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Poultry Press

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl

Celebrating 30 years of dedicated activism for domestic fowl

United Poultry Concerns

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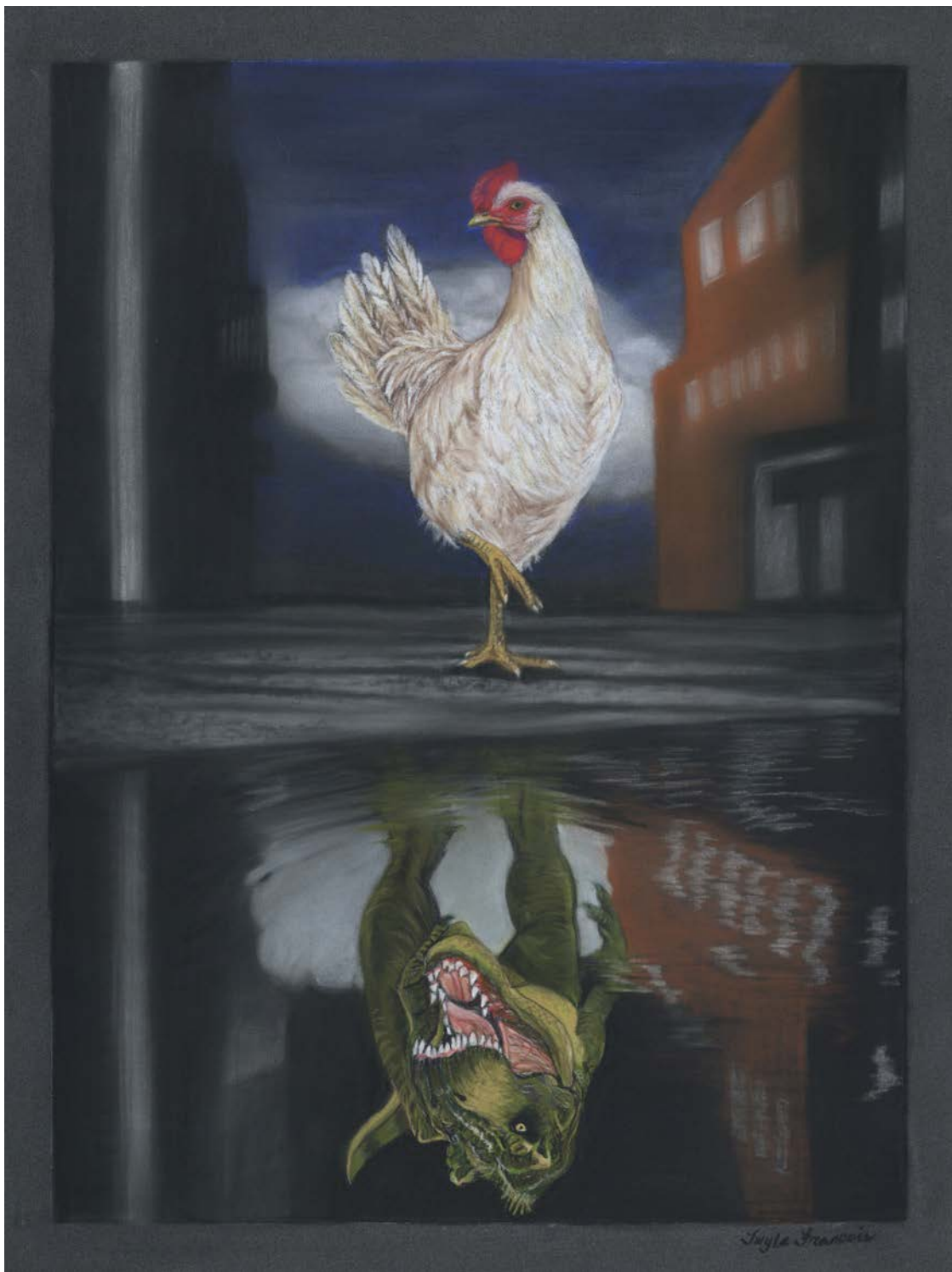
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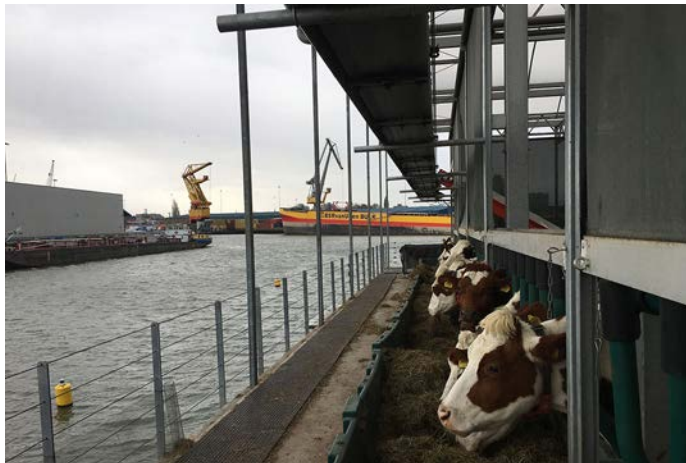
New research has concluded "that modern chickens and other fowl are living fossils." The New York Times, March 18, 2020. Foreseeing the fate that lay before them, primeval chickens might well have chosen to disappear with the dinosaurs they're believed to have descended from.

