

POLICIES ON ANIMAL WELFARE



**This document sets out the animal welfare policies of
Compassion in World Farming, as well as the organisation's
vision for humane sustainable farming.**

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INTRODUCTION

Compassion in World Farming (Compassion) is the leading international farm animal welfare charity, specialising in the welfare of animals reared for food. We believe that animals should not and need not suffer. We advocate farming methods that benefit animal welfare as well as people and the environment. Each farmed animal is an individual sentient being, capable of enjoying his/her life, but equally capable of feeling pain and experiencing suffering. Farmed animals should be treated with compassion, care and respect. It is a fundamental responsibility of society to ensure that farmed animals have a decent quality of life and as humane a death as possible.

OUR VISION

is a world where farm animals are treated with compassion and respect.

OUR MISSION

is to end factory farming and advance the wellbeing of farm animals worldwide through advocacy, campaigning and engagement.

Farm animals are sentient beings, capable of feeling emotions such as 'fear', 'distress' and 'pain' as well as 'pleasure' and 'happiness'. Respect for the sentience and the intrinsic value of the individual animal requires that all farm animals should be allowed a meaningful existence and a high quality of life (QoL).

ANIMAL SENTIENCE IN THE EU'S LISBON TREATY

"In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

Official Journal of the European Union C 115, 09.05.2008

WHAT IS ANIMAL WELFARE?

Animal welfare is about ensuring the wellbeing of the individual animal from the animal's point of view. It includes animal health and encompasses both the physical and psychological state of the animal (see Quality of Life diagram below). The welfare of an animal can be described as good or high if the individual is fit, healthy and free from suffering. To put it another way, the animals are healthy and have what they need.

WHAT IS FACTORY FARMING?

Factory farming is where animals are treated like production machines rather than individual sentient beings with welfare needs. It involves 'intensive' farming, characterised by the use of close confinement systems (cages and crates) or overcrowded sheds or barren feedlots. It also involves the use of fast growing or high producing breeds where the animals are prone to painful production-related diseases. Factory farming is energy-intensive, using concentrated feed, high mechanisation and low labour requirements. Intensive farming is often practised on a massive scale and is often known as 'industrial' agriculture.

ANIMAL WELFARE POTENTIAL

There are two major factors that affect farm animal welfare: the system it is raised in (e.g. intensive factory farming or extensive free-range); and, the quality of the stockmanship. However good the stockmanship may be, if a system is unable to adequately meet animals' needs AND keep them healthy they will experience poor welfare, including pain and suffering. This means the system has a **LOW WELFARE POTENTIAL**.

All factory farming systems have a low welfare potential. The classic example of a farming system with low welfare potential is the battery cage for egg laying hens. The cramped and barren cage denies hens many of their physical and behavioural needs, causing the birds to suffer as a result. The restrictive nature of the cage is an inherent part of the system. The battery cage is, therefore, a system with low welfare potential. No matter how much stockmanship, care and attention is given to the birds in that system, their welfare is likely to remain poor. Other examples include confinement systems, such as veal crates for calves, or the overcrowded conditions and super-fast growing breeds used to produce meat chickens.

HIGHER WELFARE POTENTIAL indicates a husbandry system that meets the animals' needs and provides for behavioural freedom without compromising health. When combined with good standards of stockmanship animals are unlikely to experience pain and suffering and experience a good quality of life. If the standards of stockmanship are poor, however good the system may be the full welfare potential of the system will not be achieved. A free-range system, however - with its space and enriched environment - has a high welfare potential.

All food and farming production involving animals should use systems of higher welfare potential, i.e. systems that meet the welfare needs of the animal. These systems should be managed in a way that ensures delivery of the highest level of welfare outcomes and this can be monitored using animal welfare outcomes.

ANIMAL WELFARE OUTCOMES

Animal welfare outcomes should be measured in all systems to determine the extent to which the welfare potential of a system is achieved. They can highlight areas where welfare is poor, either due to inadequate management etc. or deficiencies inherent within the farming system. Measures should be species-specific and incorporate robust and recognised scoring systems. Measures should also include elements of the physical, psychological and behavioural needs of the animal.

In order to make tangible improvements to welfare, targets for key measures should be set and active programmes implemented to ensure lessons are learnt and welfare improvements are made continuously. If welfare cannot be delivered in the farming system adopted, then the farming system must be changed

HUMANE SUSTAINABLE FARMING

In our vision for the future, humane sustainable farming must provide good animal welfare, protect the environment, human health, and rural livelihoods and ensure fair access to food for all.

