. In a soup pot over medium heat, sauté onion and celery in the oil. Add cumin, thyme and cayenne and sauté for another minute.
2. Add the cubed sweet potatoes and enough water to cover (about 4 cups). Turn heat to high, cover and bring to a boil. Let simmer until sweet potatoes are tender. Once tender, puree with an immersion blender or transfer to a blender to puree. Return sweet potato broth to soup pot.
3. Add black-eyed peas, corn, greens, and diced tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a simmer for about 10 more minutes or until greens are softened and soup thickens. Add additional water if soup gets too thick.

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



Photo by Liqin Cao

POSTCARDS

20 for \$4.00, 40 for \$7.50



"Love is Best"



"Peaceable Kingdom"



"Chickens - To Know Them is to Love Them"



"Misery is Not a Health Food"

FACT SHEETS

20 for \$3.00

- "Viva, the Chicken Hen / Chickens Raised for Meat"
- "Jane-one tiny chicken foot"
- "Starving Poultry for Profit" (forced molting)
- "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" (Kapparat 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!
- "Live Poultry Markets" (in English, Spanish, & Chinese)
- "Chicken-Flying Contests"

LEAFLETS (FLYERS)

10 for \$1.00, 25 for \$2.50

- "Chicken for Dinner?"
- "The 'Human' Nature of Pigeons"
- "The Truth about Feather Hair Extensions"
- "Birds Suffer Horribly for Pillows & Coats"

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24 full-color
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Give a Cluck. Go Vegan! • What Wings Are For • Available in Unisex (S, M, L, XL) or Ladies (S, M, L, XL) \$20



What Wings Are For



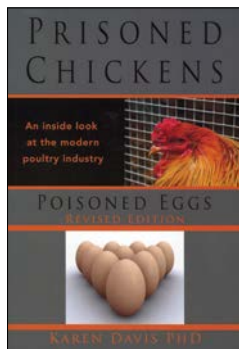
BOOKS

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."

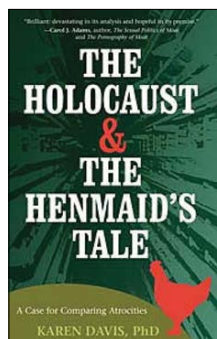
– *Choice magazine, American Library Association* \$14.95. 40% off bulk orders of 5 (\$8.97 each) = \$44.85 for 5.



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

By Karen Davis

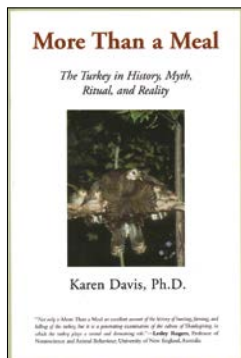
In this thoughtful and thought-provoking contribution to the study of animals and the Holocaust, Karen Davis makes the case that significant parallels can – and must – be drawn between the Holocaust and the institutionalized abuse of billions of animals on factory farms. "Compelling and convincing .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



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

By Karen Davis

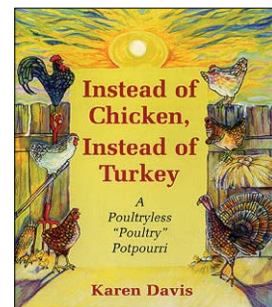
Karen Davis shows how turkeys in the wild have complex lives and family units, and how they were an integral part of Native American and continental cultures and landscape before the Europeans arrived, while drawing larger conclusions about our paradoxical relationship with turkeys, all birds and other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

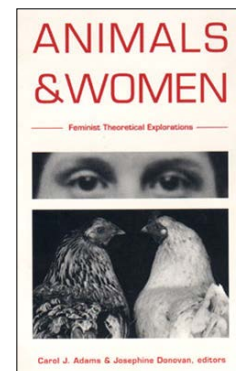
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95



Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations

Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

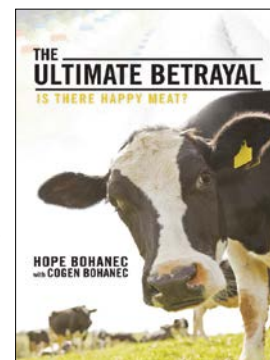
"Karen Davis's brilliant essay [Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals and The Feminine Connection] brings together the book's central concepts, leading to conclusions that rightly should disturb feminists and animal advocates alike." - Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in *The Animals' Agenda*. \$16.95



The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat?

