Madame Rouge
by
Canadian artist Twyla Francois
http://www.twylafrancois.com
The Rescue of Kukkuta and the Rooster Dilemma

By Hope Bohanec

On the Saturday before Easter I got a call from a friend who was worried about an injured rooster in the Walgreens parking lot about five minutes from my house. A feral population of roosters and hens have made their home in the fields of tall grass and parking lots around Peet’s Coffee and Walgreens in Cotati, California. It’s the same area where I recently rescued a mama hen and her six newborn chicks and took them to a local farmed animal sanctuary. The chickens have become a novelty around there. Peet’s puts out water for them and people come just to hang out with the colorful birds, feeding them bits of scone and taking their pictures. But the population is growing and more and more roosters are being dumped there.

I drove out to see what was going on and there was a police car parked outside the Walgreens. I asked the officer if she was there because of the rooster and she said yes, that Walgreens had called the Cotati police concerned about him. Apparently a larger rooster had been bullying him for hours. We found him lying on the ground in the middle of a parking space with blood splattered around him on the pavement. The triumphant rooster was pacing back and forth, hovering over him on the curb. We shooed away the tormenter and had a look at the poor guy. He was frozen in shock. His face, head, neck, and comb were covered in murky blood and his left eye was swollen shut with fresh blood dripping out of it.

I asked what she was going to do and she didn’t know. I sat next to the pitiful little guy and was able to put him in my lap and get a good look. He had a lot of blood on him, but the only injury I could find was to his eye. I couldn’t find any wound on his body or neck or comb. I told her there was a good chance he could recover, but she said they would probably “put him down” as no one would want to drive him all the way up to Animal Control on Easter weekend. He would likely be euthanized at Animal Control anyway, so I ended up with a rooster in my car. I knew he would be my responsibility. I had just tried to help someone find a home for a rooster a few weeks before and no sanctuary in the area could take a rooster, but there was no other choice. His life was in my hands.

For seven days he didn’t move. We put him on soft towels in an animal carrying crate and he just sat, frozen. The poor soul was so traumatized. He was not interested in food or water. We tried to entice him with blueberries, pasta, apples, rice, bananas; nothing worked. His eye was so swollen it was the size of a marble and the blood had dried stiff and black all over his head. I got some antibiotic cream and applied it twice a day. A few times, I took him out of the crate and set him in the sun for a while, trying to enliven him, but he would just sit, motionless and listless. Every morning I ran to the crate to check on him, so afraid that he might have died during the night. We named him Kukkuta (which means rooster in Sanskrit).

The Tragedy of Unwanted Roosters

Kukkuta needed to be rescued because people eat eggs. You don’t see the connection? Let me lay it out for you. Because of the tireless work of animal advocacy organizations like United Poultry Concerns, there’s a growing awareness that hens suffer in the egg industry.
In Sonoma County, people have bought into the “farm to table” ethos and want a more natural and “humane” experience. The area is largely wealthy and people not only in rural areas, but in suburbs and neighborhoods near downtown, are buying chicks from feed stores and off Craigslist and raising their own chickens for eggs.

This may seem like a positive trend, but there is a hidden hindrance – for every hen born, so is a rooster. Roosters are unwanted because, of course, they don’t lay eggs. They also crow so they aren’t welcome, or even legal to keep, in many neighborhoods. Most areas of Sonoma County will allow up to 12 hens, but no roosters. Because they are worthless to the egg industry, male chicks are killed just hours after emerging from their shells in the hatcheries. They are thrown away alive by the billions, dumped into huge trash bins to suffocate on the weight of their brothers and die slowly of dehydration or freezing to death. Many are ground up alive in maceration machines where sharp blades like huge blenders chop up their tiny bodies for fertilizer, pet food and other products.

Determining the sex of a chick is not an exact science, so many males are shipped to feed stores and sold as hens. A backyard “enthusiast” discovers that one of her “hens” is a male so she “gets rid” of him. It’s increasingly difficult to find homes for roosters. Overwhelmed animal shelters end up euthanizing most of them. Other roosters get dumped on the side of the road. This is what’s happening in Cotati at Peet’s Coffee. People see chickens there, so they dump their unwanted rooster thinking he will be fine, but not necessarily. Roosters are territorial, and as the numbers increase, the newcomer may have to face a bird defending his territory and be injured, stressed or even killed. My guess is that this is what happened to our sweet rooster.

**Kukkuta’s Road to Recovery**

Slowly the swelling of Kukkuta’s eye subsided and on the seventh day of being a guest in our small backyard, he stood up and walked out of the crate and started drinking some water. We were thrilled! He dunked his head under the water again and again, washing the crusted blood off his face and comb. The next morning we heard him crow for the first time and it was a joyful sound! A robust celebration of life! He is doing great now and he has been a perfect gentleman, never pecking when I reach for him or kicking when I pick him up. He is a gentle soul.

