Floating Factory Farms

A February 24, 2020 article in the agribusiness publication Poultry World describes a concrete deck barge on which 35 dairy cows are confined on the top deck in the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The floating animal farm is touted as a way to raise cows and chickens that frees up dwindling land availability, while connecting farm and consumer at a time when consumers “don’t have a clue anymore where their food comes from.”

According to the article, the “floating dairy farm” is being followed by a floating egg farm encompassing a barge for 7,000 hens “in an aviary system with a range area on the top deck and egg packing and processing equipment on the lower deck.”

These floating farms, though “stabilized,” will move up and down with the tide. One can only imagine how grazing land animals like cows and chickens feel in this alien environment where they are regarded as nothing more than dispensers of mammary milk and eggs for oblivious consumers.

Would you like to do more to help the birds? Just go to www.upc-online.org/email and sign up to BECOME A UPC E-SUBSCRIBER! News updates, action alerts, upcoming events and more!
Watch United Poultry Concerns’ 30-Year Anniversary Video!

Dear Friends of UPC,
The year 2020 marks our 30-year anniversary! To celebrate, we’ve created a powerful 15-minute video capturing the passion, hard work, struggle, dedication, and determination of UPC’s founder and president, Karen Davis. This video highlights the rich history of UPC’s accomplishments over three decades of advocacy. Karen has fought tirelessly for the rights of chickens, turkeys and other birds bred and killed in our food system and other places of suffering and abuse.

UPC has been a groundbreaking force in the animal rights movement, focusing on the farmed animals with the least protections and attention, chickens and turkeys. Thirty years after its founding in 1990, United Poultry Concerns can be credited with much of our progress forward for these wonderful but cruelly treated and poorly understood birds.

We are so grateful to all of our supporters, volunteers, staff, and friends, over the past 30 years. We recognize that these are unprecedented and uncertain times, but what is certain is that UPC will continue to speak out and expose the suffering of the most vulnerable among us.

Please watch and share this compelling video and support us so we can assure another 30 years of dedicated advocacy. To watch the video, go to https://www.upc-online.org/videos/30-year/.

Help us persevere for another 30 years with a $30 donation in honor of our 30-year anniversary. To donate online, go to https://www.upc-online.org/donate. Or simply send your tax-deductible check or money order to UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. All gifts in any amount are gratefully received on behalf of the birds.

Our very special thanks to our Projects Manager, Hope Bohanec, for conceiving and creating this incredible video.

Thank you for your support! – United Poultry Concerns
Wet Markets or Walmart? Animal Consumption & the Coronavirus

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

Reminders of Animal Suffering in Daily Life

Apart from a small but perhaps widening circle of optimism, it is hard to figure whether progress for farmed animals is actually happening in modern society. While it’s great seeing more plant-based products in local supermarkets, the amount of meat displayed in the aisles has not lessened, nor, apparently, has the amount of it exiting the stores in millions of plastic shopping bags each day.

I was thinking about the reminders of animal suffering in our daily lives, here in America – reminders so familiar that they go unnoticed by most of us – while reading about the outbreak of a new strain of contagious coronavirus in China and Hong Kong that has been traced to one or more live animal markets in the city of Wuhan in central China, where, as in all fresh-kill “wet” markets, highly stressed animals, both wild and domestic, huddle in cages and tanks awaiting their turn to be slaughtered.

The Taste for ‘Warm Meat’

A January 23rd article in The Guardian, “Appetite for ‘warm meat’ drives risk of disease in Hong Kong and China,” haunts me, as do photographs in media accounts of customers, sometimes with their children, browsing in Asian markets amid freshly killed and still living animals in garishly-lit, blood-soaked caverns that not only don’t seem to repulse anyone, but invite enthusiasm for what the customers perceive as the delectable carnage.

Is Western Society Progressive?

I’m tempted to think, “Well, at least we’ve come a long way from that,” but I don’t quite believe it. Is it moral progress to go from buying meat in a market filled with the recently beating and still beating hearts of wild and domesticated animals, to browsing over the antiseptically-doctored flesh of birds, mammals and fish at Walmart and Whole Foods from which the odors of death and the faces of the animals have been purged?