Compassion in World Farming advocates that we move beyond factory farming and adopt humane sustainable farming systems that balance global economic, environmental and social drivers in an ethical way. The concept of sustainability must include the welfare of animals. The best farming systems include mixed farming, where animals and arable agriculture are integrated in ways which maximise welfare, environmental, economic and community outcomes.

Compassion in World Farming does not support further intensification of agriculture based on the use of monocultures with reliance on high inputs of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, often with detrimental effects on the environment.

Good health for humans should be supported by ensuring universal access to sufficient and nutritious food and minimising disease risks. The planet and its precious resources (such as minerals, soil, water, forest and biodiversity) should be restored and protected. Sustainable farming methods must support rural livelihoods and relieve poverty. Farming methods should promote the health and natural behaviour of animals and avoid causing them pain and suffering, because they are sentient.

SPECIES-SPECIFIC POLICIES

While Compassion supports mixed and rotational farming as far as possible based upon the natural carrying capacity of the land, billions of animals still exist in monoculture-style farming. Incremental steps can be taken to improve the welfare of farm animals today and to end the worst and most unacceptable systems and practices.

The following policies set out what Compassion sees as BAD, BETTER and BEST for each species.

Cattle: BEEF



Best systems and practices:

Compassion in World Farming supports the practice of keeping beef cattle in stable long-term family groups with natural weaning.

Where cattle are weaned earlier, it should not be until the calves are independent from their mothers at around eight months of age. Gradual weaning approaches should be used.

Beef cattle should be bred so that they can give birth easily without assistance and with low levels of mortality in both mother and offspring.

Better systems and practices:

Whenever housed, beef cattle should have access to a comfortable bedded area which is large enough for them all to lie down simultaneously and with comfortable walking surfaces. Fully-slatted floors are unacceptable on welfare grounds.

Cattle are adapted to a forage-based diet and food rations high in concentrates can compromise their health. High-fibre forage should be available for them to consume at all times.

Bad systems and practices:

The routine use of caesareans for delivery of calves in pedigree beef cattle herds is an unacceptable practice. For this reason, Compassion in World Farming is opposed to the use of double-muscled breeds.

- Confining cattle in large-scale feedlots
- Feeding of concentrates (including cereals) without sufficient roughage
- Failure to provide proper shade
- Fully-slatted floors in housing without bedding
- Systems or breeds with a propensity to lameness.
- High levels of mortality in mother and/or offspring

Cattle: CALVES

The dairy industry should take responsibility for the calves born into their farming system. Ensuring their early care and body shape (through appropriate breeding strategies) confers a market value into the meat chain.



Best systems and practices:

Calves should be reared with their mothers on pasture, in stable long-term social groups. Ideally, natural weaning would be practised and otherwise not before the calves are largely independent of their mothers for food (e.g. at 8 months old).

CIWF recommends use of dual-purpose cattle or balanced dairy breeds. The use of sexed semen is also to be encouraged in the short term as an acceptable means of reducing the number of pure-bred male dairy calves, where these are seen as 'unwanted'.

Better systems and practices:

Colostrum should be provided within 6 hours of birth (ideally as soon as possible and always in adequate volumes) when calves are separated from their mothers when they are born. Calves should be kept on a diet to which they are physiologically adapted. This must provide all needs for health including milk (substitute) and suitable forage, available *ad lib*, to enable normal rumination. Levels of iron in the diet must not be restricted.

Stable social groups should be maintained throughout life, preferably on pasture-based systems. In the medium term, the use of other cows as surrogate mothers for calves is an acceptable compromise, provided that the welfare of the cow is ensured.

When housed calves should have access to comfortable bedding such as straw.

Bad systems and practices:

- The use of veal crates, individual penning and the feeding low fibre and iron diets to keep the animal's flesh pale via inducing a level of anaemia
- Long-distance transport or export of calves
- The shooting of day-old calves
- Failure to provide any calf with adequate colostrum in the first 6 hours of life
- Dehorning
- Disbudding or castration without short and long-term pain relief
- The use of fully-slatted flooring systems
- Any system without bedding.

Cattle: DAIRY COWS

Best systems and practices:

Dairy cows should be kept in stable groups throughout their life with access to grazing. This should supply a significant part of the diet throughout the grass-growing season.