At first he needed about a four foot radius around us, unsure of his rescuers’ intent. But now he comes right up, following us around the yard and crowing when we go inside because he misses us. He will come right up to the sliding glass door on the deck and hang out, peering in, waiting for our attention. He talks to us with sweet clucks, bocks, and coos of affection and gratitude when we give him food. He is so full of life, busy all day and loves to interact with us. We are mesmerized watching him.

**A New Level of Love**

Being vegan for 28 years, I have long respected chickens’ lives, but I had never lived with a chicken. Kukkuta has awakened something incredibly special in me. I love him so much, and while I had a strong vegan philosophy before, now more than ever I simply can’t imagine anyone purposely killing a sentient individual like Kukkuta. It’s a different level of unimaginable now. Everything in me wants to protect him and keep him alive. This is a love I wish everyone could experience, for you can never again think of harming an animal after knowing this kind of love and compassion.

My husband and I unfortunately couldn’t keep Kukkuta because we rent our small duplex. A vegan activist friend who lives out on Cobb Mountain agreed to adopt him and we are overjoyed that he is “staying in the family” by going to a vegan home. She had an acre of land and three rescued hens, but no rooster. When she saw my post on Facebook, she and her partner had already been talking about rescuing a rooster to be with their hens so they set up and secured a space for him.
We miss him so much and we cried thinking about him leaving. But we’re glad he has a home with other chickens because he needed a little flock of hens to be his friends.

This whole experience has enriched my life, strengthened my understanding of veganism, deepened my commitment to protecting chickens, and most of all, I will never forget my friend Kukkuta.
– Hope Bohanec, May 2018

Hope Bohanec is the Projects Manager for United Poultry Concerns and the author of The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat?

“Hello! I am certain our story is not unique. We recently adopted 8 baby chicks that were "99% sexed" as hens. We planned to have these hens as family pets and were adamant that we did not want roosters. It turns out 3 of our 8 girls are in fact roosters and we need to re-home them as soon as possible. We have contacted our local SPCA and local animal sanctuaries for advice, but nobody will take our roosters or has suggestions on where we can find help. We are desperate to save them but don’t know where else to turn. Do you have any recommendations on where we might safely re-home them? We are located in Massachusetts.

Thank you for any advice you may be able to give us!
Melissa, June 4, 2018”

Each time United Poultry Concerns receives a call or an email about one or more unwanted roosters, we try to help the person see how he or she might keep the roosters after all, while providing a link to our Farmed Animal Sanctuaries webpage at http://www.upc-online.org/sanctuaries. Contrary to popular opinion, roosters can often live very well together, as long as they have a clean living space with sunshine, shelter, fresh soil and good caregivers. If the person has hens, then the roosters will tend to focus their attention on the hens through the fencing and be engaged with them even without direct physical contact.

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People are Gobbling Up Meat Replacements!

A vegetarian version of Kentucky Fried Chicken is in the works.

KFC is developing a vegetarian version of its fried chicken, the company announced in June. The product is being developed first for its outlets in the United Kingdom, where other fast-food restaurants with vegan menus are flourishing.

KFC is responding to a growing demand for plant-powered meals free of animal parts. More and more people want foods that are healthy, environmentally responsible, and compassionate to animals. As a result, sales of “meat replacement” products are rising sharply in both the U.S. and the U.K., according to food trend analysts. Meat-free meat is not just a fad. It’s a trend that hopefully is leading to a way of life that is here to stay.

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The Hen is a Symbol of Motherhood for Reasons We May Have Forgotten, So Let Us Recall

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

“Her love of her children definitely resembles my love of mine.” – Alice Walker

“The emphasis has been on smaller, more efficient but lighter-weight egg machines.” – American Poultry History

In our day, the hen has been degraded to an “egg machine.” In previous eras, she embodied the essence of motherhood. In the first century AD, the Roman historian Plutarch praised the many ways in which mother hens cherish and protect their chicks, “drooping their wings for some to creep under, and receiving with joyous and affectionate clucks others that mount upon their backs or run up to them from every direction; and though they flee from dogs and snakes if they are frightened only for themselves, if their fright is for their children, they stand their ground and fight it out beyond their strength.”

The Renaissance writer Ulisse Aldrovandi described how, at the first sign of a predator, mother hens will immediately gather their chicks “under the shadow of their wings, and with this covering they put up such a very fierce defense – striking fear into their opponent in the midst of a frightful clamor, using both wings and beak – they would rather die for their chicks than seek safety in flight.” Similarly, in collecting food, the mother hen allows her chicks to eat their fill before satisfying her own hunger. Thus, he said, mother hens present, in every way, “a noble example of love for their offspring.”