The Guardian notes that a Walmart store close to a “wet” market in China bordering Hong Kong has only a trickle of customers, compared to the shoppers who appear each day at daybreak at the market to assess the freshly-killed flesh by smell, color, and touch, and who consider “warm” meat safer to consume than “some diseased animal” chilled or frozen at Walmart.

If rural people in China and Hong Kong, who traditionally have not had refrigerators and thus by long habit prefer freshly killed animals over preserved flesh, start to prefer the Walmart experience over the wet market experience, will this be progress for animals?

George Bernard Shaw on the Custom of Atrocity

The British playwright and socialist advocate George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) said custom will reconcile people to any atrocity. Take Salisbury Maryland, the home of Perdue Farms, where a McDonald’s sits on
one side of the highway and a chicken slaughterhouse
looms on the other, surrounded by sagging truckloads of
chickens waiting on the loading dock to be killed. There
is no clear evidence that the sight of suffering in others
evokes empathy or protest in the majority of people,
and the first shock of seeing suffering can wear off. Even
if it doesn’t, people have many ways of not seeing or
caring.

False Guilt & Indifference to Animals

The fact that animals are suffering and dying for
appetites that can be satisfied by plant-based foods
makes some, perhaps many, people uncomfortable,
though not necessarily out of guilt. People get annoyed
that you’re bothering them about animals, trying to
curtail their freedom and uncover a guilt they may
or may not feel, so that some end up feeling “guilty”
because they don’t feel guilty, just vexed that they’re
being victimized.

Deborah Cao, a professor at Griffith University in
Australia and an expert on animal protection in China,
observes in The Guardian article that a deep contributor
to the continuing preference for freshly-killed animals in
China – even though China has been identified as the
source of most avian and other transmittable flu viruses
going back to the 1918 “Spanish Flu” which killed 50
million people worldwide – the biggest factor, she says,
is “the indifference or perception of people who simply
regard animals as food, tools, or as things that people
can do anything they want to. In particular, there is no
perception of farm animals as having feelings, or being
capable of feeling pain or suffering.”

Is Animal Suffering Enough to Win People
Over?

There is evidence to support the belief that most
people in modern western society recognize that other
animal species have feelings and can experience at least
pain and fear, but how much does this recognition
count in their thinking and buying behavior?

In a recent discussion with a fellow animal rights
activist, we shared our concern that animals and animal
rights still have little traction with the general public.
Animals and animal rights seem to need to be bundled
into arguments on behalf of health, taste, convenience,
cost, the environment, and other issues in order to be
heard. That said, there are, I believe, images, and not
just mirages, of light in the long slog for animals and
animal liberation. We do reach people with our message,
just not enough people yet. Hopefully, human moral
evolution is happening and animal advocates are helping
to make it happen.

Ending the Traffic in Animals

Since we are in the midst of a factual and perceptual
muddle where animals are concerned, we must do what
we can in our individual lifetimes to advocate for, and
embody to the best of our ability, the world that we
want to exist for all sentient beings and habitations
on Earth. This of course means working to end the
sorrowful traffic in animals, by weaning others and
ourselves if we’re still complicit, from choosing to
mistreat and consume animals, whether they are
obviously animals in the wet markets of traditional
culture or less obviously animals in the meat cases of
Walmart, Whole Foods and their like.
Chick Shredding, “Clean” Pet Food, Carnage

By Karen Davis, PhD, President, United Poultry Concerns

Will Killing Day-Old Male Chicks Soon Be History?

German and French ministers of Agriculture have announced that their countries expect to stop shredding newborn male chicks by December 31, 2021. The Netherlands is set to follow, and Switzerland announced a ban on chick shredding starting January this year with the exception that “smaller” Swiss egg producers may gas their chicks with carbon dioxide.

Each year, the global egg industry destroys 7 billion-plus newborn male chicks at the hatchery as soon as they are determined by the chick sexers to be roosters and thus useless, since roosters don’t lay eggs. Methods of destruction of chickens, turkeys and other unwanted birds, both male and female in all poultry sectors, include shredding (throwing them into grinding machines), carbon dioxide gassing, suffocation in plastic bags, and electrocution.

