



# Poultry Press

*Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl*

*PoultryPress* is published quarterly by United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. Federal I.D.: 52-1705678

## United Poultry Concerns

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Machipongo, VA  
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## Give Us Something To Crow About This Holiday Season

Dear UPC Supporter,

If you were a Battery Hen, what would you wish for? . . . As you read through this issue of *PoultryPress*, our last issue of the year, please put a price tag on our work and give as generously as you can. Help us fight the good fight even better in 1999. Every gift you give allows us to do one more thing for the birds that was not possible before your gift arrived. This holiday season, make your money Cluck Like A Mountain. The more you give, the louder we get. That's a Promise.

*Wishing you blessings and joy, now and always . . . .*



# AVMA May Set Welfare Precedent for Millions of Hens

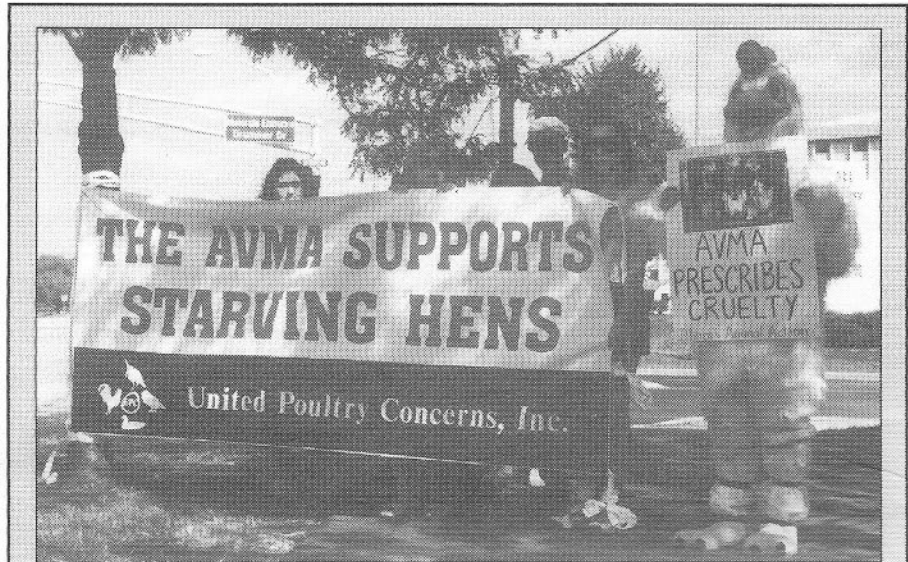
Veterinary Group Responds to UPC/AVAR Pressure

At its November 4th meeting, the Animal Welfare Committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) voted to revise its current position statement endorsing the deliberate starvation practice by the U.S. egg industry known as **forced molting**. Each year the egg industry deliberately deprives millions of hens of all food for an average of 1-2 weeks, until they lose 25 to 35 percent of their body weight. The hens die during and after the molt. A manager for the country's biggest egg company, Cal-Maine, told UPC: "Usually we lose anywhere from 500 to 1000 hens the first day we put them back on feed. The [excretory] ammonia in the house during this period is so bad we usually wear masks in order to breathe. It is almost unbearable to us."

The workers get sick going in and out of the building. Imagine the hens, trapped and starved, forced to breathe the toxic fumes from their own waste in the no-ventilation, 88 degree F prison. Imagine them inhaling the dust and feathers that a molting researcher said (referring to his laboratory at North Carolina State University) is "like being in the middle of a giant pillow fight." Make that a giant, **dirty** pillow fight.

Reflecting its economic and career ties, the AVMA has endorsed forced molting. While the association cannot regulate the egg industry, its sanctions have a strong influence on the industry, which has been using the AVMA's position to defend the denial of food to hens in order to manipulate the price of eggs. (Cal-Maine manager: "The egg market is the determining factor when we molt and get rid of

*continued on page 13* ➤



Will this soon be untrue?

## AVMA Gets Forced-Molting Shock: "Unprecedented"

*Daily Herald, Chicago, IL, Tues. Sept. 29, 1998. (Excerpt from photo-feature article):*

"People often view veterinarians as defenders of animal rights. A giant chicken . . . claimed otherwise Monday. That animal rights activist, and nine other members of Warrenville-based Illinois Animal Action, Inc., spent the lunch hour picketing the American Veterinary Medical Association's headquarters in Schaumburg [IL]. Carrying signs that read "AVMA Prescribes Cruelty" and "Eliminate Forced Molting," the protesters aimed to convince drivers . . . that the veterinary group is condoning the starvation of chickens so they can produce more eggs.

