Poultry Press

Celebrating 24 years of dedicated activism for domestic fowl

Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl





United Poultry Concerns

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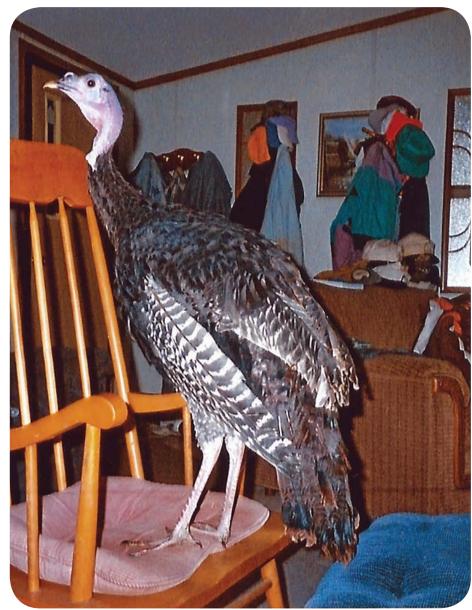


Photo of Peeper by Kathryn King

Every morning when we got up (he slept on the sofa), I would go to the living room to greet him. As soon as he saw me, he would put his face straight in the air to have me give him kisses up and down his soft and tender neck, and then I would give him a big hug, and he would be satisfied and start his day.

Turkeys Are Too Neat to Eat

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns & author of *More Than a Meal: The Turkey* in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality. Order Now!



Karen & Florence at UPC

grew up in Blair County, Pennsylvania, where sport hunting was expected of men and boys. Schools closed on the first day of deer season, and probably still do. My father, a trial lawyer and Blair County District Attorney, hunted rabbits as well as ring-necked pheasants who were pen-raised and handfed strictly to be released and shot, helpless and bewildered, in the woods for sport. My father said he didn't hunt deer because he didn't want to have to lug them to the car. His defense of rabbit hunting was "everything hunts the rabbit."

My father and his friends hunted grouse, squirrels, and small birds, but I don't recall anything about turkeys. Maybe they were "too big."

My first encounter with turkeys took place in the 1980s at a sanctuary in Avondale, Pennsylvania, where I worked one summer as a volunteer. The turkeys I met at the sanctuary were not wild. They all came from the meat industry. There was a flock of white turkey hens, about twenty, and two bronze turkeys named Milton and Doris.

One of the things that impressed me then, and has stayed in my mind ever since, was the way the turkeys' voices, their "yelps," floated about the place in what seemed like an infinitely plaintive refrain. Another was how one or more of the turkey hens would suddenly sit down beside me in the midst of my work, rigid and quivering, with her wings stiff and her head held high, awaiting my attention.

The faces of turkeys are fine-boned, and their eyes are large, dark, and almond-shaped. Doris, the bronze hen, wandered about the farmyard all day by herself like an eternal embodiment of a "lost call," the call of a young turkey who has strayed from its mother to locate and rejoin the family. Doris had a large, soft breast that felt sad to me whenever I picked her up. Milton, the male turkey, followed me and others around the yard on his thick gouty legs and swollen feet. (One of the many cruelties of turkeys bred for the meat industry is that they can hardly walk due to the overweight pressing on their legs and hips, yet turkeys evolved in nature to walk and run speedily on their long, strong legs up the sides of mountains, over meadows and straight across streams. Wild turkeys are swimmers as well!)

Milton's dark eyes watched us from inside a bristling armor of iridescent brown feathers and pendant, heavily wrinkled pouches of folded head and facial skin of varying, shifting colors of emotion that to this day makes me think of a body with its soul imprisoned deep inside. He plodded behind people, stopping when they stopped, resuming his ponderous tread as they took up their feet again. He would stop before you, or appear unexpectedly at your back, manifesting himself almost scarily at times, decked out in his full array, his tail in a fabulous wheel, his wing ends dragging stiffly.

Like the hens in their starched white wing skirts, crouched and quivering exactly where you were shoveling the muck, he awaited your response, and like them he would try, try again, patiently holding his ground until attention was paid. This was how I came to know turkeys and become their advocate.

Karen Davis

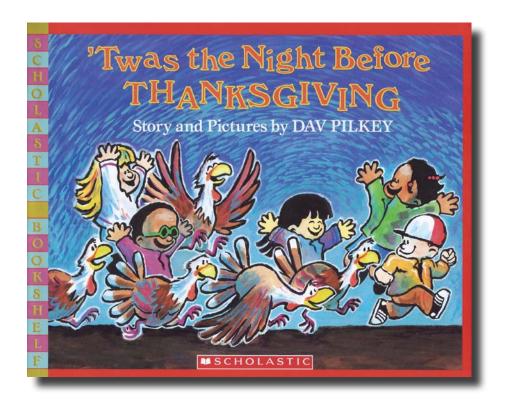


Turkeys Can Swim!

New from UPC!

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

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



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

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Poultry Press

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United Poultry Concerns Has a Beautiful New Outdoor Aviary for our Birds!