Even if chick “shredding” is banned, it does not mean that alternative methods of killing will not be employed as countries, including the United States and Canada, await the perfection of “economically feasible” technology and the assurance that markets are available for the “male eggs” in the form of processed ingredients.

Markets include feedmills, aquaculture, calf milk, zoos, fur farms and pet food producers.

Can a “Clean” Pet Food Industry Compete With Conventional Pet Food?

Benefits of an animal-meat-free diet for pets.

If a viable plant-based and cellular meat-based pet food industry were developed, it could probably compete favorably with the current pet food industry if the product was readily available, the price was right, and people would buy it.

Let’s consider the advantages of plant-based and cellular meat-based pet food, as described in a new book by three specialists in veterinary science, The Clean Pet Food Revolution: How Better Pet Food Will Change the World. Not having read the book yet, I’m relying on an interview with the authors by Marc Bekoff, PhD, posted January 8, 2020, on Psychology Today. Here’s what I learned.

A quarter of all meat consumed in the United States is eaten by our companion dogs and cats – equal to the amount of meat consumed by 26 million Americans. As more and more “pet parents” demand human-grade meats for their dogs and cats, 30 percent of intensively farmed animals are now being bred, raised and slaughtered specifically for pet food. Other hidden victims of the pet food industry are the dogs kept on “kennel farms” for use in pet food feeding trials.

The authors of The Clean Pet Food Revolution cite four key reasons for advocating a plant-based or cellular meat-based diet for dogs and cats: To improve their health since standard pet food is often contaminated; to reduce the number of chickens and other animals who end up

Newborn chicks are thrown into shredding machines for pet food.
as pet food ingredients; to help pet owners expand their circle of compassion by removing the barriers that distinguish “pets” from “food” animals; and to reduce the contribution of animal agribusiness to the human-caused climate crisis.

Novel proteins, such as cultured fungi and yeast-based dog food, along with cellular meat-based cat food, could remove some farmed animals from pet food. *The Clean Pet Food Revolution* explains why “cell-based, cultured or ‘clean’ meat has enormous potential to offer a more environmentally-friendly, sustainable, and ethical way to feed carnivorous cats.” Cellular meat-based protein, the authors contend, “is identical to animal meat in terms of nutritional composition, taste, and smell but not a single animal has to be harmed to make it.” Currently, though, slaughtered calf blood – fetal bovine serum – is the nutrient medium in which cellular meat protein is grown in most laboratories.

**Where Does All the Carnage Go?**

The blog site “There’s an Elephant in the Room” reminds us that “Despite the euphoria caused by the proliferation of plant-based dietary options in shops and restaurants, the statistics don’t bear out the wishful thinking about veganism taking over the world any time soon.” What’s more, the “entire obscene increase is being borne by chickens.”

The current population of 7.8 billion people on the planet correlates with an increase of nearly 2.2 billion animals slaughtered globally since 2017. The number of slaughtered chickens rose from 66.5 billion in 2017 to nearly 69 billion in 2018. Add to chickens the millions of turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl and other birds slaughtered for food, and the number of birds totals 73.2 billion out of 77,056,246,402 billion land animals slaughtered worldwide in 2018.

These numbers do not include all the animals who die before slaughter. In the U.S. alone, millions of chickens die prematurely in the sheds and transport trucks each year of heat suffocation, freezing temperatures, medication reactions, and diseases. Most bodies are trucked to rendering companies. Surely, agribusiness will fight to keep “clean” pet food from threatening the lucrative business of recycling the daily mortalities and oversupplies of animal flesh and hatchery “waste” that have to go somewhere.

As animal advocates, we need to understand how chick killing, pet food, and animal-free meat fit together in the overall picture. The global farmed animal enterprise produces such massive amounts of inedible and over-produced carnage that, as long as billions of people consume animal products, it will require conversion into further commercial products. That is why agribusiness loves our pets and woos pet owners with packages promising to feed our companion dogs and cats just like family.