"Chickens don't pay vet bills, so the AVMA is supporting the industry's motives," said IAA

President Debbie Leahy. . . .

"AVMA Executive Vice President Bruce W. Little described the afternoon's events as unprecedented. Little knew of no time in the association's 135-year history when people picketed its headquarters. . . . [Slaid Palatine's [IL activist] Jim Dunn, "but once upon a time everybody thought the world was flat."

• • •

UPC wishes to thank Debbie Leahy and Illinois Animal Action for conducting this unprecedented, high-profile protest demonstration. For more information, including the group's excellent brochure, **Starving Hens for Profit Has Got to Stop!**, contact Illinois Animal Action, PO Box 507, Warrenville, IL 60555; 630-393-2935.

# They Fought For The Law And The Law Won!

Arizona Citizens Against Cockfighting and Missourians Against Cockfighting won major victories for chickens at the polls on November 3rd. Voters in both states told the cockamaniacs and crow-magnons to try peace instead. The Arizona and Missouri campaigns demonstrate what targeted, tough-minded, fact-filled compassion can accomplish. When Arizona Citizens president, Jamie Massey, was considering a campaign to ban cockfighting a few years ago, he wondered if chickens stood a chance in Arizona. And no wonder. In 1996, the Arizona House Judiciary Committee voted 8-3 to reject a bill that would have made cockfighting illegal, while cockfighters rehashed the old cruelty formula: "blankety-blank has a long tradition and cultural ties."

In 1996, Frank Celaya, a Phoenix cockfighting supporter and Vietnam veteran, took off his artificial leg and held it out to the committee, hollering, "If this is not enough for my country, to be able to come and fight chickens whenever I want to fight chickens, then what is this country coming to?"

To its senses?

The victories in Missouri and Arizona are not only major but unique: never before in any state has there been a ballot measure banning cockfighting. Jamie Massey (AZ), Sandy Mickelson (MO) and their troops who won these ballot battles, illustrate the famous paradox, "All great ideas degenerate into hard work." And the equally important paradox, "Only hard work can make a great idea come true."

United Poultry Concerns was pleased to provide our full support from beginning to end in the form of information about the normal social life of chickens, Action Alerts, financial assistance, and letters to the editor. As the campaign to ban cockfighting nationwide

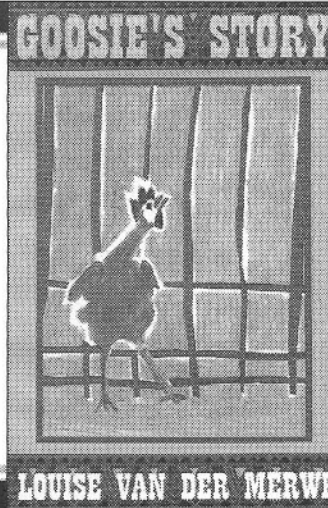


pushes on to other states such as Oklahoma and Louisiana, let it be proclaimed: cockfighting is a strictly human activity. (See Jamie Massey's excellent fact sheet, "What Cockfighters Don't Understand.") If cockfighters would simply imitate the rooster in his natural condition, this would automatically eliminate cockfighting.

For more information, call AZ Citizens Against Cockfighting (Tucson: 520-722-0129, Phoenix: 602-392-4272); and Missourians Against Cockfighting (St. Louis: 314-644-7070).

## New from UPC!

We are proud to introduce **Goosie's Story**, a wonderful new illustrated children's book by Louise Van Der Merwe. **Goosie's Story** is about a "battery" hen who is given a chance to lead a normal life – a happy life. Goosie tells her own story in her own words! We share her discovery of the world outside the battery prison and realize that, far from being a mere unit of production, she has a robust ability to live life to the full. 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. Order from United Poultry Concerns, P.O. Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405. \$4.95.



# Meet Joan Holtgraver

## UPC Secretary Treasurer

by Karen Davis

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Joan Meanor Holtgraver, the Secretary Treasurer of United Poultry Concerns. My friend since our days together at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, Joan has been a UPC officer and one of our three directors ever since I founded this organization in 1990. Joan does the indispensable job of keeping our books. She has performed this

painstaking ledger labor for eight years now, all without financial recompense. A true volunteer, she says, "This is how I help animals."

