If you’re interested in ‘promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl’ . . . I have just the publication for you.” – Utne magazine Nov-Dec. 2005

Utne magazine has chosen UPC’s quarterly publication Poultry Press as one of the ten best newsletters out of “Hundreds [that] come to the Utne library, an array extending far beyond the world of nonprofits and non-government organizations.”

“Poultry Press, quarterly publication of nonprofit United Poultry Concerns, reports on chicken and egg industry horrors (‘Egg Company Threw 30,000 Hens into Wood-Chipping Machines,’ for example) and tells who to write and call to help prevent such cruelty. By donation from Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405; www.upc-online.org.”

United Poultry Concerns is grateful to Utne magazine for including Poultry Press in its “compendium of some of the best” publications produced by “grassroots organizations and individuals, a category apart from industry newsletters that often cost a hundred dollars or more for subscriptions.”

Keep Poultry Press coming! To subscribe or renew your membership subscription using your credit card, simply click on the PayPal button at www.upc-online.org. Or send your check or money order for $30 to United Poultry Concerns PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405 USA.

Poultry Press costs upwards of $29,000 a year including research & writing, graphics design, printing, mail house preparation, US postal service, and database maintenance. UPC President-Editor Karen Davis and Website Administrator-Graphics Designer Gary Kaplan are responsible for the content and design of Poultry Press – keep it coming!
Who was it that said, “I’m so low down I declare I’m looking up at down”? That’s rather how it was when I decided to start an advocacy group for chickens in the late 1980s, and was told by some that if I was going to “do” farm animals, I had better do pigs, because people weren’t “ready” for chickens.

All the more reason to start an advocacy group for chickens, yes?

The plight and fate of chickens is terrible but word is getting out. I know for a fact that thousands of people care deeply about chickens, and I know
it is possible to get people who never thought about chickens before to care very much. I’ve seen this happen because United Poultry Concerns is at the forefront of making it happen.

For example, I persuaded a journalist who had never heard of “forced molting” – the egg industry’s practice of depriving hens of food for 10 to 14 days, causing them to lose their feathers, in order to manipulate the production of eggs – to do a cover story about this for The Washington Post (4/30/2000). Another Washington Post writer did a feature story so compelling about United Poultry Concerns that the article, “For the Birds” (10/14/05), won a distinguished Ark Trust Genesis Award in 2000 for spotlighting animal issues. And now, at the conclusion of 2005, UPC has been honored by Utne magazine for the outstanding quality of our quarterly publication, Poultry Press.

When I talk about change regarding chickens, I’m not just talking about media attention, but about attitude. Nobody ever says to me anymore that people “aren’t ready” for chickens. Attention is finally being paid to the largest number of abused warm-blooded animals on the planet, both in the animal advocacy community and in the public domain.

To see chickens beginning to be vindicated after the long reign of oblivion and denigration they’ve suffered since the mid-20th century, when these earth-firstiest, earth-thirstiest of birds disappeared from the landscape, is enough to make me weep. Which is exactly what I did a few years ago in an airport, engrossed in a book called The Development of Brain and Behaviour in the Chicken (1995) by avian specialist Lesley Rogers.

The emotion that shook me at the airport derived from Rogers’ saying such things as, “it is now clear that birds have cognitive capacities equivalent to those of mammals, even primates” and “With increased knowledge of the behaviour and cognitive capacities of the chicken has come the realization that the chicken is not an inferior species to be treated merely as a food source.”

These were the words of a scientist. I wished then, as I do now, that I could inscribe these words into the minds of every generation to come. It was this driving impulse that led me to start United Poultry Concerns after meeting a chicken named Viva. From the moment I pulled her out of a muddy shack in Maryland and saw her face, I knew I had a story to tell that would never let go of me. I have lived to see the day when chickens are starting to receive some attention, and for this I am grateful. With the help of our members I look forward to the year ahead for what we will continue to do for these birds to whom our hearts have been given.

—

STOCK CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Friends,

Several of our members have made financial contributions in the form of stock to United Poultry Concerns through our securities account. We are deeply grateful for these gifts, and anticipate more in the future. There are two obvious benefits in making stock contributions. Please consider these advantages in making your future gifts to United Poultry Concerns.