"One day in May I said to our sanctuary assistant Wayne Wills, a building contractor, how I wished we could enclose our entire chicken sanctuary in a predator-proof aviary that would disturb the trees and bushes inside as little as possible. By September, my wish had come true! Together, Wayne and his helper Donovan worked through the summer to create a 12,000 square foot outdoor aviary for our birds, thanks to a generous contribution from one of our kind supporters. Our birds love their world of sunshine, foliage, earth and shade, and I love the fact that they can be outside all day without fear of a fox, raccoon, hawk, possum or owl ever getting inside. And I love the beauty of the work." - Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns







UPC sanctuary photos by Karen Davis

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

Ezra the Rooster One Year Later – From Sacrifice to

Saving Grace

zra was first seen on Christmas Eve last year on a freezing day in Chicago in a cemetery. His legs were bound together and he was covered with ribbons, a doll and a piece of raw meat. A week later, on New Year's Eve, the person who had first seen him and called the police discovered Ezra still lying in the cemetery tied to the same tombstone in the blistering cold. Suffering from severe frostbite, Ezra underwent surgery in January to remove his feet and part of a leg infected with gangrene. Someone had also hacked off part of his upper beak. His prognosis was grim.

October 26, 2014

Hi Karen,

As promised, I am getting back to you with an update on Ezra. He's doing great! He has become very attached to Melissa Summer-Pena, his caregiver here in Chicago. He loves to cuddle with her and he coos after her when she leaves the room. He also cleverly mocks people who laugh and sneeze! He responds by mimicking what he hears from others. Ezra's mobility is very impressive for someone who

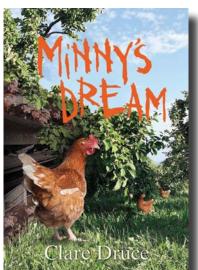


Ezra serenades Melissa while she works!

had his feet amputated almost 8 months ago. Callouses have grown over his stumps and he no longer develops sores there. Ezra now has a close chicken companion named Louise. He is sweet, happy, friendly, much loved, loving – and very vocal!

Robert Grillo, Executive Director of Free from Harm

Minny's Dream: The Story of a "Battery" Hen Who Escaped with "A Little Help from Her Friend." Order Now!



Minny's Dream, by Chickens' Lib founder Clare Druce, is a powerful and moving story about a young girl's encounter with a "battery hen" named Minny, who begs her friend Paula to set her free. Should Paula help Minny and risk being arrested? Risk her parents' wrath? Minny's "dream" is the caged hen's "ancestral memory" of who she really is and how she was meant to live, told in her own words.

Minny's Dream dramatizes the story of the plight of chickens from the tropical forest to the battery cage and the moral issues involved in whether *to rescue or not to rescue. "Paula knows she must stand up for what she believes in, but can she succeed against the odds?"*

Order by check or money order for \$10 from UPC, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405, or by credit card at www.upc-online.org.

Freddaflower Memorial & Appreciation Fund

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

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

Dear Friends, please accept the enclosed donation in memory of our sweet kitty, Leila the Nutsobunny. We called her Nutsobunny because she would run around the house for 15 minutes at a time, then pounce on floating dust motes. We miss our intelligent and loving kitty. – *Farrell Winter*

Our donation is in memory of our beloved parakeet, Sharon, who passed away on October 19, 2014, at the age of eleven. – *Joanne Douglas Lampe and Raymond Lampe*

In memory of my dear friend, Gail Tager, who passed away on January 12, 2014 after a difficult and

courageous battle with cancer. Gail is greatly missed by her many friends, family members and colleagues. – Margaret Kenan Carpenter

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*

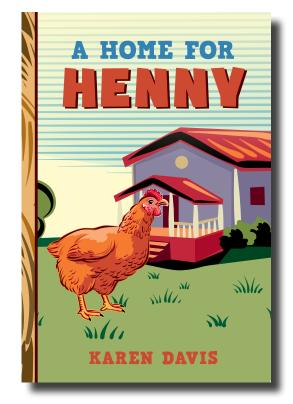


Ligin Cao and Freddaflower

A Home for Henny by Karen Davis – Brand New Edition! \$6.99. 5 copies for \$15. Order Now!

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.

Do you have elementary school-age children at home? Nieces or Nephews? Friends with children? *A Home for Henny* is the perfect story to teach children compassion for chickens and why chick-hatching programs don't belong in our schools. Donate a copy (or several!) to your local elementary schools and the children's section of your local libraries.



Fire Protection for Farmed Animals: Keep Up the Pressure!



S&R Egg Farm, La Grange, WI Photo: WGN.org, Feb. 2, 2014

espite overwhelming public support for fire protection for farmed animals, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) –"The Authority on Fire, Electrical & Building Safety" – is not yet hearing the cries of millions of chickens, turkeys, pigs and other animals trapped in the burning buildings from which their only escape is through death by asphyxiation and being burned alive. So far this year, over 400,000 farmed animals – mainly chickens – have died in burning buildings in the United States – and these are just the fires that have been reported. For example:

- ✓ Jan. 2014, 300,000 chickens at the S&R Egg Farm in La Grange, Wisconsin died in a building fire.
- ✓ Jan. 2014, 3,700 pigs at New Horizons Farms near Hardwick, Minnesota died in a building fire.
- Feb. 2014, 1,000 pigs near Lafayette, Minnesota died in a building fire.
- Nov. 4, 2014, 20,000 chickens at Longenecker Farm near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania died in a building fire.

The buildings in which these animals are trapped do not have sprinklers or smoke control systems. The NFPA is in a position to reject the U.S. agribusiness lobby's claim that installing sprinklers and smoke control systems in farmed animal housing facilities is too expensive. Nothing shows more clearly the extent to which agribusiness does not care about these poor animals. Nothing shows more clearly how important it is that the NFPA use its authority to mandate fire protection for farmed animals, the same as it does for animals, for example, in zoos.