Systems should allow for a range of species-specific behaviours, such as grazing, browsing, formation and maintenance of preferred partner bonds, a choice of indoor/outdoor environments to suit their thermal comfort, and ability to lie naturally within their social groups. Sufficient shelter and shade should also be available.

Breeding strategies should include welfare traits so that 'robust' cows are produced; able to sustain health and production over an

extended life on a pasture-based diet. Production levels should not be so high that they leave animals so tired they are unable to perform a range of natural behaviours. Fertility should be maintained through good breeding and management without the need for hormonal intervention.

Autumn or spring block calving are preferred where they facilitate the maintenance of natural social groupings.

Dual-purpose breeds are preferred which produce male dairy calves which can be kept economically for beef on grass-based systems. Ideally systems should be developed which maintain the bond between mother and calf throughout a natural lactation, producing high-quality beef calves as well as milk.

Better systems and practices:

- i. Systems with good winter housing and access to pasture in the grass growing season
- ii. Clean and comfortable resting areas where all cows are able to rest simultaneously
- iii. Functional areas for feeding, drinking, socialising etc. should also be provided.

Where it is considered necessary to keep cows without horns, this should be achieved through breeding for naturally polled animals. In the meantime, disbudding with short and long term pain relief is the least worst method.

Bad systems and practices:

- i. Permanent housing of dairy cows
- ii. Tethering of dairy cows (except briefly for treatment or veterinary examination)
- iii. Lack of pasture and grazing access
- iv. Selection for unsustainably high milk yields
- v. Absence of comfortable lying areas
- vi. Early induction of birth.

Chickens: BROILERS (including broiler breeding stock)

CIWF is opposed to all mutilations of broilers and broiler breeders including de-beaking, toe clipping, de-spurring, dubbing, pinioning or insertion of devices that pierce nasal cartilage.

Catching birds prior to slaughter should be done humanely, efficiently & in darkness to minimum stress. Birds should not be inverted or carried by a single leg.



Best systems and practices:

Chickens should be kept in free-range/organic systems with access to an outdoor range with good ground, bush and tree cover, and suitable artificial shelters to encourage ranging.

Insulated housing with varied ventilation options is needed to avoid ammonia pollution and prevent the birds getting cold in winter and heat stressed in summer.

Broiler chickens should be bred for:

- health and fitness, including good natural disease resistance. Robust and slow-growing breeds should be used with low levels of lameness and cardiovascular problems.
- good walking ability and activity and be able to perform natural behaviours such as walking, perching, scratching, etc. throughout life.
- Parent birds should not need to have their feed restricted to the point where they are permanently hungry in order to remain healthy and reproductively fit.

The indoor environment should have sufficient environmental complexity to allow for a range of species-specific behaviours. This includes:

- the freedom to move around,
- the provision of friable dry litter for foraging and dust-bathing,
- natural light,
- objects such as straw bales and perches
- a range of pecking objects.

Stocking densities should be low enough to allow freedom of movement and minimise health problems such as contact dermatitis (skin lesions on the breast, feet and hocks). Most of the house should be brightly lit during the day to encourage activity, preferably using natural light, though a darker perching and resting area is also desirable. During the night, there should be a continuous dark period.

Verandahs or winter-gardens should also be provided to encourage ranging.

Better systems and practices:

CIWF finds higher welfare indoor systems acceptable where they provide broilers with:

- natural light,
- straw bales,
- perches and pecking objects, and
- operate at maximum stocking densities of 30kg of bird per m² of floor space or less.

The use of slow growing breeds is strongly urged but where fast-growth rate breeds are used, we advocate a monitoring/reduction programme for leg health through gait scoring

(whilst not perfect, this improves the lives of millions of birds that would otherwise sit in dimly lit sheds at higher stocking rates)

If thinning is conducted we prefer to see the use of segregated thinning (this is where a proportion of the flock is removed for slaughter at a lower weight than the main flock).

Bad systems and practices:

- Selection for fast growth rates
- Feed restriction of parent birds
- The use of high stocking densities (above 30kg bird per m²)
- Continuous or near continuous light rearing in dimly lit sheds
- Barren environments
- Caged or fully-slatted flooring systems for both broilers and broiler breeders
- All mutilations including de-beaking, toe clipping, de-spurring, dubbing, pinioning or insertion of devices that pierce nasal cartilage
- Methods of thinning the birds (removal of part of a flock for slaughter) which cause stress to the remaining birds.



Welfare Outcomes

Welfare outcomes for broiler chickens could include gait score, footpad dermatitis, hock burns and breast blisters as well as mortality levels.

