



# Poultry Press

*Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl*

## Forum Report: Do Animal Welfare Campaigns & Reforms Hurt or Help?

On December 8-9, 2001, United Poultry Concerns held our 3rd annual Forum at our headquarters and chicken sanctuary in Machipongo, Virginia. We are pleased to present to our members this summary of the ideas expressed by the speakers at the Forum. We thank everyone whose participation helped make our Forum a significant contribution to the Animal Liberation Movement; we thank **Joyce Friedman** of In Defense of Animals for moderating our two discussion sessions and **Paul Shapiro** of Compassion Over Killing for his video presentation of *Hope For the Hopeless*.

**Kirsten Rosenberg**, Managing Editor of *The Animals' Agenda*: "Looking Out for Animals' Welfare in the Pursuit of Rights." Philosophically, we can distinguish between classic welfare, welfare in pursuit of rights, and abolition without reform. Classic welfare seeks to improve our treatment of the animals we exploit, but does not seek to abolish the exploitation. Welfare in pursuit of rights seeks to alleviate the suffering of the animals we exploit while seeking to abolish the exploitation. Abolition without reform considers reform, by and large, to be counterproductive in the pursuit of animals' rights.

However, well-crafted welfare campaigns can lead society to more expanded concerns about animals, and bring more people into our movement. Welfare reforms also reduce animal suffering. While modest improvements and regulations legitimize and codify nonhuman animals as property, a modestly good law can be amended, and thus further improve the treatment of exploited animals. For example, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) keeps expanding its coverage—all the way from only animals in laboratories in the 1960s to animals used for fighting purposes,

as in the current legislation to amend the AWA to ban the interstate transport of birds intended for cockfighting.

The very fact of a law acknowledges that there are practices that are wrong and creates a social perception of wrongness. The alternative is nothing on the books, no laws at all. In the legislative arena, if you're not there, you leave that arena to those who don't care about animals or animal welfare.

*"The very fact of a law acknowledges that there are practices that are wrong and creates a social perception of wrongness. The alternative is nothing on the books, no laws at all."*

— *Kirsten Rosenberg* future and to basically say that the suffering of existing animals doesn't count.

However, we have a duty to ameliorate the suffering of animals on the way to abolition.

To the question of whether welfare campaigns, reforms, and regulations make people feel better about abusing animals, like eating them, there are no opinion polls yet to answer the question. Such polls are needed. To the argument that welfare doesn't work because more animals are now being used than ever before, this is true, but it is not inevitably the fault of reformists: unfortunately, the technologies of animal exploitation have increased along with the global human population. More people in the world create more of a market for animal products.

**Joe Miele**, New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance: "Getting Back to the Core of the Animal Rights Movement." Concerning reforms and campaigns, there are welfare reforms/campaigns intended to help animals vs. welfare reforms/campaigns intended to help animal abusing industries. An example of a

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positive welfare campaign is the Goose People in Seattle, who stopped the US Department of Agriculture from killing harmless geese. It didn't stop the killing of all geese but it stopped the killing these geese, while gaining favorable press and public support. "Bad" reform is one that seeks to make the abuser's activities more palatable to the public. Good publicity for abusers doesn't necessarily translate into good news for the animals. Regarding the American Humane Association's Free Farmed Eggs certificate program, for example, *Shape Magazine* said, "If nothing else, your conscience should be lighter." Or take the McDonald's/Burger King "more space" for battery-caged hens reforms. To show you what "more space" really amounts to for each individual hen, I made these 3 cages: here's the standard 48 square inches that a "battery" hen currently receives in her crowded cage. Here is the 72 square inches of space per hen that McDonald's is now requiring its egg suppliers to provide; and here is the 75 square inches of space per hen that Burger King is now demanding of its egg suppliers.

By giving hens a little more space, McDonald's gets positive press, and people think, "this is a responsible company." They may thus become even more hardened against abolition. Unfortunately, "more space" doesn't increase the demand for vegan food. In choosing a campaign, we must ask: Will this campaign result in saving lives? Will this campaign result in eroding the status of animals as property? Even incremental abolitionist reforms could conceivably legitimize—reinforce the legitimacy of—institutionalized animal abuse.

**Steve Best PhD**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas, El Paso; President of Voice for All Animals and VP of the Vegetarian Society of El Paso: "Undoing False Oppositions: Lessons From the Social Revolutionaries." Other social justice

movements go through the same arguments over reform vs. revolution; these arguments were part of the Marxist tradition. Unfortunately, the Marxist tradition was and remains radically anthropocentric and speciesist.

So how does the Marxist conflict between reform and revolution apply to animal rights concerns? The 19th century saw the Industrial Revolution, which brought enormous suffering to workers throughout the world. There were no child

labor laws, no welfare laws. There was no social security, workers compensation, minimum wage, or workers' right to vote. In 1848, insurrections rolled across Europe, and it looked like workers would "take over." But that didn't happen, in part because capitalism gradually showed an ability to accommodate some of the basic demands being made by workers and their advocates for a better life, and because what workers wanted most was a decent life—better working conditions, shorter hours, etc. By

the time Marx died in 1888, he had come to see that reforms might lead to revolutionary changes within capitalism. He was pessimistic but hopeful.