In an email to United Poultry Concerns on October 17, 2014, Dawn Bellis, Secretary of the NFPA Standards Council, replied to our inquiry about the status of their deliberations on fire protection for "Category B" animals (farmed animals) that the Second Draft Report of NFPA 150, including all public comments submitted to them this year, will be included within the Report of NFPA 150, Standard for Fire & Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities. The Report will be available for viewing on January 16, 2015 at www.nfpa.org/150next. We will update our members as information becomes available.

What Can I Do?

The NFPA has a set of fundamental principles already in place:

The requirements of NFPA 150 recognize the following fundamental principles: (1) Animals are sentient beings with a value greater than that of simple property. (2) Animals, both domesticated and feral, lack the ability of self-preservation when housed in buildings and other structures. (3) Current building, fire, and life safety codes do not address the life safety of the animal occupants. The requirements found in NFPA 150 are written with the intention that animal housing facilities will continue to be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the applicable building, fire, and life safety codes.

Please write a polite letter to the NFPA urging that the standards applicable to other categories of animals be adopted on behalf of Category B animals (farmed animals), the largest number of fire victims in the United States each year. Request a written response to your plea on behalf of these animals. No animal should ever have to die in a preventable fire.

Contact: Dawn Bellis, Secretary

NFPA Standards Council

National Fire Protection Association

1 Batterymarch Park Quincy, MA 02169 Email: dballicentra

Pessimism Versus Negativity in Animal Activism

By Karen Davis, PhD, President of United Poultry Concerns

"Do you think we're winning?"

"I don't know. Yes. YES."

hat would be me, a 31 year veteran of the animal advocacy movement responding to a question I've been asked, and have asked myself, dozens of times through the years, hopefully, doubtfully, anxiously . . .

I view animal advocacy as a kind of public performance where we bring forth our deepest feelings and most passionate desires for animals to audiences of one or of many. Whatever our private despair reflecting the harsh reality for animals in this world, in the moment of advocacy we stand ready



Karen Davis in the 1990s leafleting for chickens

to make practical use of our knowledge, our passion, our goals for animals, and defy the portents. As animal rights activists we may be pessimists, but we cannot be negative.

Pessimism is a philosophic assessment of the world and its prospects. Pessimism of the intellect does not conflict with passionate advocacy for animals, but negativity does. Negativity brings dispiritedness into an area where it least belongs. Pessimism is not synonymous with defeatism, but negativity is, and defeatism is a contagious disease.

Negativity says we're never going to win, people are never going to be vegetarian let alone vegan, little or nothing has changed in 30 years of animal rights

activism and most people are always going to eat animals so we might as well just ask them to limit their intake to the ones who have been made to suffer a little less miserably. Negativity says animal rights activists should focus attention on health and the environment instead of animals because people only care about themselves.

These are some examples of negativity. I'm sure you can think of others . . .

Negativity acts as a self-fulfilling prophecy bolstering the pessimist worldview. But pessimist worldview holders cannot succumb to the negativity that justifies pessimism – not if the pessimist is an animal rights activist. The last thing animals need from an animal activist is the negation of hope for them.

Being positive is not about being all smiley-face, but about affirmation and ethical courage for animals. It is about keeping faith with those we have pledged to fight for, win or lose, no matter who says or does what. Here is a story of courage for animals by Lauren Gazzola from her article on The Dodo website that struck a chord with me. Maybe it will with you too. She writes:

"In recent years, I have been trying more and more to shift my veganism from a personal choice and a passive boycott to a socially meaningful, active protest.

"As part of this, I have been less and less willing to eat with people while they are eating animals.

"I started with my family, asking them to please let me know if they plan to be eating meat at a meal, because I would prefer not to join.

"But I am human, which is to say imperfect and complicated, as sensitive to social pressure and conflicting desires as anyone else.

"And one night last summer, I agreed to join my family at a restaurant where I knew they would be ordering meat.

"Some of the people I would be dining with live far away and I see them infrequently, and I wanted badly to see them as much as I could for the short time they were in town.

"So I went.

"But as the waiter took orders for veal and chicken and fish, I realized I could not stay there.

"'I'm sorry,' I told them. 'I really can't do this,' and

I got up, walked to another table, and had my meal by myself.

"Getting up from that table, walking the 30 or 40 steps across the restaurant, and turning my back on people I love was much harder than walking into prison.

"It required more boldness than defending property destruction and more confidence than taking on evil corporations.

"Similarly, shattering the veneer of consensus in

order to make impertinent points about violence against animals will require much more bravery than marching in step with the drums of animal welfare.

"But this is the kind of radicalism we need now.

"And if we all have faith, in ourselves and in our moral position, if we refuse to repress our own voices and, instead, say what we mean, we will be able to accomplish things for animals that right now seem hopelessly out of reach."

2013: Slaughter of the Innocent

The billions of land animals slaughtered for food in the United States are only a portion of the total number who die here, as millions die of stress and diseases before ever reaching the slaughterhouse. Neither do these numbers include animals who are slaughtered abroad then shipped to the U.S., although they do include those slaughtered here for sale abroad. These

numbers provide a snapshot of the victims slaughtered for food in this country in 2013:

24,575,000 ducks 33,354,600 cattle 112,147,900 pigs 239,386,000 turkeys 8,648,756,000 chickens

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

UPC Activists Rally to Eliminate Chickens in Kaporos Rituals

"Animal cruelty protests, legal actions continue over Jewish 'Kapporos' ritual," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*



Karen Davis holds the young chicken Alliance activist Dawn Ladd named Starlet during our Press Briefing in Brooklyn, Oct. 1, 2014. That's Dawn raising a sign behind Karen on the left. Alliance activist Rina Deych is on the extreme right.