Donors may give as much stock as they want to a nonprofit organization without impinging upon their estate. By giving this way, they avoid paying a capital gains tax on their assets, because they are gifting their assets.

The benefits to the nonprofit are obvious. In giving a gift of stock, you enable the nonprofit of your choice to grow and do more. It’s as simple and important as that. Everyone wins.

United Poultry Concerns has a securities account with UBS Financial. For information on how you can donate to us this way, please call our financial advisor, Claudia Puopolo, at UBS at 757-490-5639 or 800-368-4070.

From United Poultry Concerns and all our Feathered Friends, we thank you for helping to ensure our future!

Sincerely,
Karen Davis, Ph.D.
President
Avian Influenza: Good for Business

“Most suffering today, whether of animals or humans, suffering beyond calculation . . . is at the hands of other humans.” – Roberta Kalechofsky, Animal Suffering and the Holocaust

If there is any doubt that the human species has violated the privilege of sharing the earth with the other creatures, the spread and handling of avian influenza dispels it. People ask, what can we do? The answer is, we can stop eating birds and their eggs and we can try to help as many birds as we can.

The poultry industry blames raising chickens outdoors, bringing them into contact with the droppings of migrating waterfowl who carry the virus (of which there are thousands of subtypes) without normally getting sick, although wild waterfowl are now getting sick and dying from contact with domestic fowl, according to University of Hong Kong virologist Guan Yi, as reported by Reuters, 11/08/05.

Contradicting the poultry industry, Dr. Perry Kendall, chief medical officer of health for British Columbia, said British Columbia’s outbreak in 2004 showed chickens kept indoors were more vulnerable than those kept outside: “The intensely farmed birds tend to be very genetically similar,” he said. “The methods of farming result in them being actually more frail and more vulnerable to diseases, particularly since there are so many of them in such a small volume of space” (Canadian Press, Aug. 24, 2005).

Factory-farmed birds are isolated from virtually all human contact. In Asia by contrast, waterfowl, pigs, chickens and humans have jostled together for millennia. In the southern province of Guangdong, considered the birthplace of the flu, large human and nonhuman animal populations “have lived almost as close together as most Western families for thousands of years,” notes the November issue of Vanity Fair. The manager of a Western-style chicken operation in Guangdong said unlike the Americans and Europeans, people in China don’t panic, because Chinese people have always lived with chickens and regard avian flu outbreaks as normal.

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Laurie Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, discourages faith in vaccines. In a recent E Magazine interview she said the only diseases we can hope to eradicate “are ones that are present only in humans and are not found in animals.” As long as people persist in being “the final end point on a long food chain of animals,” the avian flu virus will mutate to “orders of magnitude more difficult to deal with,” Garrett said. (See www.upc-online.org/health/).

Observing that avian flu is “an infection of birds that can be transmitted from very sick birds to humans who handle or eat them,” Daniel Hollander MD, Professor of Medicine at UCLA, agrees the vaccines are a scam. “There is no effective vaccine against bird flu,” he told the Los Angeles Times on November 7. “Tamiflu is a drug of no proven value in bird flu,” he said.

Notwithstanding, Fortune magazine reported on October 31 that Tamiflu is the most sought after drug in the world and that avian flu is “very good news” for investors (like Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld) in the California biotechnology company Gilead Sciences, which owns the rights to Tamiflu, which is manufactured by the Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche.

For vested interests, avian flu is a bonanza. In July the U.S. poultry and egg industries drew up a plan authorizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to “pay for 100 percent of the cost of purchase, destruction, [and] disposal of poultry infected with or exposed to H5/H7” viruses (PoultryUSA, July 2005). That is, tax-
payers foot the bill and the industries reap the benefits.

Whether a human pandemic is imminent, the fate of birds is definite as long as people continue to eat birds and their eggs. Birds face endless brutal exterminations that could drive some species to extinction, intensified industrialized confinement, and manipulation to try to produce “genetically modified chickens that can resist lethal strains of the virus” (Timesonline.co.uk, Oct. 29).