**What Can I Do?**

As well as being vegan ourselves and getting others to join us, please explore vegan pet food options. We encourage everyone to learn all they can when considering these options. Discuss the diet with your veterinarian and learn more about vegan pet food products and nutrition from:

**Evolution Pet Foods Shop**
1081 Highway 36 East
Maplewood, MN 55109
Phone: 1-800-659-0104
Website: [www.petfoodshop.com](http://www.petfoodshop.com)

**Vegan Essentials**
Companion Animal Products
Phone: 1-866-888-3426
[www.veganessentials.com](http://www.veganessentials.com)

Hatchery photo courtesy of *The Animals Voice*
Book Review: *Voices For Animal Liberation: Inspirational Accounts By Animal Rights Activists*

By Brittany Michelson
with Foreword by Ingrid Newkirk, Founder and President of PETA

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

This 2020 book, by Skyhorse Publishing, includes color photos and bios of each contributor including color photos of animals by story contributor Jo-Anne McArthur, founder of We Animals Media.

Anyone familiar with the obstacles to obtaining and maintaining justice for marginalized human groups in mainstream society cannot be surprised at the difficulty of obtaining justice for other animal species. Contributors to this anthology recall moments of awakening to the reality of animals’ lives that immediately or eventually turned them into animal rights activists. Such moments range from coming face to face with a suffering, terrified dairy cow so intense that “at that moment I decided I had to do something,” to future activist Zafir Molina being told sarcastically by her father that she was eating the baby goat she had spent time with the day before. “Yet I continued to eat the flesh.”

*Voices For Animal Liberation* presents autobiographical stories of how personal trauma, depression, distress, dysfunction, and in some cases food and drug addictions, foster insight into the trauma of animals trapped in human systems of abuse. Actor and filmmaker Chase Avior writes, for example: “Having been subjected to bullying, I know the feeling of being scared and defenseless, and I see the same terror in the eyes of every animal headed to the slaughterhouse.”

Army veteran Jasmine Afshar describes how the desperation of trapped pigs she observed “to seek safety reminded me of some traumatic moments in my own past.”

Whether animal liberation is “on the horizon” or an ever-elusive aspiration fortified by shaky victories, the takeaway is that the liberation of oneself and of animals is a work in progress for activists determined to exemplify and deliver our “fragile message to the masses.” Many, including your friends, will dismiss you no matter how you speak about animals and veganism. They will accuse you, says JaneUnchained News journalist Dani Rukin, of “flaunting your lifestyle.” Olympic medalist Dotsie Bausch, founder of Switch4Good, is taunted by her cyclist coaches for her “plant-based BS.” She tells them: “I don’t care if I fade away on this diet . . . and for once in my life I am going to stand up for what’s right.”

**Promoting the Vegan Message**

Contributors proclaim the vegan message with respect to food and more broadly as an all-encompassing philosophy of compassion for all forms of sentient life. Veganism is no longer considered, as was once commonly claimed, a mere “personal choice.” In Rukin’s words: “it’s never just a personal choice when there’s a victim.” Still, being vegan does not suffice for activists like Natasha & Luca, who come to understand that, in addition to diet, “The victim would want us to actively intervene.”

At the same time, we need to understand our audience. Vegan activist Gwenna Hunter reminds us that people of color, for example, may resist our starting out cold with “animals are suffering.” White people have told them “you’re lower than animals,” and as one man challenges Hunter at a vegan lifestyle event, “Sister, you’re out here telling people not to eat animals, but
what are you doing for our black community? Black men are being shot in the streets.” This is why, she says, “when speaking with communities of color, I always start my conversations with health and self-love.” She reminds us that for some people, and especially for those who are struggling, “eating is the only simple pleasure they have in life.” We cannot come across as if we are telling them, “I don’t want you to have this pleasure.”

In Defense of Animal Sanctuaries

Our Hen House cofounder and Senior Features Editor for VegNews, Jasmin Singer, extols “the magical powers of storytelling.” Storytelling allows others to listen without feeling judged or being lectured to, while still being passionately urged to care about animals. In telling their stories, activists are also telling the stories of the animals whose own “trauma of an extinguished self” includes instances of recovery in a sanctuary, as when a chimpanzee named Joe, caged in an Alabama zoo for 14 years, starts climbing and swinging – “quintessential chimpanzee behavior,” says attorney Brittany Peet of PETA – as soon as he is set free in his new home.