As a matter of fact, Joan helps animals in many ways. For one thing, she's a vegan and a terrific cook. Did you ever wonder who the real "Mrs. Gobble-Good" is? It's Joan! Yes, Joan originated our famous "Mrs. Gobble-Good's Golden Brown Pie." She also created the incomparable "Chickenless 'Chicken' Stew" and "The Red Jungle Fowl's Joy."

Check out our cookbook, *Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey*, for these fabulous recipes by Joan Holtgraver in her poultry personae. Joan scrupulously does UPC's book-keeping while conducting her full-time occupation of home instructor for the Montgomery County (MD) Public School System and

teacher of English as a Second Language to students from grades 1 through 12. She and her husband, Sam, have opened their home to many dogs and birds who would otherwise have been homeless. They currently have three adopted companion dogs and nine adopted companion birds. Joan climbs mountains in her spare time. In 1997, she wrote a poem about Salmonella on Thanksgiving morning.

### Thanksgiven for Humor

by Joan Holtgraver

My salmonella fella  
is a very mellow yella,  
With a predisposition  
toward a shade of green.

When he did his evenin' lickin'  
it was poultry he was pickin'  
And the chicken we're predictin'  
wasn't clean.

I have warned him to be wary,  
not to tarry near the dairy  
'cause the eggs the markets carry  
are bad biz.

He'd better quit his makin' merry  
and go veggie in a hurry,  
or the bones that they will bury  
might be his!



Joan Holtgraver with her husband, Sam, and two companions, Rosy and Pearl.

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# UPC's Realtor Files Lawsuit to Stop Perdue

*"I feel like a conscientious objector to the treatment of chickens."*

-- David Kabler, **The Virginian-Pilot**, Nov. 9, 1998

Meet David Kabler, the man who brought UPC to Machipongo. No sooner did we sign the papers than the county gave a special use permit to Perdue. *The Virginian-Pilot* did an excellent story about David and his lawsuit. The photo, in color, was shot at UPC's new headquarters. Here are some highlights from the article:

"When Northampton County's Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to let poultry giant Perdue Inc. build a genetic research facility in Eastville, David Kabler was appalled. Unlike Accomack County to the north, which has 82 chicken houses and two big chicken processing plants, Northampton has none. Kabler would like to keep it that way. . . . So he's suing the Board of Supervisors, demanding that it bring the issue back to the public for a closer look.

"'The chicken industry is totally offensive to me,' said Kabler, a 48-year-old real estate broker. 'It's cruel. It's an environmental disaster. The product is unhealthy because of all the bacteria and hormones. It's bad to eat chickens, and they're probably the most abused animals on the planet.' . . .

"'I'd almost call it [the chicken research facility] a chicken hotel,' said Tita Cherrier, spokeswoman for Perdue. . . .

"Kabler and his friend Karen Davis, president of United Poultry Concerns in Machipongo, decry what breeding research has already accomplished. . . . 'All the ones you see in the store are just baby birds with huge overblown bodies,' said Davis, whose farm is a sanctuary for rescued chickens. . . ."

*Postscript.* On November 9th, the day the article appeared, David Kabler and UPC president Karen Davis



Photo by Ting-Li Wang for The Virginian-Pilot

David Kabler with some new friends in front of UPC's new home.

drove 3 1/2 hours to Chestertown, Md to hear Jim Perdue, Executive Officer of Perdue Farms (Frank's totally wimpy son) speak at Washington College on the future of the poultry industry on the Eastern Shore. Jim, who has a PhD in Fisheries, complained about a drop in chicken production and would not concede that poultry manure is a major cause of water pollution on the Eastern Shore. He said the market for poultry litter (excrement, etc.) could soon be so big that the Eastern Shore wouldn't have enough to go around. He refused to take questions from the audience and would not read David's article when David offered it to him after the talk. He said he had enough to read already, though from his speech it sounded like he hadn't read a word since the second grade.



## Replacing Eggs

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*We welcome inquiries.*

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## Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs

An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

**By Karen Davis, Ph.D.**

President and Founder of United Poultry Concerns  
Softcover • 175 pages • 1997

**Call 1-800-695-2241**

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### **E Magazine:**

"Karen Davis gives consumers everything they wanted to know but were afraid to ask in her latest book . . . which details everything from salmonella outbreaks to rampant chemical abuse."