Ranging should also be measured in free-range systems.

Chickens: LAYING HENS



Best systems and practices:

Laying hens should be kept in free-range/organic systems with access to an outdoor range with good ground, bush and tree cover, and suitable artificial shelters. Verandahs or winter-gardens should also be provided to encourage ranging.

Systems for laying hens should allow for a range of species-specific behaviours, such

as nesting, scratching/foraging, dust-bathing, perching and exercise, including walking, running and brief bursts of flying. Stocking densities inside should be moderate. Hens are best kept in smaller groups to encourage good use of the range.

Breeds should be selected for:

- low tendencies towards injurious pecking allowing fully-beaked hens to be kept (reducing risk of feather- and injurious-pecking).
- good bone strength at all stages of life, especially during the period of peak lay.
- balanced levels of production consistent with good health and welfare.
- robustness: ideally dual purpose breeds should be used so that male chicks can be reared for meat.

Rearing systems for pullets should mirror those for laying hens from an early age, including the provision of well-covered range, winter-gardens, perches and multiple tiers where appropriate.

Better systems and practices:

Good barn systems, particularly those with access to a winter garden and scratching areas.

Bad systems and practices:

- Conventional barren battery cages
- Enriched or colony cages
- All mutilations such as de-beaking
- The routine killing of male chicks at birth
- The practice of forced-moulting

Welfare Outcomes

Welfare outcomes include feather cover, body condition, use of range, good human-animal relationships (low levels of fear), and low levels of bone fractures measured at slaughter.

Crustaceans (farmed)



All crustaceans farmed for food, including shrimps, prawns, lobsters and crabs, should be slaughtered by methods scientifically shown to be humane.

Where such systems do not exist, the most humane systems should be adopted.

Research and development of such systems should be prioritised (*see Slaughter section for principles of humane slaughter*).

Ducks



Best systems and practices:

Ducks should be kept in free-range/organic systems with access to an outdoor range. The range should have good ground, bush and tree cover with suitable artificial shelters. They should have access to an outside pond provided hygiene levels can be maintained.

Systems for ducks should allow for a range of species-specific behaviours:

- bathing which includes: head dipping and shaking water over the body, followed by an elaborate sequence of cleaning movements such as wet preening, head and wing-rubbing to distribute oil over the feathers, and various body shaking movements (applies to all breeds but especially Pekin ducks)

- Dabbling in the water.
- Sufficient space to move freely
- Locomotor behaviours such as walking, running, wing-flapping
- Feeding, drinking and resting

Breeds should be selected for low levels of lameness and cardiovascular disease. Systems should be adequately enriched to meet the needs of ducks without requiring be-beaking. Muscovy ducks (prone to feather pecking) need ample pecking and perching opportunities.

Better systems and practices:

When housed, ducks should be kept in systems with good quality straw and provide natural light and good ventilation. Bathing water must be provided in an appropriate form, allowing use by birds whilst maintaining litter quality and hygiene levels.

Stocking densities should not exceed 17kg of bird per m².

Bad systems and practices:

- Keeping ducks in cages
- Force-feeding ducks to produce *pâté de foie gras*
- Rearing ducks without access to bathing water
- The use of high stocking densities
- Continuous or near continuous light rearing in dimly-lit sheds
- Barren environments
- All mutilations such as bill and claw trimming.

Fish (farmed)



Best systems and practices:

Ocean-ranching of fish like Salmon (free-range) is preferred to sea-cage-systems.

Juvenile fish are hatched and reared in captivity before being released into the sea where they then live naturally in the wild before returning to their home river as adults

where they are recaptured. It is important to ensure that breeds being released are suitable for the environment and don't risk damaging wildlife. Breeding and rearing before release should accord to high welfare.

Better systems and practices:

Where fish are reared in pens or cages, stocking densities should be low enough to enable natural behaviours and avoid health and water quality problems. Maximum SD::

- **Atlantic salmon in sea cages** 10kg/fish/m³ of water: up to 15kg/fish/m³ when high welfare status (low levels of injuries, disease, parasitic attack and mortality).
- **Rainbow trout (and Atlantic salmon in the juvenile freshwater stages)** 20kg/m³, provided that the rate and quality of water flow is high.

Sea lice infestation should be controlled by improved management: careful site selection; complementary management procedures such as treating all the farms in an area at the same time; and, the separation of year classes and periodic fallowing of cage sites to break the cycle of parasite infection.