In the fight for justice, a county with no democratic options or traditions may need violence as a strategy. However, the US and other Western countries, despite huge opposition, have responded, if not totally yet, to demands to end racism and sexism, and could thus conceivably advance even further; in the US, a woman president or a black president is no longer inconceivable.

Likewise, Western society shows a growing recognition that nonhuman animals have moral claims upon us that we can no longer ignore. There is evidence that recognition of animal sensibilities is the next great step in human evolution. To make this happen, we need to find ways to link reforms so they do not remain isolated "victories," but combine qualita-

*"What we end up with are feel-good laws that are 'good' for us—not for the animals."*

— Sean Day

*Continued on Pg. 5*

## PoultryPress

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## Dallas Zoo Freezes "Children's Zoo" Chicks, Then Fires Caring Employee

"Putting these baby birds who crave and need warmth into a freezer is kind of the ultimate cruelty."—UPC President **Karen Davis** quoted in "Frozen City," *Dallas Observer*, Nov. 22, 2001

"We want to give the children of Dallas an opportunity to connect with the chicken."—**Charles Siegel**, Deputy Director for Animal Management, *Dallas Observer*, Feb. 15, 2001

"It seems that the reason for my discharge is the fact that I have a conscience."—**Joe Harvey** quoted in the *Dallas Observer*, Nov. 22, 2001

On February 15, 2001, the *Dallas Observer* reported that the Lacerte Family Children's Zoo, which is part of the Dallas Zoo, gasses, refrigerates, or throws in the garbage twelve more or chicks every week. The zoo told reporter **Charles Siderius** that its CO2 chamber is "humane" and that the children's zoo experience is "educational." Nine months later Siderius reported that Dallas Zoo employee **Joe Harvey** was fired for saving 12 chicks who were supposed to have been "humanely" gassed the day before, then frozen as captive carnivore food.

Discovered by one of Harvey's coworkers, the 12 living chickens "were huddled and shivering," surrounded by the 12 chicks who froze to death in the sub-zero walk-in freezer overnight. "I decided that the surviving chicks would not be gassed," Harvey said. "They had lived through a night of living hell and would not be subjected to the indignation of being killed after that. I wasn't going to allow it." When the zoo learned of Harvey's action, they fired him.

The *Dallas Observer's* February 2001 revelation of the gassing of the chicks who were first "petted" by Children's Zoo visitors noted that zoo administrators were "quietly talking about expanding the baby-petting program to include guinea pigs, mice, rats, rabbits, and quail." But soon after Harvey was fired, another episode leaked in which "all but one of two dozen doomed baby chicks starved to death in the gas chamber awaiting execution (for three days)." Zoo officials closed the chick exhibit in November 2001.

UPC President **Karen Davis** stated in the November 2001 Dallas Observer article that the zoo's abuse of the chicks is "part of the general total lack of respect for or empathy with the lives of these birds. [W]hen you are using creatures in this totally exploitative and cynical way in order to promote business, it leads to an atrocity as this exemplifies." Davis said that while it's good that the zoo closed the exhibit, "the practice of keeping predatory birds and other creatures in cages just so people can look at them is wrong. You've got a fundamental problem in the very nature of the zoo."

### Links to the two Dallas Observer articles:

"Chick Filler": [dallasobserver.com/issues/2001-02-15/news.html/1/index.html](http://dallasobserver.com/issues/2001-02-15/news.html/1/index.html)

"Frozen Food": [dallasobserver.com/issues/2001-11-22/news2.html/1/index.html](http://dallasobserver.com/issues/2001-11-22/news2.html/1/index.html)



## What Can I Do?

Tell the Dallas Zoo to keep the chick exhibit permanently closed and not to expand the "petting zoo" by adding more animals. Contact:

**Rich Buickerood**, Director

Dallas Zoo

650 South R L Thornton Freeway

Dallas, TX 75203

Ph: 214-670-5656

Fax: 214-670-7450

Email: [dallaszoo@airmail.net](mailto:dallaszoo@airmail.net)

Website: [www.dallas-zoo.org](http://www.dallas-zoo.org)

For Karen Davis's article "The Difference Between the Dallas Zoo and McDonald's," visit [www.UPC-online.org/Thinking Like a Chicken](http://www.UPC-online.org/Thinking Like a Chicken).

## UPC Holds 4th Annual Vigil for Turkeys,

Nov. 16, 2001

UPC activists gathered at the Giant Food Store in Bethesda, Md urging people to "give peace a chance—go vegan!" Killing 268 million turkeys in 2001 was nothing to be thankful for.

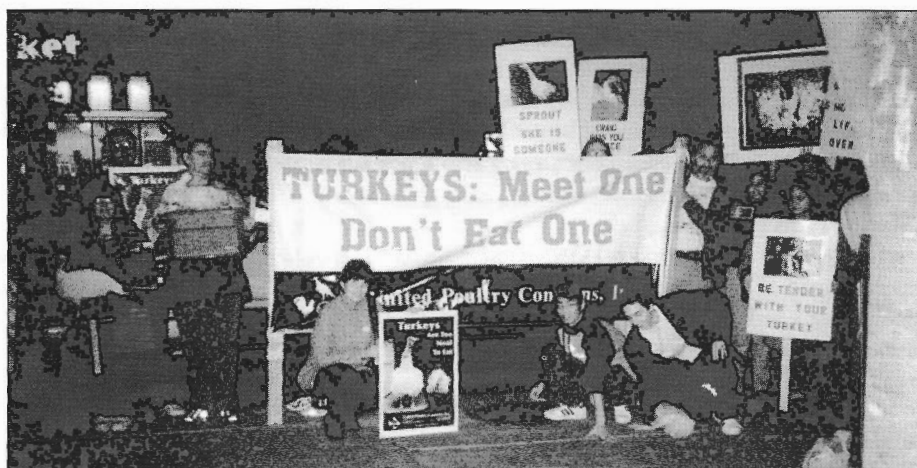


Photo: Karen Davis

# UPC Internet Campaign Gets Carl's Jr. to Drop Lewd Commercial

*"The ad is no longer in circulation." — Larry Brayman, CKE Restaurants, February 11, 2002*