I saw this love in action, when a hen named Eva jumped our sanctuary fence on a spring day and disappeared, only to return three weeks later in June with eight fluffy chicks. Watching Eva with her tiny brood close behind her was like watching a family of wild birds whose dark and golden feathers blended perfectly with the woods and foliage they melted in and out of during the day. Periodically, Eva would squat down with her feathers puffed out, and her peeping chicks would all run under her wings for comfort and warmth. A few minutes later the family was on the move again.

One day, a large dog wandered in front of the magnolia tree where Eva and her chicks were foraging. With her wings outspread and curved menacingly toward the dog, she rushed at him over and over, cackling loudly, all the while continuing to push her chicks behind herself with her wings. The dog stood stock still before the excited mother hen and soon ambled away, but Eva maintained her aggressive posture, her sharp, repetitive cackles and attentive lookout for several minutes after he was gone.

Sitting on her nest, a mother hen carefully turns each of her eggs as often as thirty times a day, using her body, her feet, and her beak to move each egg precisely in order to maintain the proper temperature, moisture, ventilation, humidity, and position of the egg during the 3-week incubation period.
Embryonic chicks respond to soothing sounds from the mother hen and to warning cries from the rooster. Two or three days before the chicks are ready to hatch, they start peeping to notify their mother and siblings that they are ready to emerge from their shells, and to draw her attention to any distress they're experiencing such as cold or abnormal positioning.

A communication network is established among the baby birds and between them and their mother, who must stay calm while all the peeping, sawing, and breaking of eggs goes on underneath her as she meanwhile picks off tiny pieces of shell that may be sticking to her chicks and slays any ants that may dart in to scavenge. During all this time, as Page Smith and Charles Daniel describe in *The Chicken Book*, “The chorus of peeps goes on virtually uninterrupted, the unborn chicks peeping away, the newborn ones singing their less muffled song.”

During the first four to eight weeks or so, the chicks stay close to their mother, gathering beneath her wings every night at dusk. Eventually, she flies up to her perch or a tree branch, indicating her sense that they, and she, are ready for independence.

Whenever I tell people stories about chickens enjoying themselves, many become very sad. The pictures I’m showing them are so different from the ones they’re used to seeing of chickens in a state of absolute misery. *The New York Times* restaurant critic William Grimes wrote of a beautiful black hen who entered his life unexpectedly one day, an apparent escape from a poultry market in Queens. “I looked at the Chicken endlessly, and I wondered. What lay behind the veil of animal secrecy? Did she have a personality, for one thing?” His curiosity is satisfied by close acquaintance with and observation of the endearing bird. By the end of his bittersweet book *My Fine Feathered Friend*, he and his wife Nancy “had grown to love the Chicken.”

We have to start looking at chickens differently, so that we may see them as Alice Walker described her encounter with a hen she watched crossing the road one day with three little chicks in Bali. In her essay, “Why Did the Balinese Chicken Cross the Road?” in *Living By the Word*, Walker writes:

It is one of those moments that will be engraved on my brain forever. For I really saw her. She was small and gray, flecked with black; so were her chicks. She had a healthy red comb and quick, light-brown eyes. She was that proud, chunky chicken shape that makes one feel always that chickens, and hens especially, have personality and will. Her steps were neat and quick and authoritative; and though she never touched her chicks, it was obvious she was shepherding them along. She clucked impatiently when, our feet falling ever nearer, one of them, especially self-absorbed and perhaps hard-headed, ceased to respond.

Let us with equal justice perceive chickens with envisioned eyes that pierce the veil of these birds’ “mechanization” and apprehend the truth of who they are. In *The Chicken Book*, Page Smith and Charles Daniel remind us, most poignantly: “As each chick emerges from its shell in the dark cave of feathers underneath its mother, it lies for a time like any newborn creature, exhausted, naked, and extremely vulnerable. And as the mother may be taken as the epitome of motherhood, so the newborn chick may be taken as an archetypal representative of babies of all species, human and animal alike, just brought into the world.”

This is What Wings Are For.
UPC Activities Photo Gallery
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.

My gift is made in honor of Pam Baker for her birthday. Pam recently rescued two “broiler” chickens. They could barely walk when she first got them. Now they are strong, happy, and confident. Thank you for all you do. – Holly Pearson

My donation is for my friend, Val Menz. Please send her your latest issue of Poultry Press. Thank you. – Henry Brisen

My gift is for Casper, My Brave Boy. R.I.P. – Catherine Broadhead

My donation is in honor of Mother’s Day for Dr. Joan Poster. – Meredith Poster

My donation is in memory of Rikki, a very lovable female pit bull. – Miriam A. Cohen

In loving memory of Felix, my handsome red tabby, and Noel, my handsome blue Siamese. I miss Felix waiting by the door for me and sleeping on my bed. I miss Noel’s daily conversations and his sweet face. “I think of you every day and love and miss you every day. Behave yourselves in Heaven, especially after earning your wings. Love always, your mom, Ana A. Garcia”