By Hope Bohanec

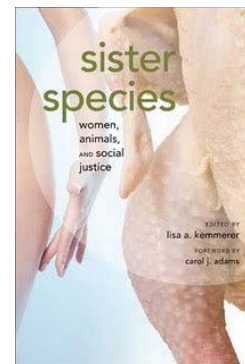
The Ultimate Betrayal lifts the veil of secrecy surrounding animal farming, offering a rare look inside the world of alternative animal agriculture. \$14.95



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 non-human animals and a more just and compassionate world. \$14.95



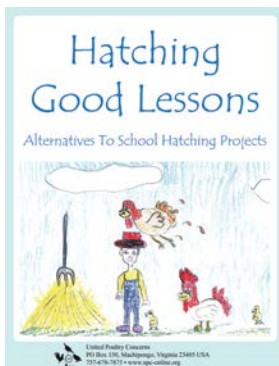
CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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

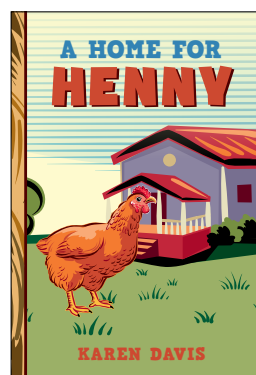
www.upc-online.org/hatching/.



A 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



A Home for Henny

By *Karen Davis*

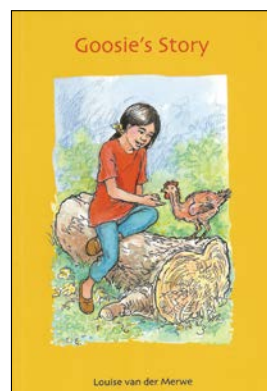
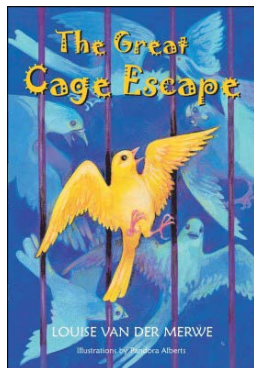
Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. *A Home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



Dave Loves Chickens

By *Carlos Patino*

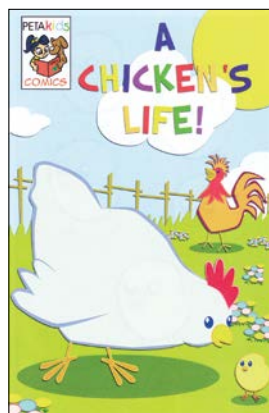
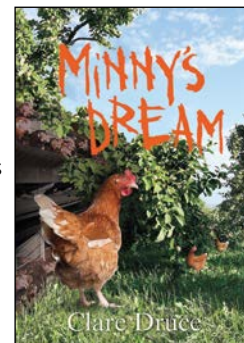
Dave is a quirky monster from another planet who loves chickens and all animals on Earth. He encourages people to share his love and not eat any

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

Minnie'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



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

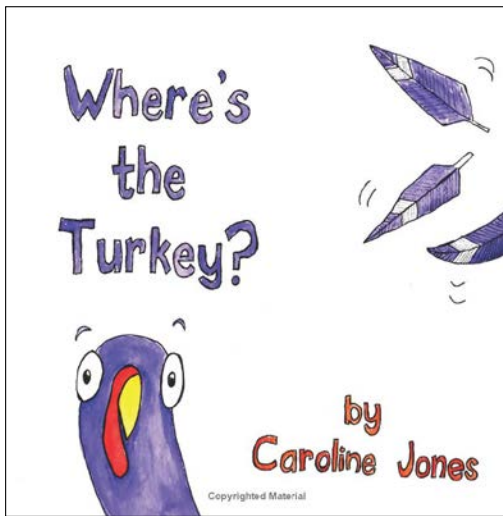
words including barn, beak, cluck, feathers, grass, hatch, peck, peep, wings, and lots more. \$1.50 each. 10 for \$10.

