



For Animals
Ngā Kararehe Haumarū



Open letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor demanding a ban on the caging of hens

All animals deserve a life worth living, and hens are no exception. Confining hens in colony cages is not only cruel but is also completely unnecessary.

Hens are intelligent, curious and socially complex birds, and like all animals, they have natural behavioural needs. In an outdoor environment, a hen will spend her days scratching at the earth, searching for food, dust bathing, stretching her wings and basking in the sun. In New Zealand, over 1.2 million hens are not afforded these basic freedoms because they are intensively farmed in colony cages.

Hens in Aotearoa continue to suffer, while the rest of the world is ending the brutal caging of hens. Colony cages are banned or are being phased out in parts of Europe, including Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany, Denmark, Slovakia, Austria, the Czech Republic and the Walloon Region of Belgium and in eight states in the USA.

With prolonged confinement, overcrowding and inability to display normal patterns of behaviour, colony cages do not allow for the physical health and behavioural needs of hens to be met.

It's time for our politicians to put the chicken before the egg and finally make caging hens illegal in New Zealand. With one voice, we call for an end to the suffering of caged hens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Ashton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Debra Ashton
Chief Executive Officer

All open letter signatures to be added here