"We are here to draw attention to the fact that chickens are needlessly being subjected to extreme cruelty by Kaporos practitioners, all while numerous health laws are being broken," Karen Davis, president of United Poultry Concerns, told the crowd. – Brooklyn Daily Eagle

he Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos – a project of United Poultry Concerns – hosted three two-hour protests and a press briefing in the Crown Heights district of Brooklyn, New York this year in response to the inhumane "swinging" and slaughtering of chickens in Kaporos rituals the week before Yom Kippur (October 3, 2014), the Jewish Day of Atonement.

Kaporos, meaning "atonements," is a custom observed by many but not all ultraorthodox communities in New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles, Florida, Jerusalem and elsewhere these communities are located. It is a public ritual conducted under tents erected on sidewalks and school grounds, in parking lots or fenced yards. "It can be a small rickety affair or a humongous horror show like the one in Crown Heights. It goes on for hours, often all night until dawn, as one chicken after another is pulled from a crate, waved over the head of the adult practitioner, infant or child, and then slaughtered," Karen Davis wrote in her oped article, "Stop this chicken torture," published by the

New York Daily News on Oct. 1, 2014.

Though claimed to be given to "the poor," most of the birds are stuffed dead and alive in plastic trash bags for city sanitation workers to haul to landfills. "The cries of the chickens rise above the scene of carnage and mayhem in the streets until all of them are dead or are left dying in dumpsters," said Davis in her *New York Daily News* oped.

"In 2010, I founded the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos, after witnessing years of Kaporos horrors," Davis told the press this year. "As more and more animal rights activists get involved, and with legal challenges in the works, many Orthodox rabbis are publicly condemning Kaporos on grounds of animal cruelty and sacrilege."

Kaporos Practitioners Violate Animal Cruelty Laws and Public Health Codes

The fact that the sale and slaughter of chickens during Kaporos is connected to a religious ritual does not exempt it from local and state laws. Many laws are broken in New York even as police stand by.

While New York State Anti-Cruelty Law Article 26 requires animals to have fresh food, water, and protection from the weather, chickens used for Kaporos are held for days in transport crates stacked on the streets, trapped in their own waste with no food, water, or protection from the weather. "It violates Jewish teachings requiring compassion for animals,' said Karen Davis, president of United Poultry Concerns, a nonprofit that has been battling the practice since 1994," the *New York Daily News* reported on Sept. 29, 2014.

Many other laws are broken at Kaporos sites, including public health codes that prohibit sellers of live poultry from leaving chicken blood, feces and feathers on the sidewalk and street. It is illegal to pile up dead animals on the street prior to their disposal. But in 2014 as in previous years, witnesses saw dead chickens on the public streets of Brooklyn.

Alliance member Rina Deych says: "Every year I see chickens thrown into dumpsters. Not just dead ones but also birds who are dying of dehydration, injury, exhaustion and pain. We have footage of live chickens



Karen Davis holds Starlet while speaking at our Press Briefing, Oct. 1, 2014.

writhing on the ground with their throats cut and being thrown into plastic garbage bags by Kaporos butchers in Brooklyn."

At the press briefing on Oct. 1 in Crown Heights, Karen Davis cited the New York law that says, "People who enter any premises containing live poultry within the State of New York shall take every sanitary precaution possible to prevent the introduction or spread of avian influenza into or within the State." This law includes disinfecting all footwear before entering and after leaving any premises containing live poultry.

"All sites we observed were filthy," Davis said.
"There were dead chickens, blood and feathers on
the sidewalk. People entering Kaporos areas, where
thousands of chickens were stacked in crates and
slaughtered, left without disinfecting footwear and

carried chicken feces outside of the Kaporos area."

This year, as in 2013, the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos featured moving illuminated billboards on a van projecting the voice of Hasidic Rabbi Yonassan Gershom explaining why suspending chickens by their wings is cruel and why using chickens for Kaporos violates the Torah mandate to show compassion to animals. In **Kaporos:** A Heartfelt Plea for Mercy, Rabbi Gershom implores: "Please do not torture a bird this way – this is not a mitzvah, our Torah does not require this, it will not cancel your sins. I beg you, please give money, instead of hurting one of God's living creatures."

This year, for the first time, the Alliance hired an investigator to track the activities associated with the rituals, and attorneys Nora Constance Marino and Jessica H. Astrof submitted a Cease and Desist Order to the Supreme Court Judge of Kings County, New York on behalf of Rina Deych and co-plaintiff Elizabeth Knauer, naming the New York City Police Department and four rabbis as defendants.

Though the Judge did not sign the Order, a positive precedent has been set. *Courthouse News Service* reported on Oct. 2, 2014: "Crown Heights resident Rina Deych filed the action Tuesday in Kings County Court as a member of the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos."

The 33-page complaint defines Kaporos as "an event that involves the torture and slaughter of chickens on public streets and sidewalks."