The Carl's Jr. "nuggets" ad that aired in California in January and part of February is off the air, according to CKE Restaurants, the parent company of Carl's Jr., a fast food franchise in CA. The ad showed a group of men dressed as scientists examining a live chicken, looking for her "nuggets." One of them took off his glove and said, "They're not here either," implying an anal search for nuggets.

A *Los Angeles Times* article about UPC's campaign to get rid of the ad ("What if Someone Went Looking for Your Nuggets?" by **Dana Parsons**, January 16) quoted UPC President **Karen Davis**, "When someone's poking around your body and sniffing around, looking under your tail, wing and treating this bird's body derisively... that's our objection."

CKE Restaurants said the ad targeted their "most frequent customers... the young male audience."



## What Can I Do?

### To express your views concerning such advertising, contact:

Robert Wisely,  
Executive Vice President  
CKE Restaurants, Inc.  
401 West Carl Karcher Way  
PO Box 4349  
Anaheim, CA 92803-4349  
Email: eluke@ckr.com  
Toll-free to Robert Wisely:  
800-422-4141, ext. 1232  
Toll-free to Carl's Jr.: 800-758-2275

Larry Brayman, Director of  
Corporate Affairs  
CKE Restaurants  
505 North 7th Street, Suite 3610  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
Ph: 314-259-6223

Richard Zien, CEO  
Mendelsohns/Zien  
Advertising Agency  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd,  
Suite 2100  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Ph: 310-444-1990  
Fax: 310-444-9698  
Email: rzien@mzad.com

## *Man Kills Family's Turkey with Pool Ball and Cue Stick on Christmas Day*

*"For people who can't control themselves, their own impulses, the law has to do it for them."*—UPC President **Karen Davis** quoted in the *Daily Camera*, Boulder, CO, Jan 10, 2002 ("Turkey Death Suspect Has Record of Bird Abuse" by **Christine Reid**)

Longmont, Boulder County, Colorado - On December 25, 2001, 21-year-old **Luis Contreras** killed his girlfriend's family's companion turkey by hitting the bird with a billiard ball and a cue stick after drinking twelve cans of beer. Contreras was charged with cruelty to animals. If convicted he faces an 18-month jail term—the maximum penalty for "misdemeanor" animal cruelty in Colorado. This is the second time in 4 months that Contreras has been arrested for abusing a bird. On October 26, 2001, Contreras was convicted of animal cruelty for slamming his girlfriend's cockatiel against a wall in September. He was placed on 18 months probation. Contreras broke probation when he killed the turkey and drank alcohol on December 25.

United Poultry Concerns immediately called Boulder County Prosecutor **Karen Peters** and issued an Internet Action Alert urging people to urge Peters to request the maximum penalty for

Contreras. After being flooded with letters, Peters asked UPC to withdraw the Action Alert as it had achieved its purpose. In "Animal Advocates Renew Call for Tougher Cruelty Laws," in the *Daily Times-Call*, Longmont, CO, Jan. 11, 2002, Peters told reporter **DeeDee Correll**, "We will absolutely take this very seriously. He has an animal cruelty on a bird again."

Contreras's cruelty has increased the debate about making animal cruelty a felony offense in Colorado. This year, Colorado Senator **Deanna Hanna** plans to sponsor a bill that would make animal cruelty a felony and require counseling for youthful offenders.

The *Daily Times-Call* reported that "As far as United Poultry Concerns is concerned, the case underscores the need for Colorado to join the 33 states that have passed laws making animal cruelty a felony crime. 'When you have a state where people set cats on fire or hurl birds against a wall, clearly these people are doing it in part because they don't fear what will happen to them . . . The idea is, 'If I do this, nobody's going to care,'" Davis said. 'We're talking about creatures we've brought into our homes and lives. We have an obligation to protect those animals.'"

Continued from pg. 2

tively to advance the movement for Animal Liberation. The worst thing is when people become complacent with getting a little here, a little there, without the Big Goal being sought or reached.

**Sean Day**, Attorney: "Beyond Rights vs. Welfare: A Model for Evaluating Efforts in Furtherance of Animal Rights." Consider the fact that the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) carries no criminal penalties for vivisection and that 85 to 95 percent of animals used in research are not covered by the Act. The case of animal experimenter **Edward Taub** and the Silver Spring Monkeys in the 1980s is an example of the AWA actually thwarting welfare. It was because of the AWA that the Taub case was overturned on appeal. Having been convicted of animal cruelty in Maryland, the Maryland Court of Appeals subsequently ruled that animal experimenters who receive federal tax funding do not have to obey State anti-cruelty laws. At the same time, current legislation that would ban the interstate transport of birds intended for cockfighting by amending the AWA is abolitionist, because it seeks to end cockfighting—not to make cockfighting "more humane."