In memory of Winona and Mabel, my beloved chickens. They passed recently when they were 10 years old. They will always be remembered. – Victoria Figurelli

My Aunt’s beloved goose, Daisy, was killed by a predator. I’m sending this gift in her memory. – Sarah Smith


In memory of Liberty the hen, who could not be caged. – Lisa Andrews

In memory of Charlie Russell and his work with the bears. He devoted his life to bears and to challenging the lies we’ve been told about their nature. Charlie experienced devastating heartbreaks in the course of his work, but he never quit. Three years ago, his words motivated a major life change for me. A remarkable man who showed us the true bear spirit. – Susan Vickery

My gift is in loving memory of Dave Middlesworth, who worked tirelessly for animal welfare and was the cofounder of the cruelty-free dog food, V-Dog, now run by our son Darren, and still going strong. – Linda Middlesworth

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

In loving memory of Chicklett, beloved UPC sanctuary rooster, April 7, 2017-May 17, 2018. – Cathy & Hans DeBoer
Dropping Turkeys from Airplanes May Finally Be Over in Yellville, Arkansas

“If a pilot flies by Turkey Trot this fall and drops turkeys from the sky, that will be the end of the festival.”
– Stan Duffy, Rotary Club president elect.

On April 25th, Arkansas Online reported that “The Mid-Marion County Rotary Club has decided to sponsor the annual Turkey Trot festival this year in Yellville after another sponsor backed out.” The Rotary Club voted 16-6 on Monday April 23 to take over the sponsorship, “but only if no live turkeys are on the premises or dropped from airplanes, said Stan Duffy, president elect of the Rotary Club.”

The Yellville Area Chamber of Commerce, which has sponsored the Yellville Turkey Trot festival for years, announced on April 6th it will no longer do so, explaining that the bad publicity generated by animal activists protesting and documenting the dropping of turkeys from an airplane at the festival has become “detrimental to local businesses.”

Background: “Helpless Birds Crippled & Killed in Festival of Death.” – National Enquirer

As far back as December 5, 1989, the National Enquirer ran a feature calling the Yellville, Arkansas turkey drop “sick.” It showed turkeys hurtling in mid-air with the captions: “A helpless wild turkey is heartlessly thrown from a plane 1,000 feet above the earth.” And “The terrified turkey plunges through the sky at a heart-stopping 50 m.p.h.” And then, “Frightened turkey is chased by boys after dropping from the sky. The bird was cornered – and captured.” Sponsored by the Yellville Area Chamber of Commerce and supported by local law enforcement, this sick, sadistic stunt has continued to amuse Yellville.

In a letter to United Poultry Concerns, October 29, 1996, Janie Purdom, president of the Yellville Area Chamber of Commerce at the time, wrote: “The Chamber does not currently sponsor or sanction the dropping of live turkeys from airplanes and has not done so for a number of years.” In 1989, she told the National Enquirer: “We have a wonderful festival. Each year we also drop 10 to 12 wild turkeys from a plane. Townspeople gather below and try to catch one to take home and eat. We LOVE turkeys! The festival is to recognize the wild turkey, a popular hunting bird throughout Arkansas.”

Promoters joke that the turkeys “can fly,” but turkeys don’t fly 1,000 feet above ground. Moreover, a bird’s decision to take off from the ground, a branch or other platform is totally different from being pushed out of a MOVING aircraft in the midst of terrific wind pressure produced by the plane to plunge to wherever the traumatized bird happens to land and then, if he or she is still alive, be chased down by a violent mob. Shocked, terrified and disoriented, most birds plummet and crash, maimed and dying.

A broken, dying turkey after he was thrown for amusement from an airplane in Yellville. Photo by PETA.
The seizure is believed to be the largest cockfighting bust in Massachusetts history.

“We some people like to set animals against each other in staged animal fights. . . . It’s a horrible activity from every standpoint.” – Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns quoted in The Boston Globe, May 30, 2018.

As reported by The Boston Globe May 29 & 30, 2018, nearly 400 birds including roosters, hens, and chicks were found in an illegal Northampton, MA cockfighting pit on May 24th. They were seized by police and taken to the Massachusetts SPCA (MSPCA)-Nevins Farm where an undisclosed number of the roosters were euthanized. Others await adoption if good homes and sanctuaries are willing and able to take them in with an understanding of how traumatized the roosters are as a result of being “trained” to fight. “Training” involves drugs, physical abuse and isolation of the birds to get them to replicate their owners’ violence and desire “to be identified with a rooster who wins fights,” as UPC President Karen Davis told The Globe in a phone interview.

Once they are removed from the cockfighting environment, many and perhaps even most “cockfighting” roosters can be rehabilitated to live normally with hens and human caregivers.