"It is veiled under the guise of a 'religious activity' of the Jewish faith, but this definition is questionable at best," the complaint continues. "In fact, many observers of the Jewish faith have denounced this practice as barbaric and primitive, and label it as nothing more



Thousands of starving chickens are jammed inside these crates for the Kaporos slaughter in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.



(continued) UPC Activists Rally to Eliminate Chickens in Kaporos Rituals

than a pure act of animal torture and abuse."

This year, Alliance activists rescued 341 Kaporos chickens who are now living happily in loving sanctuaries. You can see a short video of several of them running around outdoors at www.EndChickensAsKaporos.com.

What Can I Do?

If you are a member of the Jewish community, please urge your rabbi and others to speak out against the use of chickens in Kaporos rituals. Most Kaporos observers swing a packet of money which they then donate to their favorite charity.

Please support our campaign to eliminate the use of chickens in Kaporos rituals in 2015 with a generous tax-deductible donation. On behalf of the chickens, we thank you very much!



A group of happy rescued Kaporos chickens at And-Hof Animal Sanctuary for Farm Animals in Catskill, New York.

Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos Campaign Expenditures 2014

Tellem Grody Public RelationsTotal:	10,000.00 \$ 23,532.00
PR Newswire National Press Release Distribution	2030.00
J Media Group: Flatbush Jewish Journal & 5 Towns Jewish Times	600.00
Court Filings, Copying & Messenger Fees	465.00
Rented Enterprise Chicken Rescue Van	637.00
Scheck Outdoor (Moving Illuminated Billboards)	3500.00
The MPM Group (Private Investigator)	\$6300.00



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 1400+ 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!



Undercover Video Reveals Torture and Misery of

Farmed Ducks

Mercy For Animals in October. It reveals horrific cruelty to ducks and ducklings at Reichardt Duck Farm in Sonoma County, California – one of the largest duck farms in the country. Hidden cameras show ducks with severe injuries and illnesses, bleeding wounds, de-billing of baby ducklings, ducks trapped in cage wires and manure pits, ducks having their necks violently broken and their throats cut by workers. The video shows ducks being thrown, dropped, and callously carried by their heads and wings. To watch *Ducks in Despair*, go to

www.mercyforanimals.org/ducks.

Ducks are waterfowl. To be healthy, ducks need not only to drink lots of fresh clean water; they need to swim and bathe regularly in water for the health of their skin, feathers, and eyes. In nature or a sanctuary, ducks rinse their eyes frequently during the day. Deprived of water to rinse their eyes in, ducks develop an eye disease called ophthalmia, or "sticky eye," in which a yellowish discharge mats down the feathers around their eyes causing their eyelids to stick shut. Untreated, sticky eye can cause blindness. Not surprisingly, sticky eye is a disease of ducks raised indoors, and of course these ducks never receive treatment.

Seeing how industrially raised ducks are tortured every which way, including de-billing with burning metal, it is supremely sad to know that the only splashing and abundant water these ducks will ever experience in their lives is the cold, salted electrified water in the slaughterhouse through which they are dragged, face down, to paralyze their bodies for feather release after they are dead. This is how we treat our





feathered friends. This is why the word "food," unless it is vegan, increasingly sounds like – and is – an obscenity.



Please contact Jill Ravitch, the Sonoma County District Attorney, and respectfully urge that her office prosecute the owners of Reichardt Duck Farm for cruelty to animals. Request a written reply.

Contact:

Jill R. Ravitch, Sonoma County District Attorney 600 Administration Drive, Room 212 J Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Phone: (707) 565-2311

Email: districtattorney@sonoma-county.org



We are birds. We are not your "food." Stop torturing us. Go vegan.

Reconsidering the Plight of the Chicken and the Egg

The Banner, Cambridge, Maryland, August 1, 2014, Page A04

By Tom Horton



Nathaniel and Karen Davis, May 21, 2014 Photo by Richard Cundari, United Poultry Concerns

ashington, D.C.—The young mother passing the White House stopped to read the arresting big posters spread along the grassy edge of adjacent Lafayette Park. "Be glad you're not a chicken," she said to her child.

It was a perfect, mid-Atlantic spring day, trees freshly greening the capital's parks, ospreys sky dancing over the Tidal Basin, rockfish spawning farther down the Potomac; a time to celebrate nature—including chickens.

It's the nature of the chicken, disguised by generations of breeding for maximum meat and egg production, that Karen Davis and her small band of volunteers were here to impress upon whoever would listen.

The activist from Machipongo on Virginia's Eastern Shore annually declares this International Respect for Chickens Day (and month).

She'll be back in November to respect the turkey, as the Obamas across the street sit down to a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

I take my Salisbury University environmental studies classes to the little sanctuary Karen has run for around 25 years as founder and president of United Poultry Concerns, a nonprofit claiming membership of 15,000.

My aim's not to make them animal rights activists or vegans; rather to make them think.

Students at SU will spend their four years in a region that annually slaughters more than half a billion meat chickens. They will study in buildings—Perdue Business School, Fulton Hall, Guerreri Center—named for donors who made their fortunes on chickens.

My class hears from David Pollack, who was Perdue Farms' head geneticist, about all that's been bred into the modern chicken to put it economically on your table six weeks out of the egg.

But breeding in rapid weight gain, even feathers to distinguish male from female chicks, doesn't mean breeding out the essence of the wild jungle fowl from which all chickens are descended, Pollack acknowledges.

This is clear when we enter the compound in Virginia where Karen tends to more than a hundred chickens, turkeys and ducks; lives; and writes books like "Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs" and fact sheets like Philosophic Vegetarianism.