In the legislative arena, consider the degrading of the Downed Animal Protection Act in being amended into the Farm Bill in 2001. The original downed animal bill was designed to prevent the marketing of downed animals and to promote their immediate euthanasia. But the amended form of the proposed law carries no criminal or civil penalties and can be overridden by "veterinary intent": if the crippled cow, say, fails to respond to the veterinarian's *intention* of making her move on her own two feet, she may then be forcibly loaded onto a slaughter-bound truck without being euthanized on the spot. And while reforms like an 8-hour workday are clearly progressive, a "humane slaughter act" could be considered a "negative improvement" because it promotes the false idea that animals are being humanely slaughtered. What we end up with are feel-good laws that are "good" for us—not for the animals. While we do not want to sacrifice animals who are suffering now to the hypothetical goal of an abolitionist future, neither do we want to forego long-term improvements in favor of "instant gratification." Welfare is bad when it adds another layer of insulation to exploitation and abuse. What is good is to Go Vegetarian. Each vegetarian—each vegan, that is—saves about 5,000 animals. Many people believe they can be compassionate towards animals and still eat them! The most egregious cruelty is that animals are brought into this world only to be enslaved and killed. This is what we should work to abolish.

**Bruce Friedrich**, Vegetarian Grassroots Campaigns Coordinator for PETA: "Welfare vs. Liberation: Mutually Exclusive?" My role

at PETA is helping activists to promote veganism. To date, society is still pretty much arrayed against us, and even people who intellectually are for animal rights don't always emotionally or behaviorally conform to their own intellectual recognition. Hopefully, *Hope For the Hopeless*, Compassion Over Killing's new video showing the horror of the egg industry, which we watched today, will haunt everyone who sees it to go vegan.

Regarding PETA's campaigns, PETA does agonize and debate about our campaigns. For example, PETA wrote to McDonald's following the judge's verdict in the McLibel Trial, which ran from June 1994 to December 1996, that

McDonald's was guilty of cruelty to chickens and other animals being raised and slaughtered by the company's suppliers of eggs, meat, and other animal products. The judge ruled that McDonald's behavior was cruel—but not illegal. Still, the acknowledgement of cruelty was a major concession!—something to work with and to advance. To discount what McDonald's did for chickens and for farmed animals in general is mistaken. And consider that while McDonald's reforms are national in scope thus far, McDonald's followers, Burger King and Wendy's, have internationalized their welfare reforms.

To those who say, "This isn't much" or "These McDonald's reforms are counterproductive," it may be replied that these reforms push the envelope. Birds have a whole new level of recognition: the recognition that they have feelings and that these feelings must be taken into account. This is the first domino. Suddenly we are on our playing field instead of theirs.

How do you get national/international attention to animal issues as opposed to just your community and state—as important as local attention is? This is a question PETA deals with. We all agree, we shouldn't be doing just welfare reforms. For one thing, they steal resources from Liberation activity. The problem is, PETA has difficulty getting its members to do strictly vegan demos (as opposed to a "Wendy's reform"-type demo) and to give donations to vegan fundraisers. It's less scary to do fur and circus demos, which are not as challenging as the diet issue.

But to end optimistically: In 1900, there was not one country in which all adults could vote, not one country in which there was a law against child abuse. It has taken thousands of years to get people to consider the right to vote and child abuse laws as self-evident! We have progressed from Galileo, who in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was threatened with torture by the Catholic Church unless he recanted his statement that the earth is not the center of the physical universe, to the point where we have begun to recognize that humans are not the center of the moral universe—this advance has occurred in just three centuries.

*"There is evidence that recognition of animal sensibilities is the next great step in human evolution."*

— Steve Best PhD

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In memory of my dear parents, Mae and Bill Schreiber, who both died this year,  
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### *Millicent & Her Mates! Happy Together! Thanks to the MSPCA and UPC*

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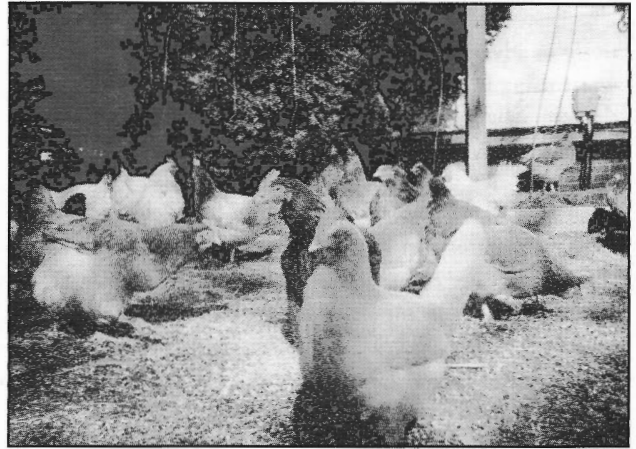


Photo by Karen Davis

Millicent and her mates at UPC

for \$6 a month, \$72 a year? If so, please send us your check or money order stating the number of birds you wish to sponsor and if you prefer a hen or a rooster or both. You may pay by the month, bi-annual installment. Upon receiving your sponsorship fee, we will send you a color photo of your happy chicken(s), and his, her, or their name(s). Thank you for helping us save and care for these wonderful birds.