Animal sanctuaries are defended against criticism, voiced by some who insist that resources would be better spent handing out leaflets or engaging in some other form of activism. Kathy Stevens, founder of Catskill Animal Sanctuary in upstate New York, counters: “To believe that we can usher in a vegan world without providing people the opportunity to know pigs and cows and chickens is like believing that the LGBTQ movement could have succeeded if none of us knew any gay people. . . . Further, let’s not say that as we’re marching toward our shared and glorious vision of a world free from suffering, that it’s okay to sacrifice those we could save in order to produce more leaflets.”

Bearing Witness

In keeping with this view, Anita Krajnc, founder of the Save Movement and armed with the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy’s call to bear witness, defines her strategy as “the moral duty and obligation of society to collectively bear witness and recognize the individuality of every animal, their desire and right to live a natural life, and our corresponding duty to help them. . . . The concept of bearing witness creates the opportunity to get closest to the animal standpoint, which generates the most empathy, compassion, and action. We absorb a small fraction of the animals’ pain and learn a tiny bit of their story, which we share with others to help them wake up to this reality.”

In my own contribution to the book, I describe how back in the 1970s I responded to Tolstoy’s concept of nonviolence in his essay “The First Step” by not wanting to continue eating meat, a practice I hadn’t thought about before. But it was Tolstoy’s piteous description of cows and lambs in the Moscow slaughterhouse he visited that caused me to stop eating animals immediately, confronted with the reality of what “meat” really meant.

Life-changing encounters with specific animals include pledges to them to fight for them from that moment on. Such pledges are made in moments of misery, as Jill Robinson, founder of Animals Asia, describes her encounter with a female moon bear she named Hong in a cellar of hell at a bile-extraction farm in China. These moments will affect some readers more deeply than conceptual analysis alone can do, although empathy and analysis reinforce each other and enrich this book. Amy Jean Davis, founder of Los Angeles Animal Save, writes:

I still remember the moment I first looked inside a transport truck full of baby pigs. Their skin was colored so softly and delicately, and they were looking at me with wide, terrified blue eyes. They looked like big pink dogs, crammed on top of one another, scared and confused. It felt like lightening hitting the center of my chest, as if my heart might
(continued) Book Review: *Voices For Animal Liberation: Inspirational Accounts By Animal Rights Activists*

burst from the sadness and helplessness I felt all at once. . . . To be free to walk back to my vehicle and drive home to a soft, cool bed without someone dragging me to a gas chamber. It’s a moment I will never forget.

Alex Bez of Amazing Vegan Outreach recalls his moment of meeting cows who were about to die: “As the truck rolled to a stop, I tentatively approached the side. Peering through the small holes in the metal walls, I saw gentle, furry giants staring back at me. Each of their breaths pushed small clouds of vapor out of their nostrils into the cold air. Their heads swayed back and forth, trying to see what was happening outside.”

Former investigator of farms and slaughterhouses, Matthew Braun, describes an incident in a chicken slaughterhouse. “I watched as the first chicken to reach the conveyor stood up, spread her wings, and ran. . . . She did not look scared like you might expect. In fact, she looked happy as she ran toward me. Maybe she thought that she was finally going to be free. Her happiness was short-lived, because I had to reach out, grab her by the leg, and hang her upside down in a shackel. I think about her often, and sometimes it brings me to tears. When people eat animals around me, I am reminded that somebody ate her, too.”