If you haven’t yet made the switch, please make being vegan your Number One New Year’s Resolution – and get a friend, family member, colleague, battalion to join you. Not only poultry flesh but eggs as well carry the risk of avian flu viruses in the albumen and yolk as well as on the shell, according to Australia’s veterinary emergency plan as reported by Reuters (11/08/05). Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless “Poultry” Potpourri is a great way to start cooking right. $14.95 includes shipping. Order by check or money order, or go to our website to purchase by credit card. www.upc-online.org

In May, United Poultry Concerns and the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights sent a letter to every state veterinarian in the U.S. urging the least cruel methods of extermination of birds the industries are bent on destroying (www.upc-online.org/slaughter/). Please urge the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to use its influence with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FOA) to prevent birds from being drowned, burned, suffocated and buried alive. Urge the AVMA to urge the use of the inert gases nitrogen and argon instead of carbon dioxide (CO2) or electricity. Inert gases are considered the least inhumane methods of killing according to animal welfare scientists.

Dr. Henry E. Childers
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: 847-925-8070. Fax: 847-925-1329
Email: avmainfo@avma.org
Website: www.avma.org (you can post an email at Contact Us)

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FOR THE BIRDS

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Please consider an enduring gift on behalf of the birds.

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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

Photo by Tal Ronnen
On September 21, 2005, UPC President Karen Davis presented our video, *Behavior of Rescued Factory Farmed Chickens in a Sanctuary Setting*, at the Future Trends in Animal Agriculture Symposium, an annual U.S. Department of Agriculture meeting on the use of animals in food production. For years UPC has urged that these meetings allow farmed animal sanctuary directors to present their knowledge of the animals who, though the focal point of discussion, seldom appear in the purview of the platform speakers.

This year, for the first time, attendees got to see our sanctuary birds on the Big Screen: *Running! Eating Lettuce! Dustbathing! Perching! Socializing! Having Fun!* – things agribusiness would like us to think “poultry” don’t do anymore thanks to genetic selection for voluminous weight gain and egg production. Wrong!

This year some industry people boycotted the meeting for being “too animal rights.” As well, some animal rights advocates have opposed our taking part in meetings that, in the words of one, seek “to absorb animal rights advocates’ time and give the appearance of bestowing insider status as a way of ‘feeding the crocodile.’”

Notwithstanding, **UPC has attended Future Trends meetings since 1990**, seizing every microphone opportunity to speak up for the birds. We go to these meetings to correct misinformation that otherwise goes unchallenged and to hear what industry is saying. We go to show that our side is well-informed and that when they say we don’t understand “food” animals, and that “food” animals are treated “humanely,” we can tackle these claims head on. UPC believes that the voices of animals and their advocates should be heard at these meetings. Not all attendees are unreachable, and students sometimes sit in. Filmmaker Woody Allen said success goes to those who “show up.” The animals can’t make the meetings that deliberate their fate – all the more reason for us to be there, clucking as hard as we can.

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**What Can I Do?**

- *Behavior of Rescued Factory Farmed Chickens in a Sanctuary Setting* is available from UPC on VHS and DVD. $10 includes shipping. Order by check or money order, or use your credit card at www.upc-online.org.

- Future Trends in Animal Agriculture will send you a free copy of the proceedings on “Certification and Education Programs: Current Status of Farm Animal Welfare,” September 21, 2005 symposium. To order contact:

  Richard Reynnells, National Program Leader, Animal Production Systems
  US Department of Agriculture
  Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
  800 9th St, SW, Room 3140 Waterfront Centre
  Washington, DC 20250-2220
  Phone: 202-401-5352. Fax: 202-401-6156
  Email: rreynnells@csrees.usda.gov
Philosophy Professor Dr. James Hatley of Salisbury University on the Maryland Eastern Shore invited UPC President Karen Davis to speak to his environmental philosophy class on October 24th and share her experiences in the struggle for animal rights. Karen was joined by Israel Mossman, President of the Jewish Vegetarians of North America.

Karen and Israel linked their experiences to their detailed knowledge of poultry and dairy farming. Karen explained how she grew up eating meat unthinkingly in a pro-hunting town in Pennsylvania, and Israel described his early days as a butcher in his parents’ store.

Karen talked about Viva, the little chicken whose beating heart started United Poultry Concerns, and Israel explained how his daughter got the whole family to go vegetarian as the result of a summer camp experience. Students slouched in their seats at the beginning soon sat upright, attentive and asking questions. A question was, “are you saying there’s no way we can eat meat, dairy and eggs humanely?” and we said No, There Isn’t.

Salisbury University is in a town where thousands of chickens are slaughtered every day in a Perdue plant on the main highway.