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# SLAUGHTERHOUSE

By Gail A. Eisnitz

Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY: 1997;

(716) 691-0133

318 pp. Inc. Glossary, Photographs, Index

ISBN: 1-57392-166-1 Hardbound \$25.95

Reviewed for the Feminists for Animal Rights Newsletter by **Karen Davis**, PhD, founder and president of United Poultry Concerns and author of *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry*

I thought I was going to have a hard time reading Gail Eisnitz' book *Slaughterhouse*, but as soon as I started reading, I was drawn into this "shocking story of greed, neglect, and inhumane treatment inside the U.S. meat industry." Eisnitz really does tell a *story*. The reader is plunged into a world it is hard to believe exists, unless, like Eisnitz, we choose to enter this terrible place, or we are forced, or feel forced, to be there.

The book starts out like a novel or a movie that sets a chill in your heart in the very first scene. You enter the spiritual universe of *In Cold Blood* and *Deliverance*.

Here we have it: a vulnerable woman in a world of violent men. A *savvy* woman *courting* danger, terrified, running for her life, keeping her wits, a *smart chick*. "Carol Taylor" is a fake name – the undercover identity of "I, Gail Eisnitz," who is boldly sneaking around in Florida chasing down a notorious animal abuser for arrest. Her search leads her to the Slaughterhouse.

Years ago, when I first started learning about the

things humans do to animals on farms and in laboratories, wondering if I could endure this information, Peter Singer answered my question. In *Animal Liberation*, he said that if the animals must go through this in reality, the least we can do is to go through it in our minds.

The Ninth Circle of Hell in *Slaughterhouse* is the kill floor.

Consider a horse who doesn't want to die. "You can't spend fifteen or twenty minutes on one horse. You have to do whatever you can to get him in that box to get him skinned – fast. You can't let one horse stop you from making money." "

(Later) "What about the inspector?" I asked. "Does he ever see any of this?"

"Yes."

"How do you know? You've seen him?"

"We all on the kill floor together," he said, "we all watching this. Sometimes he'd complain about it. But you've got a lot of guys there, new, unexperienced, and they think it's a game." "

Pick almost any place in *Slaughterhouse*, and you've got testimony, an eyewitness who is soaked in blood reciting the facts, reenacting the daily ritual. Eisnitz documents alcoholism, anger, misery, murder, fear, family violence, callousness, sadism, compassion, jail time, prison sentences – the slaughterhouse milieu including the "good times." One of the book's benefits is the range of attitudes and self-revelations elicited by Eisnitz. It reminds me of what a student of mine once said about an essay we were reading: "The author said that he wasn't commenting, merely stating facts. However, his facts were full of comments."

For me, the heart of the book is the interview with Ed Van Winkle, a pig-sticker described by men who have worked with him as "the most ferocious of the stickers."

*continued on page 12* ➤

New! Order From UPC

The Most Powerful Video of Poultry Slaughter

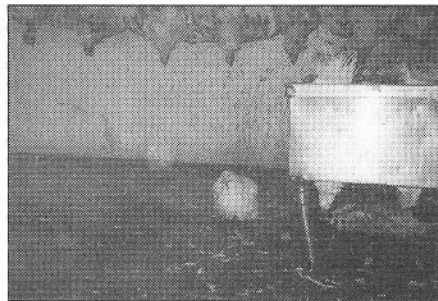
## HUMANE SLAUGHTER?

**HUMANE SLAUGHTER** takes the viewer into poultry slaughterhouses to witness the horrendous suffering endured by chickens and turkeys. The video contains undercover footage obtained by Farm Sanctuary investigators of standard poultry slaughter operations, where terrified chickens and turkeys are slowly bled to death – sometimes on the slaughterhouse floor.

Scenes from **HUMANE SLAUGHTER** have prompted thousands of people to eliminate poultry from their diets. When you see this video you'll see why:

"Undercover footage [**HUMANE SLAUGHTER**] of a poultry slaughterhouse in Los Angeles shows chickens having their throats manually cut . . . and then being stuffed alive into bleeding holes in an idle manner by the employees. Blood-soaked chickens with partially cut throats try vainly to lift themselves out of the troughs into which more bleeding and writhing birds are casually flung before being picked up and shackled. Bleeding, flapping chickens fall off the line onto the floor – no one pays any attention."

– Karen Davis, "The Death," *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry*, p. 114.



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photo by Farm Sanctuary

# A Loving Tribute to Henry Spira

by Karen Davis

*"I don't think one can articulate a satisfaction with harming another being whether it's human or nonhuman."*

— Henry Spira

In the mid-1970s, Henry Spira questioned getting involved in the farm animal issue because the issue was just too big, too "unwinnable." This is the man who went on to become a vigorous, globally famous advocate on behalf of farmed animals. *The New York Times* memorial that appeared on September 15th explained that Henry, who was born in Belgium and worked in a manila folder stacked New York City apartment where he lived with his beloved cat Nina, "brought half a lifetime of activism in the labor and civil rights movements to the animal rights world when he became involved at the age of 45."