Dealing With Demons

“Considering a baby’s experience – just wanting her mother, but getting the rough hands of workers taking her to her death instead – how can this be the world I live in?” – Amy Jean Davis, founder of Los Angeles Animal Save

“If our destruction of the natural world, the animals, and each other persists, then obviously we are dealing with a very unsympathetic entity – ourselves.” – Shaun Monson, documentary filmmaker of *Earthlings* and *Unity*

The apathy of human society toward animals and nature, while it may be lessening, is an omnipresent reality that requires a daily renewal of commitment and a constant battle against despair. A unifying theme among the 25 voices presented in this book is the personal stamina that being part of a global animal activist community brings. In her riveting account of an open rescue of caged hens in 2015 sponsored by Direct Action Everywhere, Zoe Rosenberg, founder of Happy Hen Animal Sanctuary, describes stepping out of a battery-cage building where “We had no idea what would be waiting for us outside.” Then, “I looked up and saw hundreds of activists gathered by the other entrance.”

This experience can stand as a metaphor for the strengthening sense of purpose, relief, and gratitude that the camaraderie of our shared commitment to animals and animal liberation provides. We help each other and the animals by holding strong together. Inside each of us, a river of sadness runs; a perceptual conflict seethes. Teacher and writer Brittany Michelson, who created this powerful book, conveys our shared experience: “When I see someone excited over pizza or ice cream, I think of the calves stuck in those hutches, peering out with wide eyes, and the long low moaning reverberating across the farm. It is visuals like these that haunt me and anger me, yet also ignite my activism to greater heights.”

*Voices for Animal Liberation* simultaneously comforts and inspires us with the knowledge that we are not alone with our demons. As individuals we can contribute to the growing power of animal liberation activism around the world. Saengduean Lek Chailert, founder of Save Elephant Foundation in Southeast Asia, writes: “I am asked why I rescue the old elephant. The images of suffering should speak for themselves, yet my answer is quite simple. It is about respect. To protect them is a high calling. By doing so, we also protect and strengthen our own hearts. . . . We rescue in order to honor them, to offer a moment of respect in a tragic life.”

The rescue of a solitary animal does not solve the overwhelming problems, she admits, but to the one being rescued and the rescuer, it “means everything.”

*Order this book from Amazon, Skyhorse Publishing or Barnes & Noble.*
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 & www.iSearchiGive.com/UPC.
You can also install the iGive Toolbar 3.0 now at www.iSearchiGive.com/UPC
and help UPC get every possible donation when you shop or search online!

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 my mom, Jill Myers, who donated to United Poultry Concerns and was a true chicken lover. – Loren Myers

In loving memory of my mother, pictured here with her pet rooster from the 1920s. – Anita Menaldi

In honor of Sonja Wiersma for her love and great care of her chickens and all animals. – Wendy Perry

In loving memory of Amelia, the Turkey. – Robin Cornell

In memory of my husband Theodore. – Patricia Panitz

In memory of Emily hen. – Valerie D. Greenberg

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

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Ethologist Marc Bekoff Interviews Karen Davis About *For the Birds*

Marc Bekoff, PhD, is professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He explains:

I recently learned of a new book by Dr. Karen Davis, President and Founder of United Poultry Concerns, called *For the Birds: From Exploitation to Liberation-Essays on Chickens, Turkeys, and Other Domestic Fowl*. Having known about Dr. Davis’ groundbreaking work focusing on the well-being of “food birds,” I wanted to know more about her new book. I was thrilled she was able to spend some time answering a few questions.

Why did you write *For the Birds* and how does it follow from years working as an animal activist?

All my life, I have loved birds. Everything about birds—their feathers, their faces, their voices, the way they act—has always affected me deeply. As a child growing up in Altoona, Pennsylvania, I knew song birds, but not chickens or turkeys. Later, when I met these birds, I was immediately drawn to them, as I describe in *For the Birds*. My experience with chickens and turkeys in the 1980s led me to found United Poultry Concerns in 1990 to promote compassion and respect for domestic fowl. I subscribed to poultry industry publications to educate myself and others about the suffering these birds endure in being locked up in filthy buildings and brutally slaughtered for “food.”

As well, I wanted to influence people to perceive chickens and turkeys in their own right, apart from the categorical traps in which they are typically held captive. Getting to know chickens and turkeys through reading about them, I also got to know them personally through our sanctuary. A successful challenge to the denigration of “domestic fowl” can indisputably be made by observing and interacting with them every day as I have done for more than thirty years. I have seen over and over how, beneath their industry-inflicted traumas, they are able to revive and be happy in an environment that stimulates their evolutionary sensibilities and enthusiasms.