Freddaflower Memorial & Appreciation Fund

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

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:

I will never forget my disabled chicken Charlie and the 4 years I had with her. She was such a special friend. – Jean Darby

In honor of Tabby’s 12th birthday on September 25.
– Marilyn Seller

For the three who touched my life. I miss you. – Nomi Dayan

In memory of Mrs. Rita Bernhardt in memory of her late husband, Dr. Robert Bernhardt. – Joy Wahl

In honor of Leonard, Nathaniel, Julie, and Fredericka. – Paul Deane

In honor of “23.” It was my privilege to bathe, nourish & defend you following your escape from Hell. I know that now you are cloaked in the Creator’s Love, safe from ignorant hands & hearts. I hope we meet again, my dear. – Jennifer Stevens

In loving memory of my beautiful loving Pekin duck who passed away on September 19 on our return trip home from Cornell where we were getting a second opinion on possible leg surgery to help her walk again. It’s good to know someone else cares and understands. – Rita Keeley

To help the 44 Yom Kippur chickens adopted by UPC from a rescue in Brooklyn in October. – Elaine Livesey-Fasel

In honor and memory of Tina Nelson, Executive Director of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, whose untimely death from cancer on October 19th is a loss to all of us who knew and greatly respected Tina and her work. – UPC
These Books Will Change How You Think About Chickens, Turkeys, Thanksgiving, and the Holocaust

More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality published by Lantern Books

“Karen Davis has done first-rate investigative reporting to chase down the origins of myths about turkeys, and the origins of turkeys themselves. Her writing is passionate.” – Merritt Clifton, Editor of Animal People

“More Than a Meal is an excellent account of the history of hunting, farming, and killing of the turkey and a penetrating examination of the culture of Thanksgiving, in which the turkey plays a central and demeaning role.” – Dr. Lesley Rogers, Professor of Neuroscience and Animal Behaviour, University of New England, Australia

“In a very scholarly way, Karen Davis explores the unnatural history of the turkey. What happened between the turkey being taken to Europe and then reintroduced to North America? Why is the turkey called ‘turkey’?” – Dr. Ian Duncan, Professor of Poultry Ethology, University of Guelph, Ontario

“Karen Davis shines a new light on the unfortunate, much-maligned bird that is the center of America’s Thanksgiving ritual.” – Peter Singer, DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University, author of Animal Liberation.

$20.00 includes shipping.
Add $4 for international orders

The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale: A Case for Comparing Atrocities published by Lantern Books

“Are you offended by the comparison with the Holocaust? You shouldn’t be. Karen Davis has written a profound book and I challenge you to read it without being transformed.” – Jeffrey Masson, author of The Pig Who Sang to the Moon

“The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale is brilliant: devastating in its analysis and hopeful in its premise.” – Carol J. Adams, author of The Pornography of Meat

“Compelling and convincing. I thank Karen Davis for writing this bold, brave book.” – Charles Patterson, author of Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust

“What a fantastic analysis you’ve done! It’s so important to intimately understand this incredibly dark side of human behavior so we can change it.” – Annie Hornish, The Compassionate Living Project

“Your Holocaust and Henmaid’s Tale is powerful and deeply insightful. Thank you for bringing me, and hopefully many others, to a new level of understanding and sensibility.” – Carl Mariani, Ambler, PA

$30 includes shipping.
Add $4 for international orders

Order online at www.upc-online.org/merchandise/book.html.
Or order by check or money order from United Poultry Concerns, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405
Bird-Brains No More!

Karen Davis has written a profound book and I challenge you to read it without being transformed. It stems from a famous comment by the Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer that when it comes to animals “all people are Nazis; for the animals it is an eternal Treblinka.” Karen Davis, who has a reputation among those interested in animals for a ferocious and unyielding intellect, applies it here with ruthless efficiency. She tells us how in the 1960s she was preoccupied with reports of the concentration camps, with the Civil Rights Movement, and a “radical extension of those perceptions to include the largest class of innocent victims on earth.” Animals raised for food, and especially chickens, are slaughtered or otherwise exploited (for their eggs) to the tune of 10 billion a year in the U.S. alone.