Against a background of cackling and crowing, she lectures on the abuses of factory farming like the professor she was (English literature, University of Maryland, College Park). As we talk, chickens run freely, a lilt and a bounce to their gait; they sunbathe, wings spread to soak up vitamin D; and they dustbathe, fairly wallowing in the soft earth, filling their feathers with it.

Roosters perform little courtship dances for hens. Chickens perch, scratch and peck after insects as well as socialize with one another. Karen calls theirs a "joyful" existence, and it does seem so.

All of this, she says, is denied them in the crowded, artificially lit confines of the broiler house or the caged confinement systems for egg layers (broiler, or meat production, and egg production are different businesses that use different breeds of chickens).

Karen cites research showing chickens are social creatures who see the world in full color and with an intelligence—"cognition" is a better word — that is surprisingly sophisticated.

This is all subjugated to the pursuit of cheap, abundant meat and eggs, whose production pollutes the water and gives us an unhealthy level of protein intake (about double our need), she argues.

She has no illusions what she's up against in asking Americans to like chickens, when what we most really like is chicken.

Back at the White House, she's in conversation with a curious District of Columbia cop, who looks at some of the grislier posters: egg layers with big tumors, meat chickens hanging upside down, throats slit. He politely but firmly declares, "I like eating chicken."

Most of the UPC leaflets, which include meatless recipes, are handed out and Karen and her small band, in T-shirts that say "Too Neat to Eat," and "Give a Cluck, Go Vegan," are closing up shop. "Since I started this, there has been a huge increase in the positivity of people's reactions," she said.

Another reason I take my environmental students to Karen's little sanctuary in the heart of commercial

chickendom: Many may end up trying to save a world that often acts as if it doesn't want to be saved. Avoiding burnout is a skill they will need.

"A lost cause doesn't mean it's not a good cause," she tells them. She doesn't feel her cause is lost, just a long slog, as was civil rights, gay marriage, women's suffrage.

I came to DC partly out of respect for chickens, but also out of respect for those who fight against all odds, who dare to question whether all the world revolves around humans, much as astronomers believed for more than a millennium that the universe revolved around the Earth.

Respect for the rest of nature is a lesson we're still learning.

Tom Horton is a writer on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He covers the Chesapeake Bay Area and teaches at Salisbury University. From time to time he brings students to United Poultry Concerns to meet our chickens and be exposed to our world. This year, Tom also attended our annual International Respect for Chickens Day www.upc-online.org/respect leafleting event at the White House in May. He once described United Poultry Concerns as the "lonely counterpoint" to the Delmarva chicken industry.



International Respect for Chickens Day leafleting at the White House in May 2014

The Emotional Lives of Animals and Children: Insights from

THE EMOTIONAL LIVES

Insights from a Farm Sanctuary

WILLIAM CRAIN

a Farm Sanctuary

By William Crain Turning Stone Press 2014

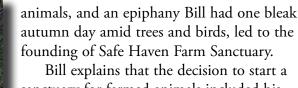
Review by Karen Davis, PhD

he surprise and delight of a child meeting an animal at a farmed animal sanctuary reveals the evolutionary bond of kinship between humans and other animals through the lens of these innocent, but not childish, encounters. That children are enchanted by a chicken, a turkey

or a pig at a sanctuary, and the reciprocity that springs between them, shows that our interspecies connections go far beyond just keeping a "pet." This prospect is explored, with significant implications, by William Crain in his new book *The Emotional Lives of Animals and Children: Insights from a Farm Sanctuary*.

Bill and Ellen Crain founded Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary in Dutchess County, New York in 2008. Bill, a psychology professor at The City College of New York, and Ellen, a pediatrician in a large public hospital, purchased and renovated a broken-down farm with pasture. Their first rescued animal was a hen named Miss Plucky. They then rescued several goats, sheep and chickens, about whom Bill writes insightfully with feeling. He say of nineteen beak-mutilated hens who were being cared for by a homeless man in Harlem, that their irritability and "angry clucking sounds" in the early days of their arrival at Safe Haven transformed into happy contentment only after they could forage outdoors as they pleased. It isn't just freedom (space alone) that matters to animals, Crain says of the hens' transformation, "but the freedom to engage in natural behavior, that leads to deep contentment."

Bill describes his and Ellen's evolution, through their busy professional lives, toward a growing concern for animals. A bear hunt proposed by New Jersey wildlife agencies drew Bill into taking a public stand against the hunt. A configuration of personal feelings and local situations threatening a parcel of woods and the lives of



sanctuary for farmed animals included his desire to help and learn about the animals and to see if his observations and discoveries regarding them could shed light on human behavior, especially that of children, with a particular focus on the bond between children and (other) animals. The child who cares about animals, he writes, "grows up in a society of adults who are largely indifferent" to animals and may even mistreat them purposely for pleasure, as exemplified by the canned bird hunts that are sponsored by

a hunt club situated right next to Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary, where several terrified ducks and partridges have sought and found refuge.

A key question posed by *The Emotional Lives* of *Animals and Children* is: what happens between childhood and adulthood that causes most children to outgrow their primal delight in and empathy with animals and become detached, callous and indifferent toward them? Is it hormonal changes? Social conditioning? Crain offers a variety of speculations, but the answer remains a mystery, and with it the wonder of what to do about humanity's detachment from and denigration of animals in a world run by the very adults who must have cared about animals when they were young, but lost the connection growing up.