Who is your intended audience?

My intended audience includes animal rights advocates, avian specialists, ethologists, teachers, and
everyone who cares about and would like to learn more about chickens and turkeys through a lens that illuminates their lives. My book is for everyone who shares my belief that birds are amazing individuals and citizens of our planet who deserve our compassion, understanding, respect, and awe.

**What are some of your main messages and how can they be put into practice?**

*For the Birds* incorporates key messages through themes I’ve pursued throughout my career. There is the theme of people literally consuming chickens and other animals, including the mental and physical suffering these animals endure on their way to being turned into food. There is the theme of belittling birds and other animal species, especially those destined for the table. This includes caricaturing them in ways that make it seem almost as if they “deserved” the punishments we heap on them in the lexicon of abuses that parallel and reinforce the literal abuses we dispense.

There is the theme of who chickens and turkeys are in and of themselves within their own worlds of experience and expression as revealed in circumstances that are as free as possible from the preconceptions that distort our perception of them. The figure of Procrustes came to mind one day as I was reading the summary of a talk by an agribusiness professor that distinguishes between the “science-based” view of animals and the “sentimentalized,” a.k.a. anthropomorphic, view. Procrustes is a tyrant in Greek mythology who keeps an iron bed on which he places his victims after stretching or shrinking the bed in advance to reshape them to reflect his will. If they are too short, he stretches them to size. If too tall, he amputates their excess length. Rhetorically and literally, exploiters do this to animals all the time. What I call the “procrustean solution” is the false kind of anthropomorphism that consists of “re-forming” individuals and groups destructively in order to have your way with them, and attributing your way to their will.

As for practical steps, I urge animal advocates to avoid rhetorical traps that can cause us to replicate and perpetuate the demeaning stereotypes from which we seek to rescue chickens and turkeys as part of our overall goal of rescuing them from the jaws of humanity. An example is comparing cognitively mature animals of other species to cognitively challenged human adults and cognitively undeveloped children. These types
of analogies are absurd and unjust to animals. I call on animal advocates never to “apologize” for animals or for caring about them, and to hone a posture of affirmation worthy of those for whom we have chosen to speak. Facts matter and confidence matters. Keeping faith is essential. The rhetoric of exploitation requires a counter rhetoric of animal liberation. That is what *For the Birds* seeks to deliver on its promise to the birds and all creatures that we will continue our crusade on their behalf until they are freed, and free.

**Are you hopeful?**

The emotion inspired in me by chickens and turkeys that informs my writings is inseparable from the analytical perspective that I bring to a consideration of their lives. Focusing on my personal life with these birds over many years and on the injuries inflicted on them by people in countless ways, I would like to be able to share the optimism of those who believe that human beings as a whole will eventually, or already do deep inside, experience a fellowship with them more potent than the overt attitudes that overshadow the primal sympathies.

**What would you like to see in the future?**

I would like to see a world in which ethics and intelligence come together in humans to facilitate the best life possible for every being in every habitat on Earth. I want to see a world in which human beings value birds and other creatures free from an exploitative point of view. I want to see a world in which the slaughterhouse and its satellite operations are gone. I long for a world in which no chicken or turkey (or anyone) ever wakes up again in a nightmare that never ends for them until death. This is the basis of the work I do every day and would do even if it were foretold that the daily doom we inflict on birds and other beings was written into eternity. I want to see a world in which human food is animal-free. I prefer that this miracle should happen overnight.

**Last word to readers**

I encourage every interested person to purchase a copy of *For the Birds* and read, ponder, and share its message. I encourage everyone who cares about birds to join United Poultry Concerns and support our work. Whatever you do, don’t be shy. Stick up for chickens and turkeys. Make a place for them in your heart instead of your mouth—except as their advocate.

– Karen Davis

**Order Now! $20 includes shipping.**

Send check or money order to:
United Poultry Concerns
PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405
Or order online at
[www.upc-online.org/merchandise](http://www.upc-online.org/merchandise)

Give a gift of *For the Birds* to your local library!
International Respect for Chickens Day May 4

“Please do an ACTION for Chickens in May!”