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.



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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

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

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Wet Markets or Walmart? Animal Consumption & the Coronavirus

This article was first published on January 30, 2020 on the Animals24-7.org website.



People buy meat at a butchers' shop at the Bowrington Road food market in Hong Kong.
Photo by Grant Rooney/Alamy

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

Reminders of Animal Suffering in Daily Life

Part 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



Collage by Beth Clifton, Animals 24-7

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?



Newborn chicks are thrown into shredding machines for pet food.

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?

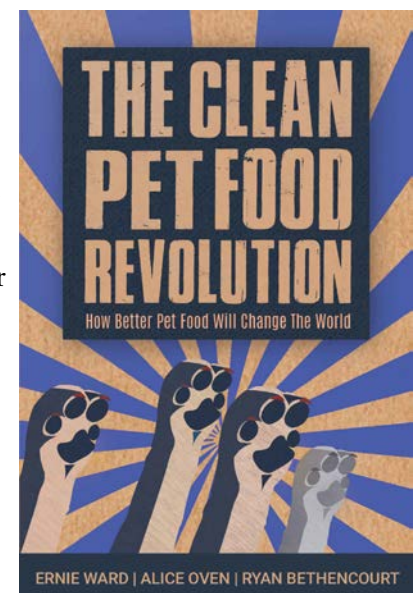
Benefits of an animal-meat-free diet for pets.

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



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

Vegan Essentials

[Companion Animal Products](http://www.veganessentials.com)

Phone: 1-866-888-3426
www.veganessentials.com



“Let us not be born.”

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

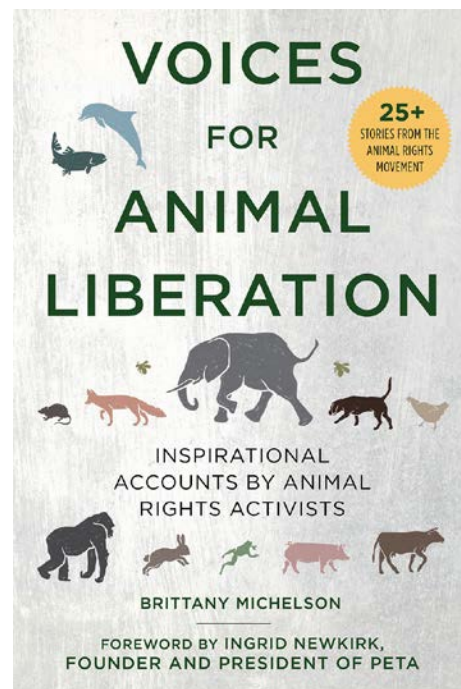
to exemplify and deliver our "fragile message to the masses." Many, including your friends, will dismiss you no matter how you speak about animals and veganism. They will accuse you, says *JaneUnchained* News journalist Dani Rukin, of "flaunting your lifestyle." Olympic medalist Dotsie

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



Photo by Jo-Anne McArthur/We Animals

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 shackle. 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.

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*



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!