Are you offended by the comparison with the Holocaust? You shouldn’t be, and if you read this book, I promise you will see her point (and she makes many original, daring, and profound comparisons, e.g., the forced labor of camp inmates with the forced labor of farm animals), and realize that most of us have engaged in “an arbitrary delimiting of moral boundaries.” Why? Because we have been “socialized not to perceive animals, especially ‘food’ animals, as individuals with feelings.”

Read chapter three of this book, the life of a single battery hen, in which she demonstrates with deep insight that “there is nothing in the natural evolution of hens to prepare them for this situation.” Your eyes will be opened, for that situation is hell on earth for chickens. When you realize she is telling the unvarnished truth, a truth rarely written about, there is no way around the sudden awareness that these sensitive animals are in a kind of concentration camp. She quotes a powerful comment by C. David Coats, in his book *Old MacDonald’s Factory Farm*: “The analogy is plain and undeniable; for both groups are held at the mercy of unfeeling keepers, deprived of freedom, crowded into small spaces, mutilated, tattooed, branded, and permanently marked, subjected to genetic experimentation – and ultimately murdered.”

The colonization of animals, this appropriation of their very souls, is really no different than any other colonial assault on native human inhabitants of the African and American continents. Suffering is suffering, whether it happens to us, to our friends, our enemies or to animals. To claim an exclusive right to suffering is pure prejudice and a very parochial prejudice at that.

Is this extension of the insights of mass murder to animals an extreme case of anthropomorphism (another topic on which the author has a different and interesting take)? Not if you believe scientists like Ian Duncan (no animal rights activist, but a professor of poultry science at the University of Guelph), who has written about the
suffering of chickens who develop respiratory infections such as airsacculitis from constantly inhaling harmful bacteria in the crowded conditions in which they are kept. You think the eggs you eat come from a different kind of chicken? Unlikely. Joy Mench of the University of California at Davis points out that 99 percent of US laying hens are in cages, “averaging eight hens per cage where they develop osteoporosis because they get no exercise and because their limited calcium is mobilized for constant eggshell formation instead of bones.”

Is this natural? Is this what hens evolved to do? Of course not. They have perfectly natural behavior which they are never allowed to express. They should be in a forest, sunbathing, dustbathing, raising their young, flying in groups, not waiting to be slaughtered in a silent, dark warehouse. What deep hypocrisy (and cynicism) to use the term “happy hens.” They may experience pain, but surely they don’t suffer, you think? Then why do scientists, again no animal rights sympathizers, say that hens in transport trucks have been shown “to experience a level of fear comparable to that induced by exposure to a high-intensity electric shock”?

Bird-brains? That term has just been given a death-sentence by the Avian Brain Nomenclature Consortium, an international group of scientists who have recently demonstrated in *Nature Neuroscience Reviews* (February 2005) that there is “now overwhelming evidence that the bulk of a bird’s brain is not, as scientists once thought, mere ‘basal ganglia’ . . . rather an intricately wired mass that processes information in much the same way as the vaunted human cerebral cortex.”

*The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale* is an important work, and an exciting read. There is not a dull sentence in the whole book. Spend a few hours with it and I guarantee you will emerge a changed person.

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson is the author of many bestselling books dealing with the emotions of animals, including *Dogs Never Lie About Love*, *When Elephants Weep*, *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* and the just released *Raising the Peaceable Kingdom: What Animals Can Teach Us About the Social Origins of Tolerance and Friendship*.

To order *The Holocaust and the Henmaid’s Tale* by credit card, simply go to [www.upc-online.org/merchandise/book.html](http://www.upc-online.org/merchandise/book.html). Or send check or money order to United Poultry Concerns, PO Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. $30 includes shipping.
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April 8-9, 2006 * Columbus, Ohio
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Forum Registration: $90 includes 2 breakfasts and two vegan luncheons.
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Registration AFTER April 1: $100. $75 Students/Seniors

University Plaza Hotel Rooms: $89 each. Call toll-free 877-677-5292

Exhibitor Table: $100 plus Registration Fee

Speakers:

Janice Blue, Founder-Producer, Go Vegan Texas
Karen Davis, Founder-President, United Poultry Concerns
Karen Dawn, Founder-Producer, Dawn Watch
Bruce Friedrich, Director of Vegan Campaigns, PETA
Debra Probert, Executive Director, Vancouver Humane Society
Nathan Runkle, Founder-Director Mercy for Animals
Paul Shapiro, Factory Farming Campaign Manager, Humane Society of the United States
Jeff Sharp, Team Leader - Ohio Survey of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Issues, Rural Sociology Program, Ohio State University
Kim Sturla, Co-Founder-Director, Animal Place