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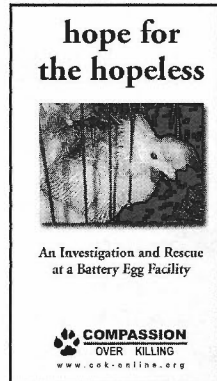
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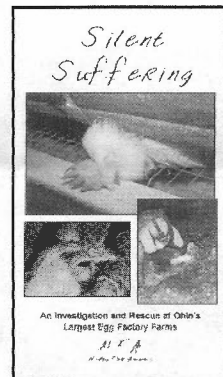
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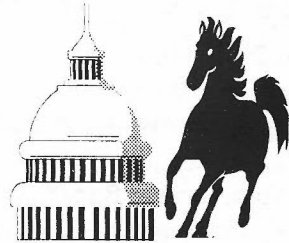


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photo by Tal Ronnen

# Karen Davis' New Book

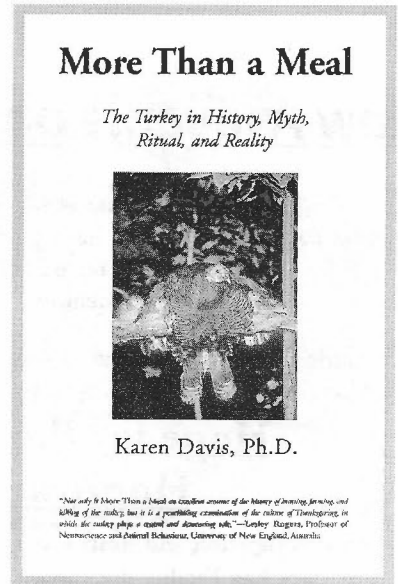
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# Cloned Chickens, Facially Disfigured Chicks, & Blinded Hens

"They are proliferating lives that endure nothing but misery. It's the new horror for animals in the 21st century." United Poultry Concerns President **Dr. Karen Davis**, quoted in "Poultry industry not ready for cloning" by **Joe Cacchioli**, (*The Daily Times*, Jan. 18, 2002.)

**Cloned Chickens** Unlike transgenic birds, who have had genes from other species inserted into their embryos, cloned birds have had embryonic stem cells from members of their own species microinjected into their eggs to duplicate virtually identical birds. "The idea is to create identical copies of eggs with desirable traits [more 'meat,' faster growing, etc.] that can roll off assembly lines by the billions," says biotechnology writer **Paul Elias** of the *Associated Press* (Jan. 10, 2002). On Aug. 18, 2001 *New Scientist* announced that the US's National Institute of Science and Technology has given Origen Therapeutics of Burlingame, Calif., and Embrex of North Carolina, \$4.7 million to fund chicken cloning experiments for the poultry industry. A "problem" to be solved is that, unlike the eggs of mammals, birds' eggs cannot be removed and implanted in another bird, because the yoke is too fragile and the avian ovum's pronuclei cannot be visualized for microinjection. By the time a hen lays her egg, an embryo has already begun to develop on the yolk and has about 60,000 cells.

Just as transgenic animals are ridden with gastric ulcers, arthritis, blindness, defective organs, impaired (or no) immune systems, and other human-created maladies, so are cloned animals. If a chicken used for cloning is vulnerable to a disease, all of that bird's clones will be vulnerable to that disease. Scientific speculation on the causes of cloning calamities is that, in cloning, an egg is forced to do complex tasks in minutes or hours that in nature take weeks, months or years. Evidence indicates that the artificially rapid reprogramming in cloning can introduce random errors into the clone's DNA, subtly altering individual genes with consequences that can halt embryo or fetal development, killing the clone.

Or gene alterations may be fatal soon after birth or lead to major medical problems later in life. **Dr. Brigid Hogan**, a professor of cell biology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, says that human cloning under these conditions "would be morally indefensible." **Dr. Rudolph Jaenisch**, a professor of biology at the Whitehead Institute at MIT, says putting humans through what humans put nonhuman animals through "would be reckless and irresponsible. What do you do with

humans who are born with half a kidney or no immune system?" **Dr. Mark E. Westhusin**, a cloning researcher at Texas A&M University, says that cow clones are often born with enlarged hearts or lungs that do not develop properly. (*The New York Times*, March 25, 2001).

And just as transgenic research animals may be "passed for human consumption," according to the US Dept of Agriculture's "Points to Consider in the Food Safety Evaluation of Transgenic Animals from Transgenic Animal Research," March 1994, so we may expect cloned research chickens, turkeys, cows, sheep, pigs, and fish to end up in supermarkets and restaurants without warning labels.

**Fetal Chick with Two Beaks.** In an experiment at the University of British Columbia, a research team headed by **Dr. Joy Richman**, a pediatric dentist at UBC, blocked the activity of a protein that stimulates bone growth in chickens, and added a vitamin A-derived acid. As a result, "[t]he growth factors changed how bone and cartilage grew to form a second, nostril-less beak beside the original," according to the journal *Nature* (Dec. 20, 2001) and CBC News (Dec. 20). Richman made a hole in an eggshell and put microscopic protein-soaked beads on the embryo's face. Two weeks later, the fetal chick had two beaks. "It's equivalent to growing a second nose on the side of the cheek," Richman said. [No, Dr. Richman. For a bird, it's like having a second mouth and hand on the side of the cheek.—UPC editor.]