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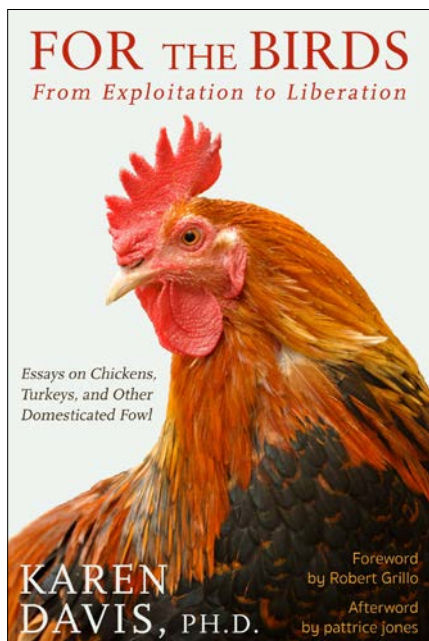


Ethologist Marc Bekoff Interviews Karen Davis

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.



Amelia in her nesting place.

Who is your intended audience?

My intended audience includes animal rights advocates, avian specialists, ethologists, teachers, and



Photo by David Harp

Modern chicken house in the United States.

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



Photo by Susan Rayfield

From rotting in cages to roosting in branches, former battery hens enjoy life at United Poultry Concerns.

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

(continued) Ethologist Marc Bekoff Interviews Karen Davis About *For the Birds*

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:

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PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405

Or order online at

www.upc-online.org/merchandise

Give a gift of *For the Birds* to your local library!

A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS

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

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

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

We welcome inquiries.

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



Karen & Mr. Frizzle ©2008 Davida G. Breier

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.



Ruby & Ivy, photo: Jim Robertson

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

What Wings Are For!

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.



Conscious Eating Conference 2020 Videos

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.



Karen Davis



Carol Adams



Jasmine Leyva

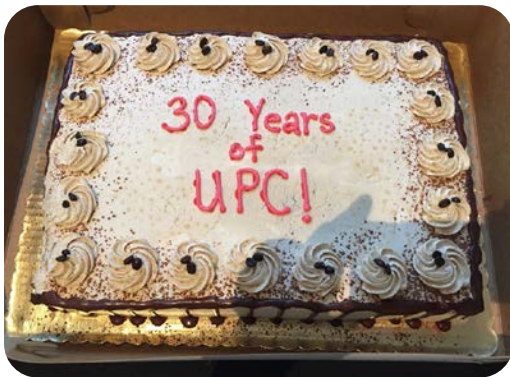


Christopher Sebastian McJeters





lauren Ornelas



UPC 30-Year Anniversary Vegan Cake



Carol Adams, Karen Davis & Patti Breitman



Forum attendees enjoy a break.



Vegan Donuts!

*Vegan Recipe Corner***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.

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



Photo by Liqin Cao

POSTCARDS

20 for \$4.00, 40 for \$7.50



"Love is Best"



"Peaceable Kingdom"



"Chickens - To Know Them is to Love Them"



"Misery is Not a Health Food"

FACT SHEETS

20 for \$3.00

- "Viva, the Chicken Hen / Chickens Raised for Meat"
- "Jane-one tiny chicken foot"
- "Starving Poultry for Profit" (forced molting)
- "Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation"
- "The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay" (free-range egg production)
- "Intensive Poultry Production: Fouling the Environment"
- "Philosophic Vegetarianism: Acting Affirmatively for Peace"
- "The Rhetoric of Apology in Animal Rights"
- "Providing a Good Home for Chickens"
- "Chicken Talk: The Language of Chickens"
- "Celebrate Easter Without Eggs"
- "Chicken for Dinner: It's Enough To Make You Sick"
- "Guide to Staffing Tables: Do's & Don'ts"
- "Henny's New Friends"
- "Avoiding Burnout"
- "The Life of One Battery Hen"
- "Bird Flu - What You Need to Know"
- "How I Learned the Truth About Eggs"

"Peeper the Turkey, a Story of Endless Love"

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

BROCHURES

20 for \$3.00

- "A Wing & A Prayer" (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"

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Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Get the Slaughterhouse out of your Kitchen.
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Turkeys are Friends, Not Food • End Chickens as Kaporos
Be Kind to Turkeys - Don't Gobble Me



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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