Special Film Presentation: The Emotional World of Farm Animals Produced by Animal Place. Led by Jeffrey Masson, author of The Pig Who Sang to the Moon and Raising the Peaceable Kingdom (2005)
Defending the Dreaded Comparison

Dear UPC – “I just wanted to tell you what a lovely letter you wrote to the Chicago Sun-Times, which appeared as the featured letter Tuesday, September 6, 2005. You managed to present cruelty as important and wrong without sounding fanatical and possibly alienating those inclined to dismiss the issue as unimportant or frivolous, which I believe is a challenge for those who speak up for animals.” – Tamara Shaffer, Chicago

“Animal suffering similar to human slaves”
By UPC President Karen Davis
Chicago Sun-Times, September 6, 2005

African Americans and other groups have expressed outrage over a PETA exhibit that compares animal slavery with human slavery. Yet not so long ago, anyone who dared to compare black people with white people in my neighborhood provoked similar outrage. As a 1960s civil rights activist, I fought with my parents and others incessantly over this point.

Now, as then, I uphold these dreaded comparisons. Reduction of a sensitive being to an object imprisoned in a world outside any moral universe of care links the human slave to the animal slave in laboratories, factory farms and slaughterhouses in ways that diminish the differences between them. Instead of bickering over who’s superior and who’s inferior, why not own up to the preventable suffering we cause and do what we can to stop it?

Resentment of comparisons between the suffering of humans and the suffering of animals in conditions of atrocity is not an isolated attitude, anyway. It’s part of a broader psychology of resentment at having one’s suffering linked with that of anyone else.

Resentment aside, it is reasonable to assume that animals in confinement systems designed to exploit them suffer even more, in certain respects, than do humans similarly confined, just as a child or a mentally challenged person might experience dimensions of suffering in being rough-handled, imprisoned, and shouted at that people capable of conceptualizing the experience can’t conceive of.

Indeed, those who are capable of conceptualizing their own suffering may be unable to grasp what it feels like to suffer without being able to conceptualize it.

But even if it could be proven that chickens and other animals suffer less than humans condemned to similar situations, this would not mean that these animals do not suffer profoundly or justify harming them. Our cognitive distance from animal suffering constitutes neither an argument nor evidence as to who suffers more under horrific circumstances, humans or nonhumans.

If we cannot imagine what it must be like for a bird or a sheep or a cow to be placed in a situation comparable to a human being shoved in a cattle car packed with other terrified people headed toward death; if we cannot imagine how chickens must feel being grabbed by their legs in the middle of the night by men who are cursing at them while pitching and stuffing them into the crates in which they will travel to the next wave of terror at the slaughterhouse, then perhaps we should try to imagine ourselves placed helplessly in the hands of an overpowering extraterrestrial species, to whom our pleas for mercy sound like nothing more than bleats and squeals and clucks – mere “noise” to the master race in whose “superior” minds we are “only animals.” 🐔
Dear UPC,

You probably don’t remember me, but I talked to you this past June. I emailed you in desperate need of advice on chickens. I’m now emailing you to tell you I owe you a big THANK YOU for getting back to me so quickly and helping us out at that horrible time.

My daughter (Jme) and her friend had been driving down the highway, when a truck full of laying hens on their way to slaughter passed them in the opposite lane. She immediately saw, in her rear view mirror, a hen lying in the middle of the highway who had fallen off the truck. They frantically tried to get turned around to help her, praying the oncoming cars would not hit her before they could get there. A truck barely missed the hen by inches. Luckily Jme was able to scoop her up and get her safely back to the car.

That poor hen was so starved, beat up, depressed, and close to death, they could not believe she could even be alive. She was totally unable to stand, and would just roll to one side when you set her down. She hardly had any feathers, and had many cuts, and was bleeding in many places, and, we realized later, she had a broken foot (there was so much swelling).