"I began to wonder why we cuddle some animals and put a fork in others," he often said," *The Times* article stated.

Henry Spira, the founder and president of Animal Rights International and the Coalition for Nonviolent Food, was inseparable from my decision to start United Poultry Concerns in 1990. He was a member of our board of advisors from the beginning. On October 20, 1989, Henry ran a full-page ad in *The New York Times* that showed Frank Perdue with a Pinocchio nose (for being a liar) with two chicks at the end of it. It said: **"FRANK, ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR CHICKENS? Is Frank Perdue's advertising just a pile of poultry puffery hiding the brutal realities of an inhumane industry?"** The ad went on tartly to answer these questions.

Henry put the spotlight on chickens, the largest number of abused warm-blooded animals on earth. He put a face on the poultry industry by way of Frank Perdue. "The reason for focusing on Perdue is that the vast majority of factory farmed animals are birds, and because Frank

Perdue has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on ads which deliberately deceive consumers about the brutal realities of poultry farming," he wrote. When I was teaching English at the University of Maryland, Frank Perdue was appointed to the University's Board of Regents in 1991. Henry joined our campaign to cancel the appointment. He ran feisty ads in UM student newspapers — **"The P. word. There's a word for someone who does bad stuff for money. Perdue."** He took the train from New York City to UM campuses to speak at our student rallies against Perdue. Together with the students, we attended board of regents meetings around the state where we followed Perdue with our chant, **"Cluck You, Frank Perdue!"**

On a Sunday morning in February 1992, Henry took the train to College Park, and he, I, and two other people drove to Salisbury, Md where we spent the morning taking pictures inside chicken houses. That's when we got our **"Misery Is Not A Health Food"** photo of a dead chicken in a pile of dead birds on the ground outside a Perdue house. When I picked up a day-old chick from the thousands of baby birds at our feet inside a house, I couldn't put him down. When we got back to College Park, Henry and I sat in my car looking at this chick, who was at that moment fast asleep. I said, "This is 'Perdue.'" Henry said, "I know." It was then and there that he said this bird should be named Phoenix after the mythical bird who eternally rises from the ashes of death. (If you look at the handsome rooster in the upper left-hand corner of the cover of *PoultryPress*, that is Phoenix.)

I watched Phoenix die of congestive heart failure at our sanctuary on April 18, 1993, 14 months later. Henry wrote to me: "Dear Karen,

*You and Phoenix had a great life together, from the day we found him. You did everything, and more, that could be done to give him as happy and satisfying a life as is possible, within the parameters of his genetic makeup. Certainly Phoenix, true to his name, will live on, not just in our memories but in that, thinking of Phoenix, we will be energized to fight harder for all his brothers and sisters. Love, Henry."*

In the video that Henry's mentor, friend and colleague, Peter Singer, did to honor Henry just before he died, *Henry Spira: One Man's Way*, there's a scene of Henry shouting through a bullhorn – that's our UPC bullhorn in front of the Perdue chicken slaughter plant in Salisbury, Md, May 1, 1992. The occasion was UPC's Second Annual Spring Mourning Vigil for Chickens. Henry came down from New York to be with us. We spent the day surrounded by Perdue trucks stacked with those individuals who represented, in Henry's words, "the largest universe of pain and suffering" in the world.

*"May 19th, 1991. Dear Karen, I look forward to your participation at our "Opportunities, Priorities and Strategies for the 90's" round table discussion on Saturday, June 1, 1991 at the NY Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63 Street, in New York City from 9am to 5pm. Peter Singer will be the luncheon speaker. There are several reasons why a meeting along these lines could be productive at this time, among these, indications that there will be an expansion in the movement's agenda for the 90's. . . . It is now inevitable that the movement will expand into the arena of factory farming which accounts for 95% of all animal suffering – an arena with correspondingly far greater challenges. . . ."*

• • •

### **"Animals are not edibles."**

– Henry Spira

Factory-farmed animals and vegetarianism were Henry's focus 'in the 1990s. His full-page ads in *The New York Times* showing steers being branded on the face with red hot irons were decisive in putting an end to this USDA atrocity in 1994: **"THIS IS WHAT USDA POLICY LOOKS LIKE. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE?"** He placed an ad in *The Washington Times* in 1996 showing a cat going through a meat grinder with the

challenge: *"Loving and petting one kind of animal while ignoring others who feel exactly the same pain is what's **really** irrational."*

The last time I talked with Henry was in July. I knew he had cancer, but I didn't know he was about to die. I called him to ask if he would like to donate to our ad in *DVM Newsmagazine*, urging veterinarians to oppose the starvation of hens used for egg production. He said, "Sure." This was Henry, working for animals until he died. As he said about Phoenix, so it may be said about him. Henry Spira will live on, not just in our memories but in that, thinking of him, we will be energized to fight harder for all his brothers and sisters. This fight was what justified human life for Henry Spira, and he exemplified his belief.