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

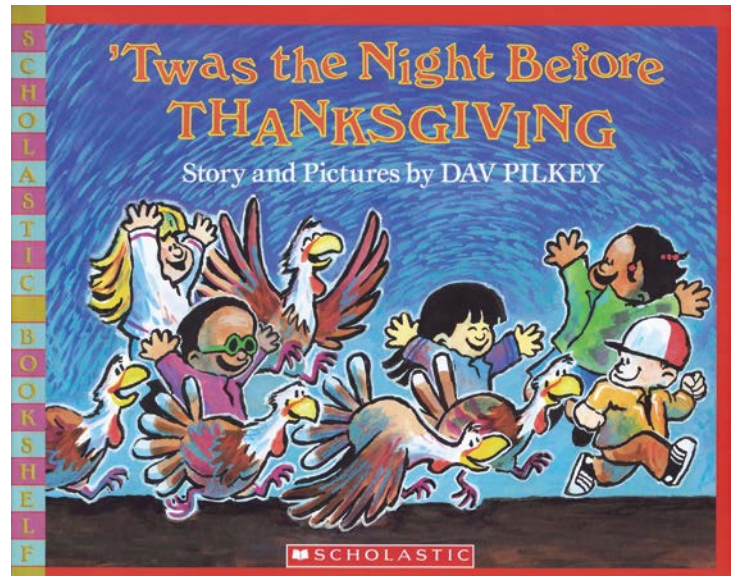
– Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns



'Twas the Night Before THANKSGIVING

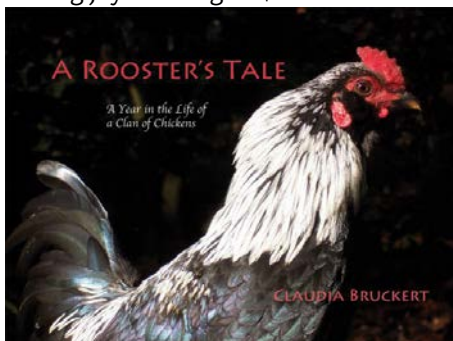
Story and Pictures by Dav Pilkey, Scholastic Book Shelf

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



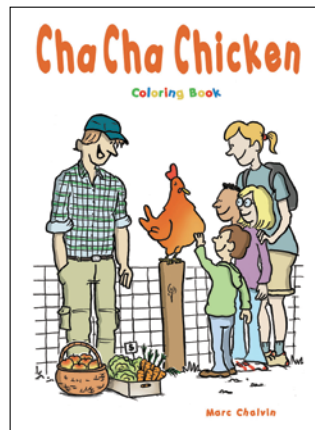
A Rooster’s Tale: A Year in the Life of a Clan of Chickens, by Claudia Bruckert,

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>



More books and videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise

Stickers Send a message with your mail! Order our eye-catching color stickers! 100 stickers for \$10.



With Heart and Voice - a Beautiful Greeting Card from UPC \$19.95 for 20 cards. \$38.95 for 40 cards, envelopes included. Single card & envelope \$1.00.



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, tumors, crippled legs, sick immune systems, and more. 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.

Walking to Freedom After a Year in Cages

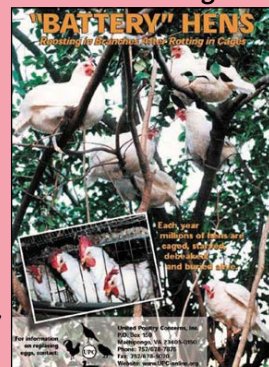
Photo by Dave Clegg. Full color, 18"x22" poster.



"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".



Great Turkeys 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".

UPC posters in any mix: One for \$4. Two for \$5. Three for \$7.

UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS, INC.



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Recipe Corner & More!

*Wishing You a Safe & Happy Spring!
Please renew your membership for 2021*



Photo by Karen Davis

Our 12,000 square-foot sanctuary is a predator-proof yard that shades into tangled wooded areas filled with trees, bushes, vines, undergrowth and the soil chickens love to scratch in all year round. – See inside.