When they brought her home, we had no idea what to do, and that’s where you came into the picture. I quickly emailed you, and you answered my questions, and told me where to go on UPC’s website for more information. You are a huge part of the reason “Baby” is here, alive and well today. In fact, her new house is being built, and she now has 5 other rescued friends (see what you started!). It is so awesome to watch her out walking on the lawn, totally in peace and sitting in the sun.

There’s nothing in the world like waking up to the sound of a crowing rooster (yes, Baby has a new boyfriend) in the early morning hours. I have sent you a couple of pictures of her. She is so beautiful. We are so proud of her. Anyway, I want to thank you for the wonderful work you do, and for being such a caring organization. – Sue Guggisberg, New Ulm, Minn. October 27, 2005 😘

Would you like to do more to help the birds? To receive our news updates, actions alerts, and learn about upcoming events

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Just go to our website http://www.upc-online.org and click on Subscribe. That’s all there is to it!
Animal Advocates Seek “Humane” Slaughter Coverage and Less Cruel Killing Technology for Birds

On November 21, The Humane Society of the United States and the East Bay Animal Advocates of Oakland, California filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enforce coverage of birds under the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958. The suit, filed in federal district court in San Francisco, states that poultry plants hang conscious birds in shackles and subject them to paralyzing electric shocks before cutting their necks and dumping them into tanks of scalding, feces-contaminated water, often while the birds are still alive. Birds are intentionally kept alive during the slaughter process so their hearts will pump out blood.

In 1992 -1995 United Poultry Concerns campaigned on behalf of three bills introduced by then House Representative Andrew Jacobs of Indiana that, enacted into law, would have added a humane slaughter provision to the 1957 Poultry Products Inspection Act. Despite many sponsors in the House of Representatives and a 1994 hearing in the House Agricultural Livestock Committee, at which UPC President Dr. Karen Davis presented oral and written testimony, the proposed legislation failed. Along with renewed efforts to get Congress to enact legislation, activists are now seeking a remedy through the courts. Both efforts are urgently needed.

What Can I Do?

▶ Urge your Members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to require that birds be covered under the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Urge that the pre-slaughter electric shock equipment now being used be replaced by the nitrogen gas-based technology that kills the birds in the transport crates prior to being shackled, slaughtered and scalded.

Contact:
Mike Johanns, Secretary Of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-720-3631
Email: Mike.Johanns@usda.gov

Contact:
Your Members of Congress (your two Senators and your House Representative)

To learn your Members of Congress call the 24-hour Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Or visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov.

▶ Order Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation from United Poultry Concerns or read it online at: www.upc-online.org/slaughter/. Our 8-page color booklet shows the sequence of poultry slaughter in photos accompanied by short explanatory paragraphs. Tell the media and others how badly chickens and other “poultry” are treated. Encourage them to join you in making a better life for these birds by supporting protective legislation and by choosing an animal-free diet. 🍗
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Send a message with your mail!
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POSTERS

A Heart Beats in Us the Same as in You
Photo by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Full-color poster vividly captures the truth about factory chickens for the public. Vegetarian message. 18”x22”.

Friends, Not Food
Photo by Franklin Wade
Liqin Cao & FreddaFlower.
Full color 19”x27” poster.

What Wings are For: Chicks Need Their Mothers
Photos by Kay Evans & Karen Davis
Great educational tool. Full color 11-1/2”x16” poster.

Walking to Freedom After a Year in Cages
Photo by Dave Clegg
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“Battery Hens”
Photo by Susan Rayfield
Roosting in Branches After Rotting in Cages
This beautiful color poster shows the rescued hens at UPC. Perfect for your office, your home, school — Size 11.5 inches

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Photos by Barbara Davidson & Susan Rayfield
The posters are in color, and come in sizes; 11.5” x 16”; and 18” x 27”

UPC posters in any mix:
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With Heart and Voice - a Beautiful Greeting Card - New from UPC
Our colorful new greeting card is a great way to support UPC while sending a warm message to friends and loved ones about chickens and our work on their behalf. These 5X7” cards make a wonderful holiday gift as well. Order now!

$19.95 for 20 cards. $38.95 for 40 cards. Envelopes included. Single card & envelope $1.00.