United Poultry Concerns is helping the MSPCA locate sanctuaries, and has volunteered to adopt two roosters from the raid. While most of the hens have been placed, finding good homes for roosters, regardless of where they come from, is hard. Even when a home is available, many people are afraid to adopt roosters from a cockfighting raid, believing they are incorrigibly dangerous. Screening potential adopters is also an issue, since some people could pretend they wanted one or more roosters as pets when in fact they want them for cockfighting or slaughter.

Although outlawed throughout the U.S., cockfighting continues underground, involving around 40,000 participants similar to dog fighting activities, according to the Justice Department.

Contact:
Stan Duffy, President Elect
Mid-Marion County Rotary Club
PO Box 40
Yellville, AR 72687
contact@midmarioncountryrotary.org
New York State residents are urged to help ban classroom chick-hatching projects in the state. Learn about Assembly Bill No. A06905, including contact information for all NYS Assembly members: https://tinyurl.com/y6w8rc5p.

Please express your support to the bill’s sponsor, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, here:

Linda B. Rosenthal -- District 67
230 West 72nd Street
Suite 2F
New York, NY 10023
212-873-6368
http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Linda-B-Rosenthal

Please urge your own NYS District Assembly Member to support Assembly Bill A06905. This bill has the potential to stop the use of thousands of chicks throughout New York State and could set a precedent for other states as well. Thank you for taking action!

Background on Classroom Chick-Hatching Projects

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

Many people fail to perceive chickens as needing their parents. In the tropical forests where chickens evolved, hens and roosters care for their chicks from the moment they search together for a desirable nesting spot.

The school hatching programs that began in the 1950s mislead children (and some teachers) to think that chickens come from mechanical incubators. Supplemental facts about the role of the rooster and the hen, even if provided, cannot compete with the barren mechanized classroom experience. Each year, kindergarten and elementary schools place thousands of fertilized eggs in classroom incubators to be hatched within three or four weeks. They’re encouraged to do this by the school district’s science coordinators and the biological supply companies, which advertise fertile eggs and “easy-to-use” incubators in their catalogs.

By contrast, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen – a big reason why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth. Chick organs stick to the sides of the shell as a result of not being properly turned in the mechanical incubators.
a mother hen turns each of her eggs, individually, as often as 30 times a day, using her body, her feet and her beak to move each egg precisely to maintain proper temperature, moisture, ventilation, humidity and positioning of each embryo she is sitting on. The embryos signal their needs and she responds with the necessary adjustment of her eggs. Mechanical incubators do not match the care and precision of the mother hen.

When the hatching project is over, the surviving chicks must be disposed of. Since most children bond with young animals, students are often told, and some teachers may believe, that the chicks are going to live “happily on a farm” when in reality, most will be destroyed.

In other cases, classroom chicks are sold to live poultry markets, fed to captive zoo animals, or abandoned. Some end up in animal shelters where they are either killed or, in rare cases, adopted out. Sanctuaries encounter this situation routinely.

Hatching projects encourage children to view baby animals as disposable objects and toys instead of fellow creatures requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. They encourage children to want to bring more baby animals into the world, like litters of puppies and kittens that no one wants after the “miracle of birth” has worn off. They place a burden on animal shelters and busy parents who can’t keep the birds, especially when they turn out to be roosters.

And while children should be learning the responsibility of veterinary care for animals who depend on them, most schools do not provide veterinary care for birds who are born sick and deformed in these projects. Flushing sick birds down the toilet and throwing them in dumpsters are among the many stories we’ve heard, including a classroom quail-hatching program in New Jersey providing quails for canned “hunts.”

Teachers are urged to replace chick-hatching projects with programs and activities that inspire students to appreciate, respect, and learn about the amazing life of birds on our planet and in their neighborhoods. There’s a wealth of video and sanctuary education on the Internet and a growing number of sanctuaries for student field trips.

If you have a child or know of children whose teacher, school or school district is planning to hatch chicks, ducklings, quails or other birds in classroom incubators, please object. Please read and share our information with educators and parents. Parent-teacher meetings provide opportunities to publicize the issue and enlist parental support to end these projects in favor of humane education.

Hatching Good Lessons:
Alternatives To School Hatching Projects

For more information please visit: http://upc-online.org/hatching/alternatives.html

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. Grades K-4.

Do you have elementary school-age children at home? Nieces or Nephews? Friends with children? A Home for Henny is the perfect story to teach children compassion for chickens and why chick-hatching programs don’t belong in our schools. Donate a copy (or several) to your local elementary schools and the children’s section of your local libraries. $6.99. Order 5 copies for $15.
United Poultry Concerns Annual Report for 2017

Federal ID: 52-1705678

A Financial Statement is available upon written request to: Officer of Consumer Affairs, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

United Poultry Concerns is certified by Independent Charities of America to receive donations through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC Agency Code is #11656.

