

Animal Rights International

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This November, New Yorkers Will See What Egg Producers Don't Want Them to See

What egg producers don't want their customers to see will soon be staring New Yorkers in the face. Animal Rights International (ARI) today announced that New York City buses will be used to show the way most eggs are produced. The large, graphic billboard-style advertising will run on the side of buses for one month starting October 29, as part of a campaign to promote cage-free eggs.

ARI President Professor Peter Singer said that the egg industry routinely denies entry to photographers and television cameras, as it knows that images of hens crammed into bare wire cages would not be well-received by the public.

Professor Singer said "Michael Vick treated his dogs horribly and should be sentenced to the maximum penalty allowed by law, but most American egg producers treat their hens much worse, and they are not going to jail. Laying hens spend their entire lives with less space than a sheet of writing paper and, as a result, are unable to do what hens naturally do. They can't perch, preen, dustbathe or even spread their wings. They move so little that their bones are weak and often break. They are so crowded that the strong birds attack the weak ones, who have nowhere to flee to. The egg industry deals with this by searing off the birds' beaks with a hot blade—an amputation that results in chronic pain. Battery cages are being phased out in Europe – why are we lagging behind?"

Professor Singer notes that there is a bright spot in this dark picture. "Cage-free eggs, while presently only about five percent of sales, are the fastest growing segment of the market. As more people become aware of the enormous suffering inflicted on caged layers, they often choose to spend a few extra pennies for a more humanely produced egg. ARI hopes that by reminding New Yorkers that breakfast comes at a price for hens, many will spend a little more to get them out of the cages."

Peter Singer is Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, but is speaking here on behalf of Animal Rights International, of which he is President, and not on behalf of Princeton University. He is the author of Animal Liberation, often credited with starting the modern animal rights movement.