Photo by Nancy Siesel for The New York Times

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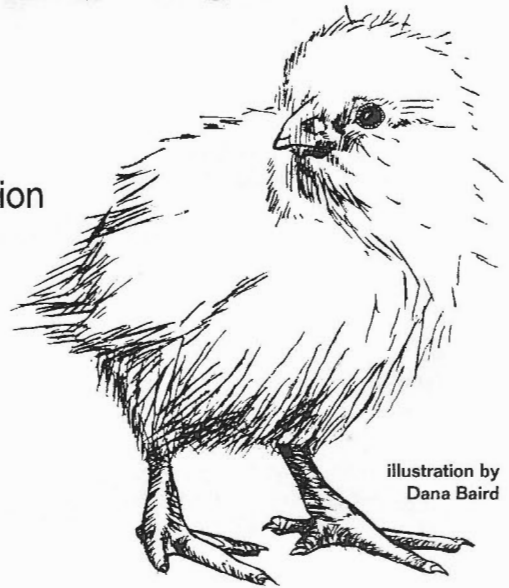


illustration by  
Dana Baird

# *A Home for Henny*



This wonderful new book by Karen Davis tells the touching story of a little girl, a chicken, and a school hatching project.

Beautifully illustrated by Patricia Vandenberg, it's the perfect gift for a child, parents, teachers, your local library.

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(20% discount for orders of 5 or more.)

## Stock Contributions

Dear Friends,

Several of our members have recently 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 stock up to and including \$10,000 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 opened a securities account with Prudential. For information on how you can donate to us this way, please write to me or call me at 757-678-7875. Or call our financial advisor, Walter Twetten, at Prudential Securities at 1-800-368-5620 or 1-202-861-4525.

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

Sincerely,  
Karen Davis, PhD  
President

## We Need a Truck/Van

United Poultry Concerns is now a home to more rescued birds than ever before. We urgently need a used pick-up or van, automatic drive, in good condition. This will enable us to transport a lot of straw and chicken/duck food from the hardware store all at once. Right now we have only one small car to make all the trips. Your tax-deductible donation of a truck or van would be greatly appreciated. Contact UPC at 757/678-7875; email: karend@capaccess.org. *Thank you!*

## Remember the Date

UPC is pleased to announce that **Boston Resource for Animals, Vegetarians & the Environment (BRAVE)** will hold its 2nd annual UPC **"For the Birds" Walkathon** on Saturday, April 17, 1999, with an inclement weather date set for April 18th. BRAVE hopes to raise \$1,000 this year to help UPC! The walk will encompass 5 miles and include a protest outside two live poultry markets and one fast food restaurant along the way. Meet at the fountain near Park Street Subway Station on Tremont St. at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact Richard Griffin at 617/262-5761; email: HenQuest@aol.com. *Thank you!*

## Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations

edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan  
Duke University Press • \$16.95 softcover

*"The whole book cries out to be read."*

The Times Literary Supplement, London • Book review reprinted in The Wall Street Journal August 12, 1996

Reviewed by David Sexton

*"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."*

The Animals' Agenda, Vol. 16, No. 2 • Reviewed by Deborah Tanzer, PhD

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photo by Jeri Metz

## BOOK REVIEW

► *continued from page 7*

He says, "The worst thing, worse than the physical danger, is the emotional toll. If you work in that stick pit for any period of time, you develop an attitude that lets you kill things but doesn't let you care. You may look a hog in the eye that's walking around down in the blood pit with you and think, God, that really isn't a bad-looking animal. You may want to pet it. Pigs down on the kill floor have come up and nuzzled me like a puppy. Two minutes later I had to kill them – beat them to death with a pipe. I can't care."