Officers & Directors 2017
Karen Davis, PhD, President-Director
Liqin Cao, Vice President-Director
Franklin Wade, Vice President-Director
Veda Stram, Vice President-Director
Debbie Donovan, Secretary Treasurer-Director

Staff 2017
Karen Davis, PhD, President
Liqin Cao, Vice President
Franklin Wade, Vice President, Website Administrator & Graphic Designer
Veda Stram, Vice President
Bill Ferguson, Web Assistant
Ronnie Steinau, Office Assistant
Hope Bohanec, Projects Manager
Jill Carnegie, Kaporos Campaign Strategist
Debbie Donovan, Bookkeeper
Diane Harris, Sanctuary Assistant
Holly Wills, Sanctuary Assistant

United Poultry Concerns holds that the treatment of chickens, turkeys, ducks and other domestic fowl in the areas of food production, science, education, entertainment, and human companionship situations has a significant effect upon human, animal, and environmental welfare. We seek to make the public aware of the ways poultry are used, and to promote the compassionate and respectful treatment of these birds and the benefits of a vegan diet and lifestyle.

UPC conducts full-time educational programs and campaigns through our quarterly magazine Poultry Press, our Website at www.UPC-online.org, and our chicken sanctuary in Machipongo, Virginia.

United Poultry Concerns maintains a permanent office, sanctuary and education center at our headquarters at 12325 Seaside Road, Machipongo, Virginia 23405. We respond daily to Internet and telephone requests for help with bird-care problems, student projects, alternatives to classroom chick-hatching projects, and numerous other communications on the care, treatment and abuse of domestic fowl. We are grateful to all of our members and supporters for enabling us to fulfill our mission in 2017. From all of us at United Poultry Concerns, thank you for your support!

Highlights of Our Activities and Accomplishments in 2017

For a complete listing of UPC’s action alerts, news, photos & activities in 2017, please visit What’s New 2017 at www.upc-online.org/whatsnew/2017.html.

UPC Sanctuary - 2017

Adopted 17 wonderful chickens in need of a loving home into our 12,000 square foot predator-proof outdoor aviary for the total safety of our rescued birds!
International Respect for Chickens Day May 4/ Month of May - Celebrating the Life and Dignity of Chickens & Protesting Their Abuse in Farming Operations. For a full view of our 2017 campaign, please visit www.upc-online.org/respect.

- Hosted our annual public outreach demonstration & leafleting at the White House.
- Posted What Wings Are For-Go Vegan Banners in San Francisco subways through May.
- Promoted Chicken Run Rescue Chicken Photo Contest in May
- Distributed UPC chickens literature & posters through our activist members in offices, libraries, shopping centers & university campuses in the U.S. and Canada.
- Garnered media coverage across the USA via PR Newswire and media interviews!

Further Actions, Investigations & Outreach Campaigns - 2017

- Urged compassionate alternatives to classroom chick-hatching projects including distribution of our activities guide booklet Hatching Good Lessons.
- Protested Cecilia Catholic School teaching 8th graders to toss and chase terrified chickens for fun in Broussard, Louisiana.
- Urged Chandler, Arizona Chamber of Commerce to Ban Ostrich Races at its annual March Festival including cosponsoring a powerful onsite protest with strong media coverage.
- Protested Missouri State Representative slaughtering a chicken on Facebook to promote opposition to abortion.
- Protested Yellville, Arkansas “turkey drop” from an airplane in October including letters to the Yellville Chamber of Commerce and Petition circulation on the internet.
- Protested “Rent-A-Chicken” Business in Chicago.
- Urged Stuart, Florida city officials to carefully consider the pros and cons we presented to them in a formal letter of a proposed ordinance that would allow residents to keep backyard chickens.
- Helped sanctuaries and individuals around the country find permanent homes for rescued cockfighting roosters and other abandoned, neglected and mistreated birds. See our Farmed Animal Sanctuary Websites webpage at www.upc-online.org/sanctuaries.

Alliance to End Chicken Kapoors Campaign - 2017

- The Alliance to End Chickens as Kapoors is a project of United Poultry Concerns launched in 2010 to expose and eliminate the ritual of Kapoors in which chickens are abused and killed for “atonement” in many ultraorthodox Hasidic communities. On July 26, 2017, Nora Constance Marino, attorney for the Alliance to End Chickens as Kapoors, was informed by the New York Court of Appeals (the highest court in New York State) that our appeal of the NYS Appellate Division’s decision regarding Alliance to End Chickens as Kapoors v. New York City Police Department, et al., would proceed. On December 18, Ms. Marino submitted her brief to the Court of Appeals and the hearing is expected in 2018. The brief focuses on the 15 laws being broken with impunity by Kapoors practitioners. An ongoing record of media coverage, protest demonstrations and legal actions can be viewed on the Alliance website at www.EndChickensAsKapores.com.