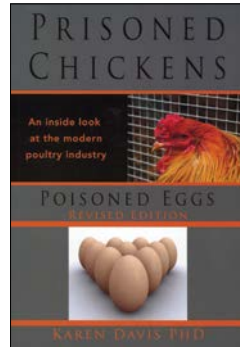


BOOKS

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

By Karen Davis

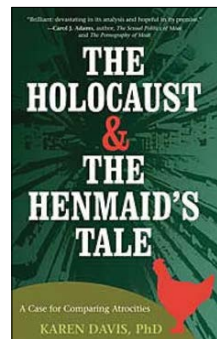
This newly revised edition of *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs* looks at avian influenza, food poisoning, chicken suffering, genetic engineering, and the growth of chicken rights activism since the 1990s. Presents a compelling argument for a compassionate plant-based cuisine. "Riveting . . . Brilliant." - *Choice magazine, American Library Association* \$14.95. 40% off bulk orders of 5 (\$8.97 each) = \$44.85 for 5.



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

By Karen Davis

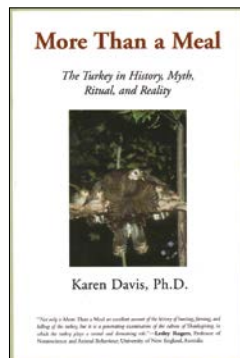
In this thoughtful and thought-provoking contribution to the study of animals and the Holocaust, Karen Davis makes the case that significant parallels can – and must – be drawn between the Holocaust and the institutionalized abuse of billions of animals on factory farms. "Compelling and convincing .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



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

By Karen Davis

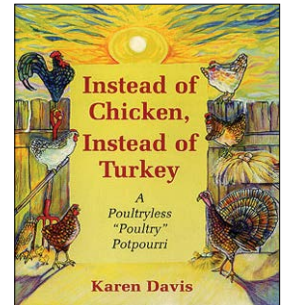
Karen Davis shows how turkeys in the wild have complex lives and family units, and how they were an integral part of Native American and continental cultures and landscape before the Europeans arrived, while drawing larger conclusions about our paradoxical relationship with turkeys, all birds and other animals including other human beings. "The turkey's historical disfigurement is starkly depicted by Karen Davis in 'More Than a Meal.'" - *The New Yorker* \$14.95



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

By Karen Davis

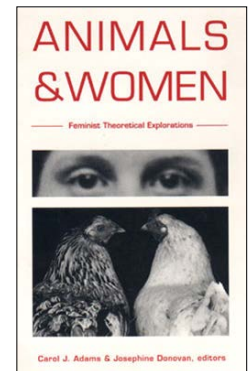
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95



Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations

Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

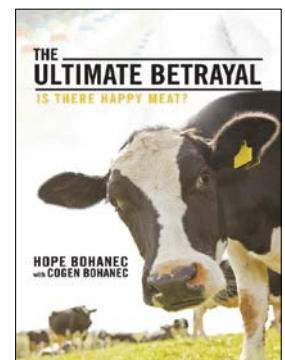
"Karen Davis's brilliant essay [Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals and The Feminine Connection] brings together the book's central concepts, leading to conclusions that rightly should disturb feminists and animal advocates alike." - Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in *The Animals' Agenda*. \$16.95



The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat?

By Hope Bohanec

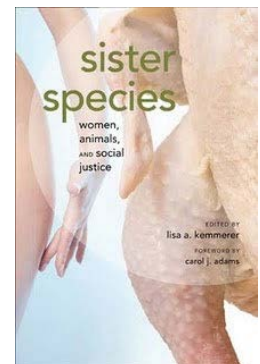
The Ultimate Betrayal lifts the veil of secrecy surrounding animal farming, offering a rare look inside the world of alternative animal agriculture. \$14.95



Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice

Edited by Lisa Kemmerer, Forward by Carol J. Adams

Sister Species presents the experiences of fourteen women activists who are working on behalf of non-human animals and a more just and compassionate world. \$14.95



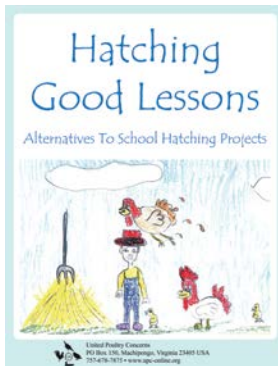
CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Hatching Good Lessons: Alternatives To School Hatching Projects