With the onset of adolescence, a child's feeling for animals gives way to preoccupations with peers, boyfriends, girlfriends and the like. It is tempting to focus on the dissociation of Western societies from Nature and animals – the effects of television, video games, less time spent outdoors and so on, yet earlier times and other societies don't necessarily provide an antidote. Belief in human superiority is not limited to Judeo-Christianity or the Renaissance view of Man as the Measure of All Things, and while other times and places may have included animals more intimately than ours in the form of totems, spirits and physical presences, this did not necessarily foster compassionate treatment of animals as a social norm. Indeed, one of

the worst fates for animals historically has been to be deemed "sacred," and not all childhood behavior toward animals is benign.

Crain discusses the English Romantic poet William Wordsworth's tracing of his loss of childhood entrancement with Nature, but Wordsworth himself doesn't know why the glory faded with age; he can only evoke the loss and shore up the ruins. An argument between Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge centered on Wordsworth's initial belief that living in Nature inspires positive emotions and values in people, whereas Coleridge argued that only people who are predisposed to be "taught" and moved by Nature are susceptible to her beauty and "teachings." Wordsworth's own chronicles of English rural life in his poetry depict poverty, squalor, despair and meanness along with some passionate examples of human devotion and stoic suffering. It is notable that while Wordsworth was intoxicated by Nature as a child, animals figure very little in his poetry. Flowers, rocks, trees and waterfalls affected him powerfully, but his poetry doesn't bolster the view that a love of Nature invariably involves caring about animals in a personal and morally active way.

Having run a sanctuary for chickens, turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl and a peacock for 30 years, I regard farmed animal sanctuaries as vitally important for the animals, the caregivers and the public, who otherwise have little or no way of meeting and learning about chickens, turkeys, cows, pigs, goats and other animals deemed "agricultural." There are few or no ways outside a sanctuary for mainstream people to experience farmed animals in a context of human love, care and respect for them as opposed to, say, a petting zoo, where a whole other atmosphere prevails. Where else are people going to see farmed animals being happy? Between the food store and the animal farm, a false and demeaning rhetoric of agribusiness and advertising intervenes, and it is almost exclusively through sanctuaries such as Safe Haven that visitors and readers of a book like *The* Emotional Lives of Animals and Children have a chance to perceive farmed animals appreciatively.

A the same time, a farmed animal sanctuary is an artificial environment whose refugees have come from more or less traumatic backgrounds and who, unlike their counterparts in Nature, are not busy raising families and engaging in the daily activities that occupy and energize animals in the natural world, which for

them is not the "wild," but their home. I don't know how much we can ultimately learn about human nature or how to repair the broken bonds between adult humans and other animals from a farmed animal sanctuary, but it is possible we can learn and do a lot, especially with the many Internet sites and Facebook pages for sanctuaries that are now available and the videos being made of rescued farmed animals (Bill Crain has created some lovely ones), even if we can't physically visit sanctuary locations.

Tragically for animals and most people, a shadow – an iron curtain – falls between the child and the adult who share the same body and presumably the same psyche, and while this severance is marked, its causes and cures are not clear. The loving vignettes of chickens, goats and other Safe Haven residents, and of children helping animals and being moved to further altruistic endeavors as a result, are precious islands in this book as they are in the world. How can we expand these islands? How can children's love for animals be nurtured into adult values and public policies?

The Emotional Lives of Animals and Children ponders these questions, including the thoughts of educators, psychoanalysts and ethologists. Sharing his personal and professional observations of the animals at Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary, and interpreting what he sees in terms of a continuity of core emotions and behaviors linking other animals with humans, Crain writes hopefully albeit wistfully, that "For animal defenders, the childhood attitudes offer encouragement. They indicate that a strong affinity to animals is part of our nature, existing before the socialization process disrupts it. It is a basic resource we can try to regain."

The Emotional Lives of Animals and Children takes us to Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary, bringing to life Katie the hen, Cleo the partridge, Burdock the rooster, Boomer and Mattie the goats and the relationships these animals share with one another and the human beings around them. The stories of their lives, their friendliness and fears, their eagerness and intelligence, are all the more poignant against the background of misery from which they emerge to tell us something about themselves through the voice of an adult whose own story of personal awakening holds promise.

--Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns

Vegan Recipe Corner

Spiced Pumpkin Soup

Recipe from Brook and Michael Paone Being Vegan Eats.com

- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 15 ounce can pumpkin puree
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt

Mix the vegetable stock and coconut milk together in a pot and bring to a boil over medium high heat, stirring occasionally.

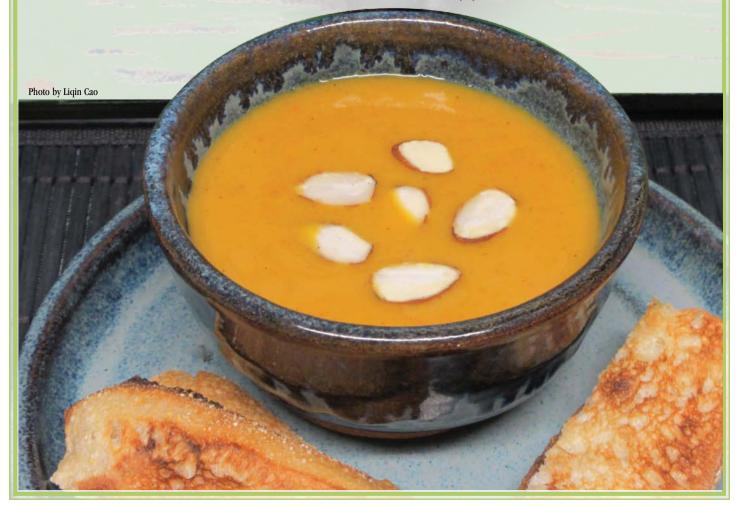
Whisk in the pumpkin puree, light brown sugar, cumin, chili powder, coriander and nutmeg. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer.