The book focuses on mammals, rather than on the birds who make up the 95 percent of animals slaughtered for food. (While 35 million cattle are slaughtered each year in the United States, 35 million chickens are slaughtered every day.) However, *Slaughterhouse* does provide a lot of information about the poultry industry, as in these comments by inspectors Macias and Carney:

"Poultry is exempt from coverage under the Humane Slaughter Act, right?" I asked.

"Correct," Carney said. "It's not humanely slaughtered. Because they're going into the scald tanks still alive, breathing and sucking in the water."

"Macias nodded. 'Most of them are still alive when they go into that tank and they fill their lungs. That's a reason for the high contamination.'"

"The kicker," Carney said, "is that when that chicken is exported to Canada, inspectors have to sign off on an export certificate that says it's been humanely slaughtered. We have no control over how they're slaughtered. None whatsoever."

The point is that "laws" or no laws, mammals and

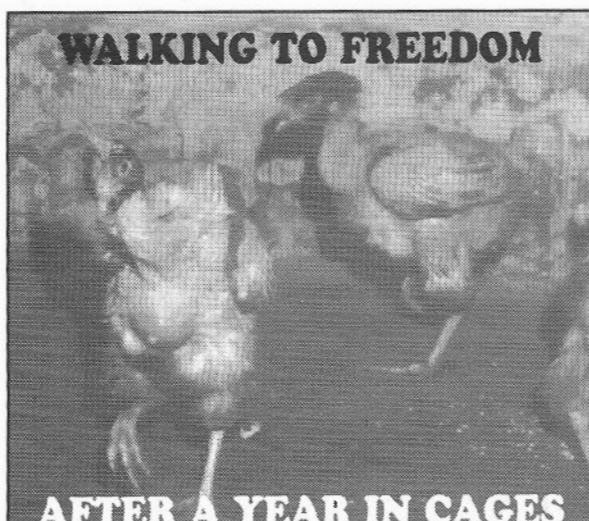
birds alike are tortured to death and anything goes in this environment. There's a kind of macabre humor in the way the cast of characters either couldn't care less about, cannot implement, and often is not even aware of the federal "humane slaughter" law for livestock. In any case, "violations of the Humane Slaughter Act carry no penalties at all."

In trying to do justice to *Slaughterhouse*, I find I can't. There is too much packed into it and the book's sensibility must be experienced directly. There is Eisnitz's cancer while she is doing her investigations, her ordeals with the news media, violent sickness and death from food poisoning, information about the Clinton Administration, and information like this: "Fat-reduced beef isn't meat," he [a former USDA inspector] explained. "It's fatty tissue, the solid part of fat. It's a gray, ugly mass. It makes you sick to look at it. They form it into patties, color it, freeze it – if you leave it out too long it will start to smell – and then they tell you to cook it."

Many animals, including their heads, are skinned alive, and rotten chicken flesh is mixed with other meat and sold for baby food. Also, about a hundred individuals are ground up in every hamburger.

*Slaughterhouse* shows the reader what is happening, without telling us what to do. In a manner akin to the archetype of the Ancient Mariner, Eisnitz has journeyed through hell, "And now I am telling the world." If, vicariously, we could "become" these animals, the workers, and Eisnitz herself, perhaps history would stop repeating itself.

*Gail A. Eisnitz is a cruelty investigator for the Humane Farming Association, San Francisco, CA. [www.hfa.org](http://www.hfa.org)*



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*photo by  
Dave Clegg*

► *continued from page 2*  
 a flock.") It's time for the bad guys to be the ones asking, "What's up, Doc?"

United Poultry Concerns and the Association of Veterinarians launched the campaign among veterinarians and animal protectionists to urge the AVMA to oppose forced molting. The AVMA has received thousands of requests for a position change, including more than 100 animal protection groups. The International Head of the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), David Bowles, wrote to the AVMA urging it "to revise its current position on forced molting to oppose the practice on welfare grounds."

As we go to press, we await the AVMA's decision whether it will adopt the Animal Welfare Committee's recommendations and news of what those as yet undisclosed recommendations are.



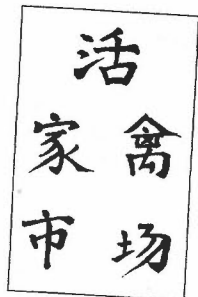
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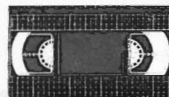
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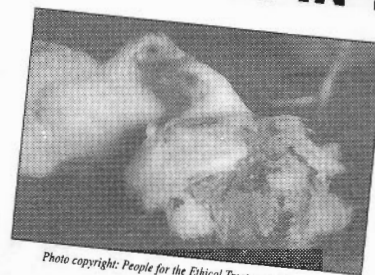


Photo copyright: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

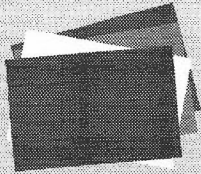
Today's chickens are forced to grow too big too fast. They're forced to live in filth. They go to slaughter with yellow pus, harmful bacteria, heart and lung disease, tumors, crippled legs, sick immune systems, and more. Millions of dollars are spent hiding these facts from you. Why put dead birds in your food anyway? Go vegetarian.