Her next step is "to have genes send different signals to grow other parts of the face." In other words, Richman will now be funded to create every possible facial deformity in fetal chickens, and her grant proposals will argue that "developmental biologists say the finding could help scientists understand normal facial development and what causes facial deformities." The chick fetus with two beaks appeared on the cover of *Nature*, Dec. 20, 2001.

**Blinding Hens.** On NPR's Morning Edition, Dec. 4, 2001, issues raised at a recent National Academy of Sciences meeting about genetically modified animals were aired.

The National Academy of Sciences has been asked to study what the FDA and the USDA should consider in giving the okay for genetically modified meat and fish to be sold in grocery stores. So far, the USDA has said, "If it looks like a cow, smells like a cow, it is a cow, and you can eat it."



UPC Sanctuary Assistant Holly Taylor and Kokun the Hen

Proponents claim "genetic engineering simply does what nature does, only faster and more precisely." In addition to human health and environmental concerns, welfare concerns were raised. "Nobody worries about how the corn feels, but when it comes to animals, is it fair to do this to them?" Fish genetically modified to grow much faster and larger than normal fish, and hens genetically modified to be blind, were cited as examples of ethically problematic "solutions" to agribusiness "problems."

**Paul Thompson**, a philosophy professor at Purdue University (NPR did not mention that Paul Thompson happens to be the director of Purdue's "Center for Food Animal Productivity and Well-Being"), cited the "blind chicken problem." He said that chickens blinded by "accident" have been developed into a strain of blind chickens. These chickens, he said, "don't mind being crowded together so much as normal chickens do. One suggestion has been that we ought to shift over to all blind chickens as a solution to our animal welfare problems associated with crowding in the poultry industry. Is this permissible on animal welfare grounds? This is a philosophical conundrum. If you think it's the welfare of the individual animal that really matters here, how the animals are doing, then it would be more humane to have these blind chickens. On the other hand, anyone you ask thinks this is an absolutely horrendous thing to do."

NPR reporter **David Kestenbaum** who attended the NAS meeting and narrated the segment, concluded that "the meeting showed how hard it is to untangle numbers from beliefs."

**To order NPR transcripts call 1-877-677-8398**

**Further Reading:**

[www.UPC-online.org/](http://www.UPC-online.org/) Genetic Engineering/The Ethics of Genetic Engineering and the Futuristic Fate of Domestic Fowl,

by **Karen Davis**, PhD

Unraveling the DNA Myth: The spurious foundation of genetic engineering, by **Barry Commoner**, *Harper's Magazine*, Feb. 2002: 39-47.



## What Can I Do?

In addition to going and staying vegan, write letters to the editor and to TV and radio program directors explaining your ethical concerns about the genetic modification of animals. Urge the news media to inform the public about the suffering of genetically modified animals, to raise questions about the moral appropriateness of causing such suffering, and to state honestly the professional affiliations of their "experts." For example, why didn't the NPR segment on genetically modified animals mention that "philosopher" Paul Thompson is the director of the Center for "Food Animal Productivity" at Purdue University. No wonder he didn't say that hens should be given more space, with opportunities to exercise their natural behavior, but said instead that the crowding of intentionally blinded hens is a "humane" solution to the behavioral abnormalities caused by crowding.

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 Fax: 202-293-4005  
 Email: gwatts@chickenusa.org

**Dr. Bruce Albert, President Office of News & Public Affairs National Academy of Sciences**  
 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20418  
 Ph: 202-334-2000; fax: 2158  
 Email: news@nas.edu

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

Sincerely,  
 Karen Davis, Ph.D.

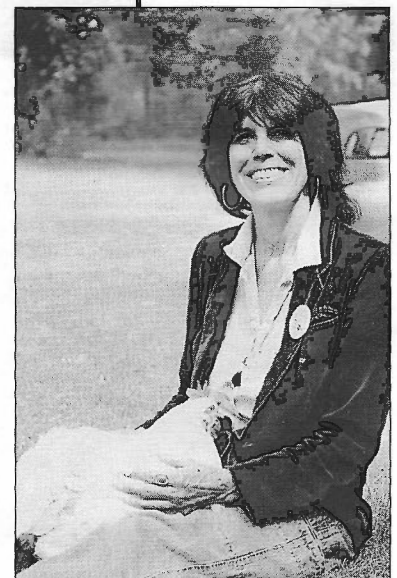


photo by Tal Ronnen

# The Food Revolution

by John Robbins

\$17.95 from Conari Press. 2001

Email: [conari@conari.com](mailto:conari@conari.com)

ISBN: 1-57324-702-2

Reviewed by Patrice Le-Muire Jones

Every once in a while, a tool comes along that is so useful you wonder how you ever got along without it. John Robbins's new book, *The Food Revolution*, is such a tool. Subtitled "How Your Diet Can Help Save Your Life and the World," this book presents all of the important arguments for veganism, and plenty of facts to back up those arguments, in an easy to digest format. Friends of the chickens and other animals will find this book to be an excellent reference for themselves as well as a wonderful gift for those friends and relatives who might respond to a well-placed nudge in the right direction.