Fabulous Kiosks & Bus Posters for Chickens and Turkeys! - 2017

- UPC’s “What Wings Are For” posters are up and running on the San Francisco subway! May.
- Beautiful Bus Ads for Turkeys in Portland, Oregon, November.
University of Maryland Diamondback student newspaper full-color display ad series, Spring & Fall:
- “Compassion is a Beautiful Thing” • “Misery in Every Mouthful,” • “Don’t Gobble Me!”

New Website Documents - 2017
- Finding Paradise: Leilani Farm Sanctuary of Maui Book Review
  www.upc-online.org/bookreviews/171205_finding_paradise-leilani_farm_sanctuary_of_mauि.הת
- Food Fictions: A Review of Farm to Fable Book Review
  www.upc-online.org/bookreviews/161227_food_fictions_by_karen_davis.html
- Tom Regan, Pioneer Animal Rights Philosopher Died February 17, But His Work & Influence Endure
  www.upc-online.org/pp/summer2017/tom_regan_work_and_influence_endure.html
- Student INTERVIEW with Karen Davis, President of United Poultry Concerns
  www.upc-online.org/pp/summer2017/student_interview_with_karen_davis.html
- A Rebuttal to Matt Ball’s Vegan Bash
  www.upc-online.org/alerts/170627_a_rebuttal_to_matt_balls_vegan_bash.html
- Not In My Backyard: The Day My Quiet Cul-De-Sac Turned Into a Bloodbath
  www.upc-online.org/alerts/170901_not_in_my_backyard.html
- DAMN DAIRY
  www.upc-online.org/alerts/170911_damn_dairy.html
- Chickens Come First in Her Pecking Order, The Washington Post Metro, August 31, 1995
  www.upc-online.org/activism/chickens_come_first_in_her_pecking_order.html
- Killing a Chicken to Protest Abortion: What Do You Think?
  www.upc-online.org/alerts/170621_killing_a_chicken_to_protest-abortion.html
- Disengaged Journalism & The Disparagement & Disappearance of Animals
  www.upc-online.org/alerts/171201_disengaged_journalism_and_the_disparagement_and_disappearance_of_animals.html
- Interspecies Sexual Assault: A Moral Perspective
  www.upc-online.org/turkeys/170613_interspecies_sexual_assault-a_moral_perspective_full_article.html
- Anthropomorphic Visions of Chickens Bred for Human Consumption
  www.upc-online.org/thinking/170607_anthropomorphic_visions_of_chickens_bred_for_human_consumption.html
- California Ballot Initiative to “Prevent Cruelty”
  www.upc-online.org/pp/winter2017/california_initiative_to_prevent_cruelty.html

Speaking Engagements, Lectures & Exhibits – 2017:
Karen Davis, Hope Bohanec, Liqin Cao
- SOS Radio Show, KVMR FM 89.5, Sacramento/Grass Valley, CA, February 22.
- Conspiracy Film Showing, Sacramento, CA. Introduced Film and Q & A, March 20.
- Humane Economy Presentation, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, March 30.
- Veggie Pride Parade, New York City, April 2.
- Berkeley Vegan Earth Day, Berkeley, CA, April 30.
- Opening of Rancho Compassion Animal Sanctuary, Niacin, CA, May 28.
- Salisbury (MD) University Environmental Studies Class Lecture, June 14.
- VegCurious Monthly Presentations, Petaluma, CA, June 28.
- Summer VegFest, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, CA, July 1.
- Chester County Vegan Festival, West Chester, PA, August 12.
- Hudson Valley VegFest, Poughkeepsie, NY, September 23-24.
- Sanctuary Conference, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, September 29-30.
- New Jersey VegFest, Morristown, October 7-8.
- Guest Lecture, Anthropology class, UC Berkeley, October 18.
- Presentation to teens at Rancho Compassion work day, Nicosia, CA, October 22.
- Presentation on Ahimsa and Veganism, Yoga Teacher Training, Sebastopol, CA, November 5.
- Turkeys - Who Are They? University of Virginia, November 15.
Additional Community Outreach – Exhibits, Demos – 2017

- Baltimore VegFest, (MD), May 6.
- Leafleting at the White House for International Respect for Chickens Day, May 7.
- Leafleting at Whole Foods for IRCD, Petaluma, CA, May 7.
- Lancaster VegFest (PA), June 3.
- Richmond Vegetarian Festival (VA), June 24.
- California Summer VegFest, San Jose, July 1.
- Sonoma County VegFest, Santa Rosa, CA, August 12.
- Vegan SoulFest, Baltimore City Community College (MD), August 26.
- Washington, DC VegFest, September 2.
- Vegan Roots Fest, Charlottesville, VA, September 30.
- Leafleting for Turkeys at the White House, November 19.