With Heart and Voice
The Emotional World of Farm Animals
By Animal Place
This is a wonderful documentary produced by Animal Place and led by best-selling author Jeffrey Masson. This delightful film – for viewers of all ages – is all about the thinking and feeling side of farmed animals. A PBS Primetime Favorite! Get your local station to air it. VHS and DVD $20

The Dignity, Beauty & Abuse of Chickens
By United Poultry Concerns
Our video shows chickens at UPC’s sanctuary doing things that chickens like to do! 16:07 min. — Color * Music * No Narration. VHS and DVD. $10

Inside a Live Poultry Market
By United Poultry Concerns
This horrific 11-minute video takes you inside a typical live bird market in New York City. An alternative to “factory farming”? Watch and decide. VHS and DVD. $10

Behavior of Rescued Factory-Farmed Chickens in a Sanctuary Setting
By United Poultry Concerns
See what a chicken can be when almost free! This 12-minute video shows chickens, turkeys, and ducks at UPC’s sanctuary racing out of their house to enjoy their day. VHS and DVD. $10

45 Days: The Life and Death of a Broiler Chicken
By Compassion Over Killing
This 12-minute video shows the pathetic industry treatment of the more than 8 billion baby “broiler” chickens slaughtered each year in the US. VHS and DVD. $10

Hidden Suffering
By Chickens’ Lib/ Farm Animal Welfare Network
This vivid half hour video exposes the cruelty of the battery cage system and intensive broiler chicken, turkey and duck production. VHS. $10

Egg-ribusiness
By Farm Sanctuary
This fully narrated video illuminates the intolerable conditions imposed on egg laying hens and unwanted male chicks by the US egg industry. 14 minutes. VHS. $10

Hope for the Hopeless
By Compassion Over Killing
An Investigation and Rescue at a Battery Egg Facility documents the living conditions of hens at ISE-America in Maryland. www.ISECruelty.com 18:28 minutes VHS. $10

Ducks Out of Water
By Viva! International Voice for Animals
This powerful 5-minute video takes you inside today’s factory-farmed duck sheds in the US. VHS. $10

Delicacy of Despair
By GourmetCruelty.com
This investigation and rescue takes you behind the closed doors of the foie gras industry and shows what ducks and geese endure to produce “fatty liver.” 16:30 minutes. DVD. $10

Humane Slaughter?
By Farm Sanctuary
Humane Slaughter takes the viewer into poultry slaughterhouses to witness the horrendous suffering endured by chickens and turkeys. 9 minutes. VHS. $10
Replacing School Hatching Projects: Alternative Resources & How To Order Them
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Our stimulating booklet catalog has all the information you need to hatch great new lessons for young students – videos, books, models, and more. $2.50

Bird Watching as an Alternative to Chick Hatching
By Karen Davis
More great classroom ideas and outdoor activities. $2.50

A Home for Henny
By Karen Davis
This wonderful children’s book tells the touching story of a little girl, a chicken, and a school hatching project. Beautifully illustrated by Patricia Vandenbergh, it’s the perfect gift for a child, parents, teachers, your local library. $4.95

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By Kim Sturla
Enchant young children with this charming tale about a stubborn girl who is secretly touched by a cow while visiting a sanctuary for farm animals. $11.00

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By Jackie Greene
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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.” $10.00

Nature’s Chicken, The Story of Today’s Chicken Farms
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With wry humor, this unique children’s story book traces the development of today’s chicken and egg factory farming in a perfect blend of entertainment and instruction. Wonderful illustrations. Promotes compassion and respect for chickens. $4.95

Minny’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
More Than a Meal
By Karen Davis
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Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry
By Karen Davis
This book is a fully-documented source of up-to-the-minute information about chickens, including everything from how a chick develops inside an egg to the causes of salmonella, and much more. Provides a chilling account of the morally handicapped poultry & egg industry. $14.95

Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless “Poultry” Potpourri
By Karen Davis
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns, Inc. 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 books’ 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

Replacing Eggs
By United Poultry Concerns
Sick of salmonella? Our exciting booklet invites you to cook and eat happily without eggs! 16 delicious recipes. $3.50

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A must-have educational resource for humane educators, animal advocacy organizations, schools, and libraries.$2.50
POSTCARDS
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“The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay” (free-range egg production)
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“The Use of Birds In Agricultural and Biomedical Research”
“Free-Range Poultry and Eggs: Not All They’re Cracked Up to Be”
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In Loving Memory of Boris, UPC Sanctuary
January 1, 2000 – February 14, 2001

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