*The Food Revolution* begins with a comprehensive, easy to understand section on the health benefits and risks of various foods. Robbins discusses the role of specific plant-based foods in the prevention of certain diseases as well as the more general benefits associated with a balanced plant-based diet. He then surveys the very real dangers associated with consumption of animal-based foods. Taken together, these chapters represent a compelling argument that self-interest alone mandates a balanced vegan diet.

But Robbins doesn't stop with self-interest. The next section of the book covers topics close to the heart of any reader of *PoultryPress*: the suffering of chickens and other farmed animals and the ethical obligation to avoid participating in their exploitation. Here, again, Robbins covers all of the important issues in accessible chapters spiced with plenty of pointed facts.

The founder of EarthSave International, Robbins goes global in the third section of *The Food Revolution*, exploring the impact of our dietary choices on such problems as world hunger and the impending global water crisis. Because the production of animal-based foods requires more natural resources and creates more pollution than sustainable cultivation of plants for direct human consumption, both people and the planet are hurt by the insatiable appetite for meat in the US and other affluent nations.

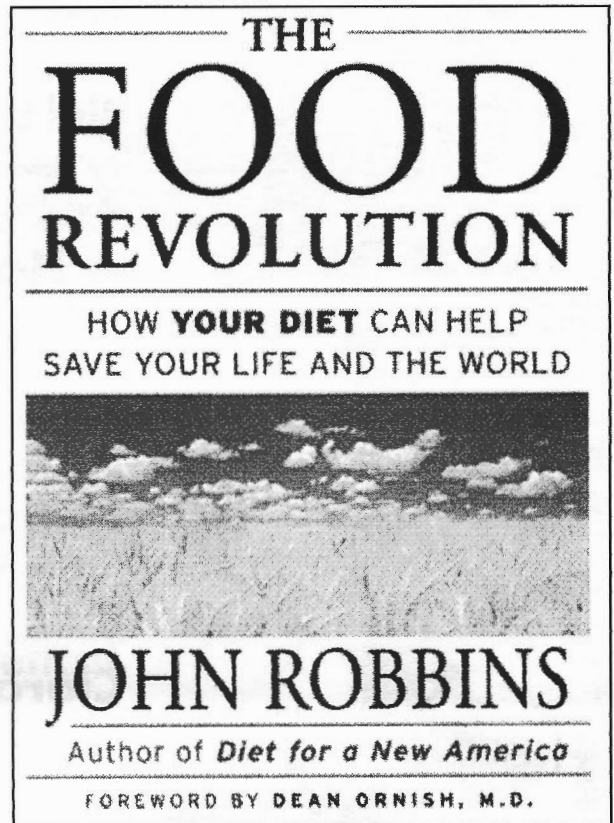
This aspect of Robbins's book is extremely timely. The waste of food resources on the production of meat and other animal-based commodities has long been one of the chief causes of world hunger. Now the supporters of the poultry and livestock industry are

promoting sharply increased meat, dairy, and egg production as a solution to world hunger. Transnational agribusiness corporations plan to increase worldwide demand for animal-based foods and to locate more of their operations in low-income nations,

where they hope to be free of environmental and animal welfare regulations. If they succeed, human and nonhuman animal suffering, as well as environmental degradation, will increase.

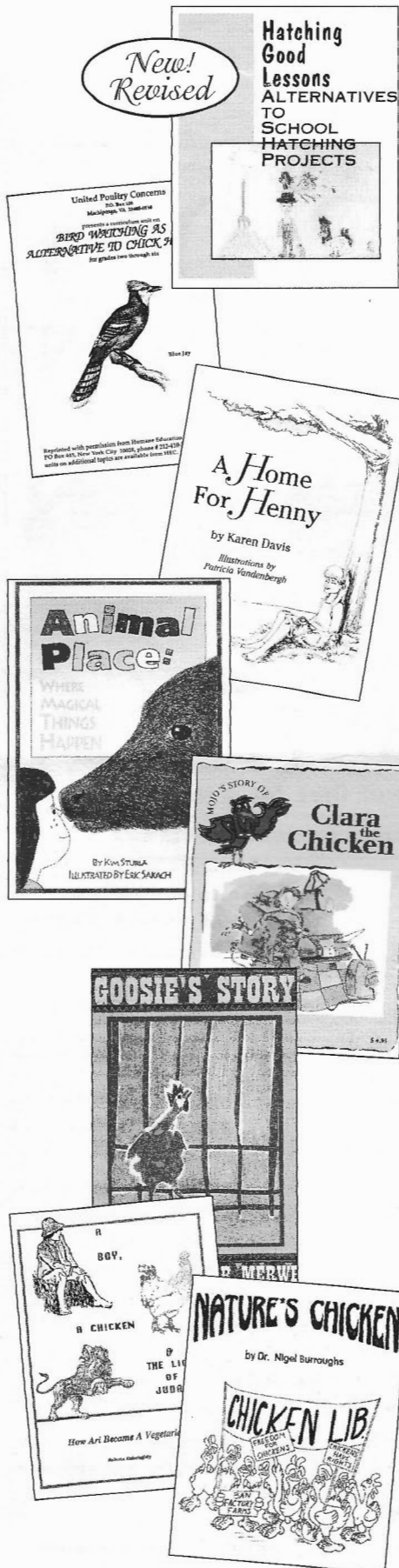
Those who support genetic engineering of plants and animals have also falsely claimed that their profit-driven technologies are needed to feed the world. Robbins addresses biotechnology in the final section of *The Food Revolution*, showing that sustainable cultivation of traditional food crops, rather than broccoli spiced with rat genes, is the way to feed the world while preserving the planet.

