



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2010

Position Statement against Modified Cages for Laying Hens



Hens confined in a "furnished" cage.
Compassion in World Farming

The major animal protection organizations in the United States and European Union listed below that focus on the treatment of farm animals are opposed to modified cages, sometimes referred to as furnished, or so-called enriched cage, confinement of laying hens.

It is clear that such modified cages fail to properly meet the hens' physical or behavioral needs. They provide an unacceptably restrictive amount of space per bird; severely restrict many important physical activities, including running, flying, and wing-flapping; and do not permit unrestrained perching and dustbathing. The severe restriction of the hens' ability to exercise is likely to lead to frustration, bone weakness, and osteoporosis—clear indicators of poor welfare.

Despite the modifications, these cages are unable to provide an acceptable level of welfare for hens. The egg industry, food companies, and other stakeholders within the food industry should do the right thing and end the use of all cages to confine laying hens.

Signed,

[Compassion in World Farming](#)
[The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(RSPCA\)](#)
[The Humane Society of the United States](#)
[The Humane Farming Association](#)
[Animal Welfare Institute](#)
[World Society for the Protection of Animals](#)
[Eurogroup for Animals](#)
[Farm Sanctuary](#)
[SAFE \(New Zealand\)](#)

For more information on the science demonstrating why these modified cages are detrimental to animal welfare, please see [The HSUS' white paper on the topic](#).