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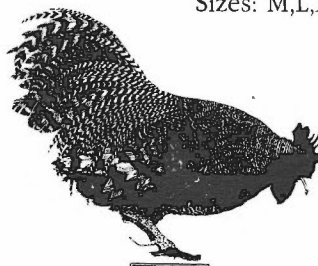
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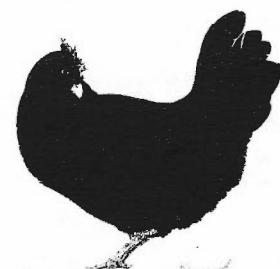
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# Abigail

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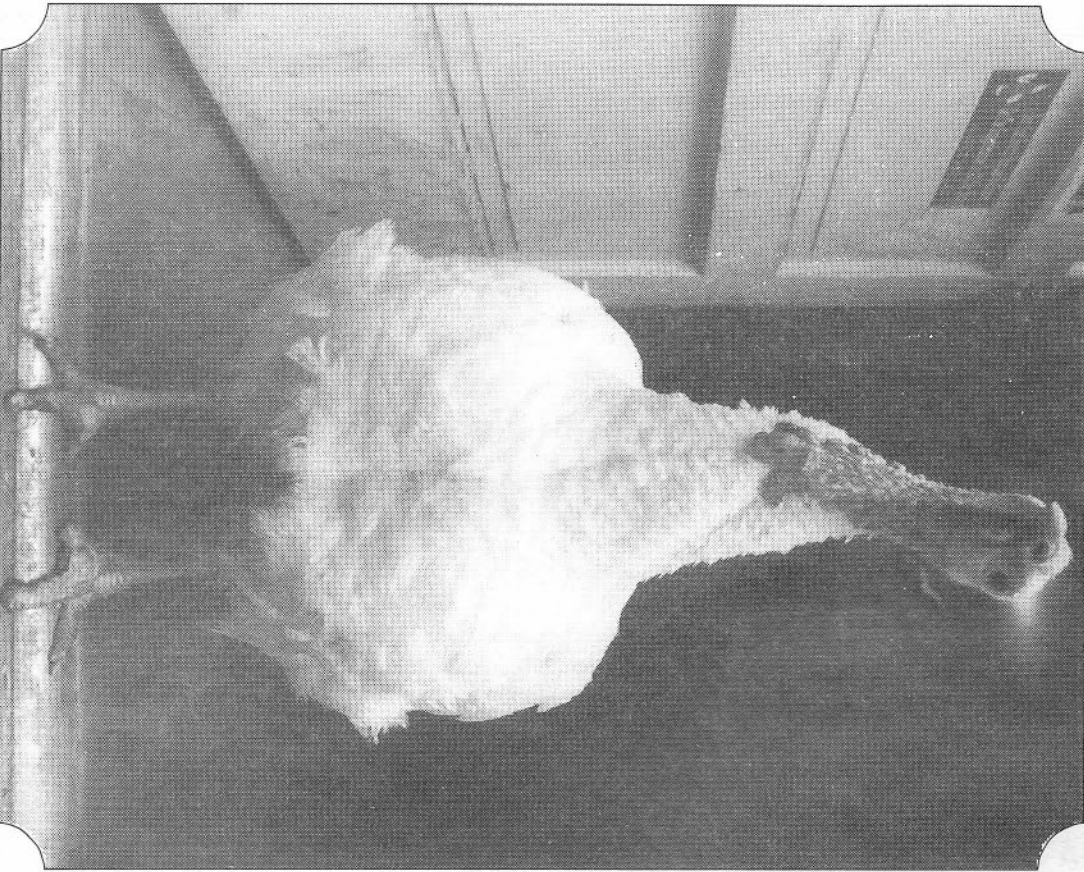


photo by Barbara Davidson  
This photo of Abigail standing in our doorway appeared in *The Washington Times* on Thanksgiving Day last year in a terrific article about United Poultry Concerns.

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*Wishing You Peace and Joy in the New Year*