*The Food Revolution* is well referenced, making it an extremely useful resource for those who wish to inquire more



deeply. A resource guide adds to the utility of the book, directing readers to information and organizations that can aid them in taking personal and political action on the issues raised in the text.

.....  
*Patrice Le-Muire Jones coordinates the Global Hunger Alliance, an international coalition of organizations united in opposition to the worldwide expansion of factory farming and in favor of efficient, ethical, and environmentally sustainable solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition. She lives in rural Maryland, where she and her partner run the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary. [www.brave-birds.org](http://www.brave-birds.org)*



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## Nature's Chicken, The Story of Today's Chicken Farms

*By Nigel Burroughs*

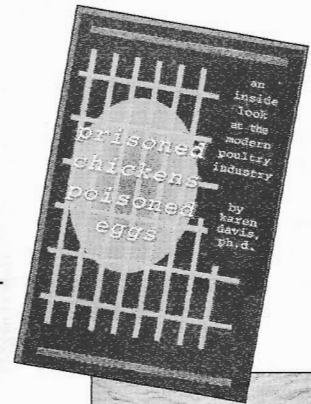
With wry humor, this unique children's story book traces the development of today's chicken and egg factory farming in a perfect blend of entertainment and instruction. Wonderful illustrations. Promotes compassion and respect for chickens. \$5.95

**BOOKS**

**Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs:  
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*By Karen Davis*

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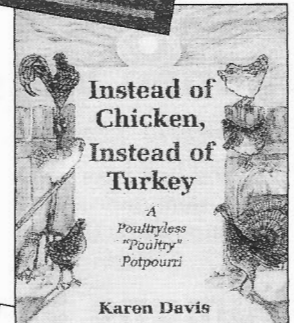


**NEW EDITION!**

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*By Karen Davis*

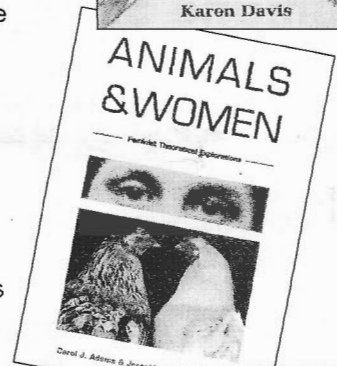
This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns, Inc. features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95



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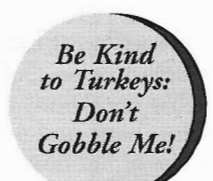
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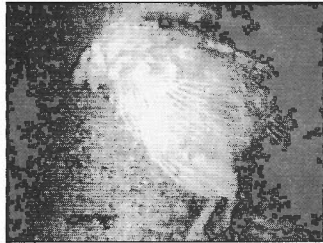


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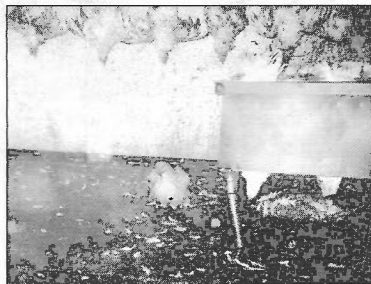
*By Chickens' Lib*

This vivid half hour video exposes the cruelty of the battery cage system and intensive broiler chicken, turkey and duck production. \$20.00

### Humane Slaughter?

*By Farm Sanctuary*

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 poultry slaughter operations, where terrified chickens and turkeys are slowly bled to death - sometimes on the slaughterhouse floor.



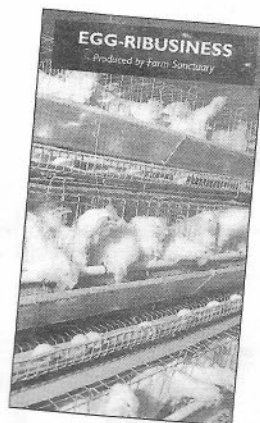
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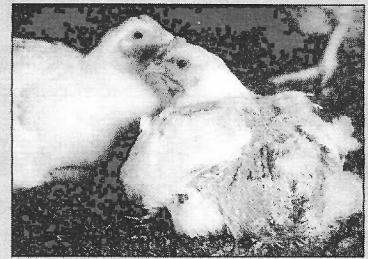
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*Photo by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*

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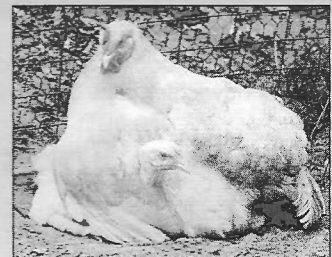


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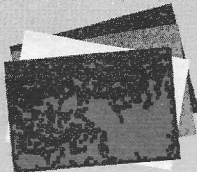
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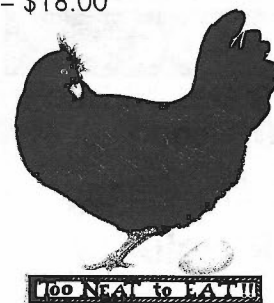


Photo: Karen Davis



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