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

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

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

Thank you for making every day Respect for Chickens Day!

Bus & Rail Ads: Kindness is Contagious - Live Vegan - Wash Your Hands of Animal Suffering

In celebration of International Respect for Chickens Day, UPC is running our new bus & rail ads “Kindness is Contagious - Live Vegan - Wash Your Hands of Animal Suffering” in Minneapolis, Minnesota through the month of May.
Our Ninth Annual Conscious Eating Conference in Berkeley, CA - Making Connections: Overlapping Oppressions (February 29, 2020) - was a huge success! You can view each presentation by going to www.upc-online.org/forums/2020/videos.html.
UPC 30-Year
Anniversary Vegan Cake

Carol Adams, Karen Davis & Patti Breitman

Forum attendees enjoy a break.

Vegan Donuts!
Eggplant Tacos With Pico de Gallo

Recipe by Danielle and Laura Kosann (slightly modified)

For the pico de gallo
• 1 pound plum tomatoes
• ¼ cup finely diced white onion
• 1 large jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
• 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice, plus lime wedges for serving
• ½ teaspoon kosher salt

For the tacos
• 8 corn tortillas
• 2 pounds eggplant (preferably small), cut lengthwise into ¼-inch slices
• ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
• ½ teaspoon kosher salt
• ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
• 2 teaspoons ground coriander
• 1 teaspoon ground cumin

1. For the pico de gallo: Hull the tomatoes, then cut them in quarters from top to bottom. Scoop out and discard the seeds. Finely chop the tomatoes and place them in a medium bowl. Add the onion, jalapeño, lime juice and salt; toss to combine. Taste, and add more salt, as needed.

2. For the tacos: Position the oven rack 6 inches from the broiler element; preheat to broil.

3. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat each tortilla for about 30 seconds on each side until starting to lightly spot and puff. Wrap in aluminum foil to keep warm until ready to serve.

4. Arrange the eggplant slices in a single layer on two rimmed baking sheets. Mix the oil, salt, pepper, coriander and cumin, and then brush on each side of the eggplant. Transfer one baking sheet to the oven; broil the eggplant until deeply browned, 3-4 minutes, then flip the slices and broil until browned on the second sides. Repeat with second batch.

5. Transfer the eggplant slices to a cutting board and cut the slices crosswise into strips.

6. When ready to serve the tacos, divide the eggplant among the tortillas, and place the pico de gallo and lime wedges on the table.
**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”

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

**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

**T-shirts** Too Neat to Eat (Hen & Egg or Rooster) • Give a Cluck. Go Vegan! • What Wings Are For • Available in Unisex (S, M, L, XL) or Ladies (S, M, L, XL) $20

**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
**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 Home for Henny**

*By Karen Davis*

Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. *A Home for Henny* explores the challenges and concerns with school hatching projects while evoking the lively personality of Henny and her loving relationship with Melanie. $6.99

**The Great Cage Escape**

*Grades 4-7. By Louise Van Der Merwe*

The birds in a pet shop think they are happy until a brown box punched full of air holes is left overnight on their front door step. The creature inside looks very weird at first. But as his feathers begin to grow, his true identity becomes apparent, and the stories he tells inspire the pet shop birds to pull off a Great Cage Escape. This is a story that encourages respect for all forms of life and helps learners realize that heaven can be right here on earth if we choose to make it so. $4.95

**Goosie’s Story**

*By Louise Van Der Merwe*

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

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

*By Roberta Kalechofsky*

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

**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

**Minnny’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**
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

'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

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

Where’s the Turkey?
by Caroline Jones

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”.

**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.

**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.
Farming production systems at home and World Bank-supported operations abroad rely on multiple veterinary vaccinations and feeding animals antibiotics and other drugs to boost productivity and control diseases under the inhumane, stressful and disease promoting conditions under which they are raised. – Veterinary specialist Dr. Michael W. Fox, “What Corona Virus Covid-19 is Telling Us.”