The soup will thicken slightly in about 15 minutes of simmering and should be stirred occasionally during this time.

Top with vegan cheddar shreds, fresh cilantro and roasted pumpkin seeds.

This recipe makes 4 cup size portions, or 2 large bowls of soup.

Serve hot, Enjoy!



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"Peaceable Kingdom"

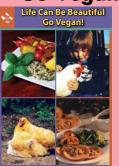


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"The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay" (free-range egg production)

"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"

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"The Battery Hen"

"Turkeys"

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

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T-shirts Too Neat to Eat (Hen & Egg or Rooster) • Give a Cluck. Go Vegan! • Available in Unisex (S, M, L, XL) or Ladies (S, M, L, XL) \$18



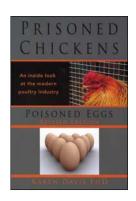


BOOKS

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

By Karen Davis

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

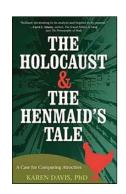


Library Association \$14.95. 40% off bulk orders of 5 (\$8.97 each) = \$44.85 for 5.

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

By Karen Davis

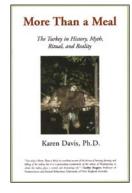
In this thoughtful and thoughtprovoking contribution to the study of animals and the Holocaust, Karen Davis makes the case that significant parallels can — and must — be drawn between the Holocaust and the institutionalized abuse of billions of animals on factory farms. "Compelling and convincing...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



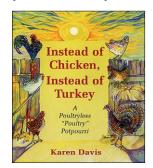
including other human beings. "The turkey's historical disfigurement is starkly depicted by Karen Davis in 'More Than a Meal.' " - The New Yorker \$14.95

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

By Karen Davis

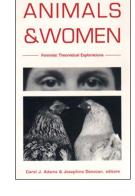
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry

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.

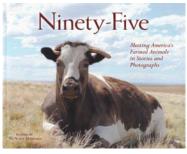
Adams & Josephine Donovan
"Karen Davis's brilliant essay
[Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm
Animals and The Feminine
Connection] brings together the
book's central concepts, leading
to conclusions that rightly should
disturb feminists and animal



advocates alike." - Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in *The Animals' Agenda*. \$16.95

Ninety-Five: Meeting America's Farmed Animals in Stories and Photographs

An anthology of photos and stories by No Voice Unheard Editors: Marilee



Geyer, Diane Leigh and Windi Wojdak. \$20

Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social

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



CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Hatching Good Lessons: Alternatives To School Hatching Projects

By United Poultry Concerns
A guide booklet for elementary school teachers and other educators including parents. Revised & Updated, 2013. 16 pages of information, storytelling, classroom activities & color photos. Grades K-6 (some activities are designed



for K-12). \$2.50 per booklet. 5 for \$5. It can be viewed and printed out at www.upc-online.org/hatching/.

A HOME FOR HENNY

A Home for Henny

By Karen Davis

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

while evoking the lively personality of Henny and her loving

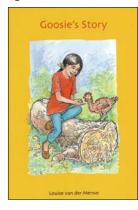
relationship with Melanie. \$6.99

The Great Cage Escape

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



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



Goosie's Story

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

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

By Roberta Kalechofsky

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



DAVE LOVES CHICKENS

Dave Loves Chickens

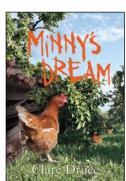
By Carlos Patino
Dave is a quirky monster
from another planet who
loves chickens and all animals on Earth. He encourages people to share
his love and not eat any

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

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By Clare Druce

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CHICKEN'S LIFE!

A Chicken's Life!

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Way. "Are these chickens really
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met a chicken before." A Chicken's
Life includes a puzzle for elementary
school students to unscramble

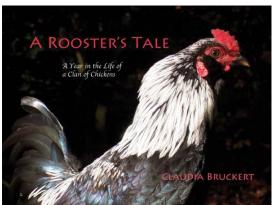
words including barn, beak, cluck, feathers, grass, hatch, peck, peep, wings, and lots more. \$1.50 each. 10 for \$10.

More Books available at upc-online.org/merchandise

(continued) CHILDREN'S BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

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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.

Watch: http://vimeo.com/13210456 DVD. \$5. \$12.50 for 5.



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Cruel: Bearing Witness To Animal Exploitation

By Sue Coe. OR Books, 2012 Renowned visual artist Sue Coe, pioneer champion of animal rights and author of Dead Meat, has produced this mesmerizing new book documenting the experiences of animals raised and slaughtered for human consumption. Through its written account and haunting



visual images, Cruel is a surpassingly passionate testimony to the waste, sorrow and violence perpetrated by our species against others. \$20

Sanctuary: Portraits of Rescued Farm

Animals By Sharon Lee Hart, Charta Books, 2012

Sharon Lee Hart's photography project SANCTUARY takes



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