By *United Poultry Concerns*

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

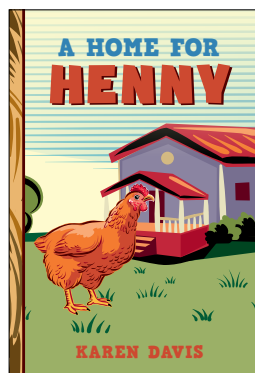
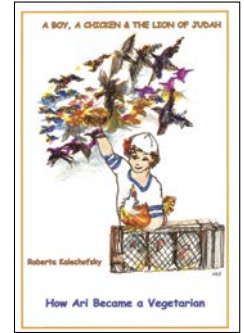
www.upc-online.org/hatching/.



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

By *Roberta Kalechofsky*

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



A Home for Henny

By *Karen Davis*

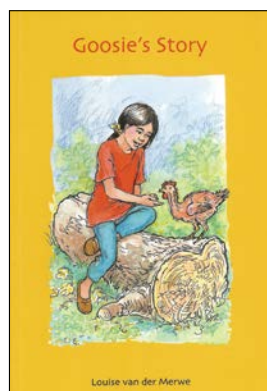
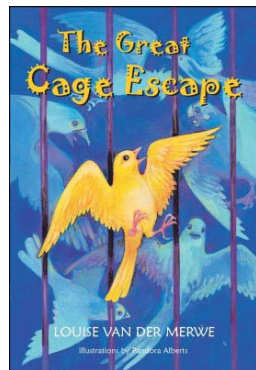
Melanie is a 3rd grader who is excited about a chick hatching project in her class at school. The project seemed like a good idea at first, but unexpected problems arise and the whole class learns a lesson in compassion. When the project is over, Melanie adopts one of the chicks she names Henny. *A Home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

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

The Great Cage Escape

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

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



Goosie's Story

By *Louise Van Der Merwe*

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



Dave Loves Chickens

By *Carlos Patino*

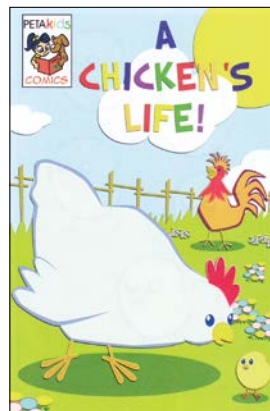
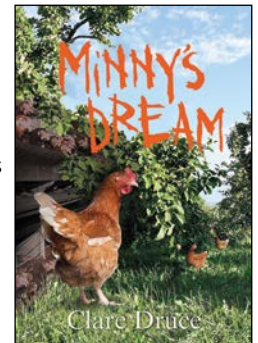
Dave is a quirky monster from another planet who loves chickens and all animals on Earth. He encourages people to share his love and not eat any

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

Minnie's Dream

By *Clare Druce*

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



A Chicken's Life!

Grades 4-6. *PETAkids Comics*

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

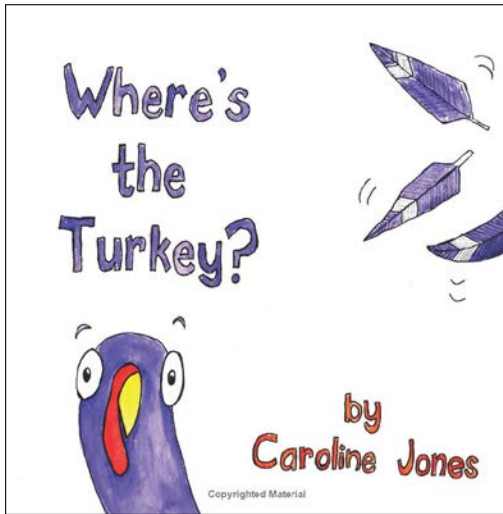
words including barn, beak, cluck, feathers, grass, hatch, peck, peep, wings, and lots more. \$1.50 each. 10 for \$10.