UPC in the News:

PRINT MEDIA (Including Internet Publications) - 2017

Published Articles, Book Chapter & Letters to the Editor – 2017
(By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns)

- Custom Heavy as Frost -What Do We Mean by Socialization? Animal People Forum, June 20.
- Mark Bittman On Vegetarian Cooking For A Green Planet, NPR Comment November 9.
- No Tyson in Kansas, The Wichita Eagle, November 28.
- Where Your Chicken Comes From. The Washington Post, December 11.

Additional Print Media Coverage (UPC quoted) - 2017

- Should your dog be eating home-delivered, human-grade dog food?, Mic, November 28.
- ‘Hit him on the head, then kill him’: Tyson Foods responds to mistreatment in video, Eastern Shore News and Delmarva Online, December 6 & 9.

BROADCAST MEDIA - 2017

- Louie B. Free Radio, Brainfood from the Heartland, February 17.
- Conscious Eating Conference 2017 Video, May.
- SOS Radio Show, KVMR FM 89.5, Sacramento/Grass Valley, CA, February 22.
- In Tune To Nature, WEFG Atlanta, Georgia, May 2.
- KOWS Radio Show, West Sonoma County, CA, August 2.
- Live Interview, Kaporos lawsuit, FB.com, October 10.

Financial Report - 2017

United Poultry Concerns Fiscal Year: January 1 - December 31, 2017

Revenues..............................................................................$502,000
Public Support....................................................................491,000
Expenses..............................................................................$470,000
Programs and Education..................................................400,000
Organizational Management.................................................70,000
Net Assets/Fund Balance at End of Year.............$1,029,000

United Poultry Concerns gratefully acknowledges the kind assistance of

Harold B. Larson Charitable Trust
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for The Marino Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Donors Trust, Inc.
Schwab Charitable
The Kay and David Bushnell Charitable Fund
Engineers for Change Inc.
Vanguard Charitable

Thank You for Your Support!
15-minute Sweet Potato Scramble

Recipe by Danielle Joy for One Green Planet

Ingredients:
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, chopped in chunks
- ¼ cup sweet white onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1½ tablespoon coconut oil
- ¼ cup gluten-free or all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon sea salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- coconut oil for cooking

Directions
1. In a food processor, chop up the sweet potatoes.
2. Add the remaining ingredients and process until well mixed.
3. Heat up some coconut oil in a skillet
4. Place the sweet potato scramble in the skillet and let it cook for 3 – 5 minutes.
5. Stir so that the uncooked side now faces the bottom of the skillet. And cook for another 3 – 5 minutes.
6. Taste to see whether the sweet potato is cooked.
7. Serve & enjoy!

15-minute Easy Tofu Scramble

Recipe by Liqin Cao.

Ingredients:
- ¼ cup diced red bell pepper
- ¼ cup diced green bell pepper
- One package firm tofu, 14 to 16 ounces
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon turmeric
- ½ teaspoon black salt (kala namak) or sea salt

Directions
1. Drain excess water and cut tofu into 1/8” thin slices.
2. Heat vegetable oil in frying pan over medium high heat. Once hot, carefully spread tofu slices evenly across the pan. Cover and cook for 5 minutes.
3. Carefully flip the tofu slices over. Add the diced bell peppers. Uncover and cook for 4 minutes.
4. Add turmeric, black pepper and salt. Stir for another minute.

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

Bumper Stickers
Don’t Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Get the Slaughterhouse out of your Kitchen. $1 each
Don’t Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Go Vegan. $1 each

Beautiful Chicken and Turkey Buttons
$2 each. 3 for $5. 10 for $10. Any mixture.
Stick Up For Chickens • Chickens are Friends, Not Food
Turkeys are Friends, Not Food • End Chickens as Kaporos
Be Kind to Turkeys - Don’t Gobble Me

UPC Ordering Information:
All Prices Include Postage
To order indicated items send check or money order to:
United Poultry Concerns
P.O. Box 150
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150

Or order online at upc-online.org
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
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 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.

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

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

Minnys’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

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

More Books, plus Videos available at upc-online.org/merchandise
(continued) CHILDREN’S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

‘Twas the Night Before THANKSGIVING
Story and Pictures by Dav Pilkey
Scholastic Book Shelf
Available from United Poultry Concerns $6.99

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?

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 eyecatching color stickers! 100 stickers for $10.

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”.

Friends, Not Food
Photo by Franklin Wade
Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower. Full color 19”x27” 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.
My action for International Respect for Chickens Month was to design 10 social media memes with your words and my photos of rescued chickens living in sanctuaries. I hope they will help bring more love, compassion and respect to precious chickens worldwide.

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