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

(continued) CHILDREN’S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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

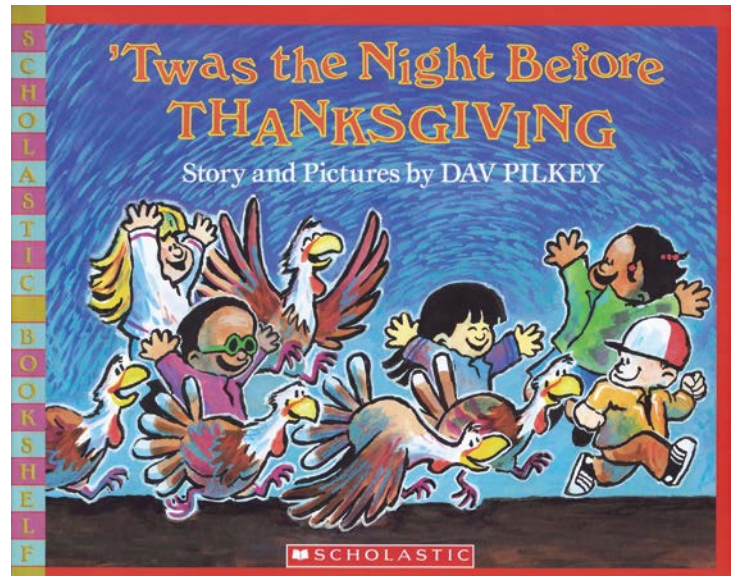
– Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns



'Twas the Night Before THANKSGIVING

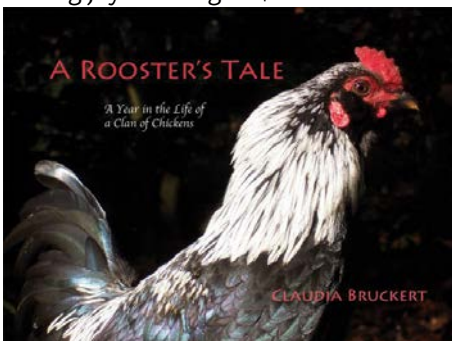
Story and Pictures by Dav Pilkey, Scholastic Book Shelf

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



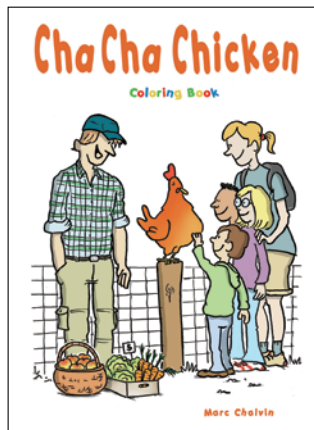
A Rooster’s Tale: A Year in the Life of a Clan of Chickens, by Claudia Bruckert,

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



Cha Cha Chicken Coloring Book By Marc Chalvin

Narrated by Cha Cha the hen, this book invites children to visit Green Farm sanctuary and learn about the happy animals who live there. Written by Marian Hailey-Moss and illustrated by Marc Chalvin, Cha Cha shows children that chickens are people too and invites them to color their world beautiful! *Cha Cha Chicken Coloring Book* is a delightful gift for children K-3. \$10



Chickens at Play

By United Poultry Concerns

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



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

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



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



POSTERS



International Respect for Chickens Day

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



A Heart Beats in Us the Same as in You

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



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

Friends, Not Food

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



WHAT WINGS ARE FOR



CHICKS NEED THEIR MOTHERS

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

Walking to Freedom After a Year in Cages

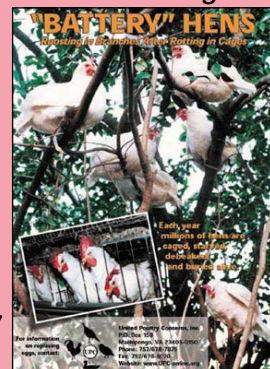
Photo by Dave Clegg. Full color, 18"x22" poster.



"Battery" Hens

Roosting in Branches After Rotting in Cages

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



Great Turkeys Poster!

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

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

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INSIDE

Celebrating 30 Years!
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Floating Animal Farms
Voices for Animal Liberation
Interview: "For the Birds"
Conscious Eating Conference
Freddaflower Fund
Recipe Corner & More!

*Wishing You a Safe & Healthy Summer
Please renew your membership for 2020*



Masked Chickens. Collage by Beth Clifton

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."