Bad farming and practices:

- Intensive rearing systems with unacceptably high stocking densities
- The use of hydrogen peroxide and wrasse as 'cleaner' fish for treating sea lice
- Genetic engineering and biotechnology techniques involving chromosome manipulation
- Killing of wild predators such as seals or seabirds
- Rearing species whose behavioural and physiological needs are not understood
- Starvation before slaughter for longer than 72 hours
- Inhumane slaughter methods, such as suffocation, bleeding without stunning and stunning using carbon dioxide gas or allowing to die through asphyxiation
- Processing of live fish, e.g. gutting, filleting or freezing
- Sale of live fish for food at markets and supermarkets
- Feeding farmed fish on specially caught wild fish.

Geese



down.

Best systems and practices:

Geese are grazing waterfowl and should be kept in systems with daily access both to pasture and to water for swimming.

Better systems and practices:

Housing systems for geese should be enriched environments that provide for their behavioural needs. There should always be sufficient water from a trough or shower for them to preen themselves. Where geese are housed for part of the day, suitable bedding should be provided. Fully slatted flooring systems are not acceptable.

Bad systems and practices:

- Force-feeding of geese to provide pâté de foie gras
- Plucking feathers from live geese for their

Goats (Dairy and Meat)

Compassion in World Farming is opposed to zero-grazing systems where animals are housed during the grazing-season.



Best systems and practices:

Goats should have access to scrub, woodland or pasture which includes browse for most of the year. Shelter including shade should always be available.

Whenever housed goats should have access to a comfortable bedded area which is large

enough for them all to lie down simultaneously.

- Solid floors.
- High-fibre forage should be available at all times.

Dairy goats (nannies) should be bred such that they:

- can maintain health and condition on a pasture-based diet.
- Resulting offspring should be reared in humane systems where nannies are able to suckle their offspring
- Live in long-term family groups with natural weaning.

Better systems and practices:

In indoor systems goats should have access to a comfortable bedded area which is large enough for them all to lie down simultaneously and has a solid floor. High-fibre forage should be available at all times.

Where goats are castrated, short and long term pain relief should be applied.

Dairy goats: Where kids are weaned or sent to market or slaughter early, it should not be before they are independent of their mother for food and never before the age of 3 months



veterinary examination

Bad systems and practices:

- Zero-grazing
- Intensification and indoor rearing of goats whether for meat or dairy production
- Mutilations such as castration
- Routine killing of male offspring and surplus females shortly after birth OR sale of orphan kids at market
- Goats should not be tethered except briefly, e.g. for

Horses, donkeys and other equids used for food



Best systems and practices:

Horses, donkeys and other equids should have daily access to pasture during the grass-growing season, weather permitting, including during any fattening period. At other times they should have access to outdoor yards. Shelter including shade should always be available.

Horses and other equids are social animals which form long-term relationships. They should always be kept in groups, stable ones

wherever possible.

Whenever housed, horses and other equids should have access to a comfortable bedded area which is large enough for them all to lie down simultaneously. They should never be tethered except briefly for purposes such as veterinary inspection.

As with all herbivores, suitable fibrous food should always be available.

Where horses are kept for milk, foals should continue to have access to their mothers both for suckling and to maintain social relationships.

Journeys to slaughter should be as short as possible and should never exceed 8 hours.

Better systems and practices:

None specified

Bad systems and practices:

- Long distance transport or export of horses, donkeys or other equids
- Permanent housing of horses
- Close confinement
- Tethering of horses (except briefly for treatment or veterinary examination)
- Lack of pasture and grazing access
- Finishing horses in feedlots
- Absence of comfortable lying areas
- Mutilations.

Pigs



Best systems and practices:

Pigs should be kept in small stable groups throughout life in free-range/organic systems that provide access to large outdoor paddocks covered with mixed vegetation/pasture and insulated shelter with plenty of straw for comfort and warmth. Wallows and shade protect against the sun and allow temperature control.

- No mutilation of any kind should be performed.
- Ideally piglets should be weaned naturally and

otherwise not before they are largely independent of their mothers for food e.g. after 8 weeks old.

Pigs should be bred for good health and welfare including liveability (low mortality). Sows should be bred for good maternal traits and to produce litters of a size they can sustain throughout lactation without excessive maternal loss of body condition. The aim should be to achieve this without the need for early weaning or routine cross-fostering.

Pigs of all ages need sufficient space and quantity of bedding and manipulable substrates for comfort/warmth to fulfill a range of species-specific behaviours such as rooting, foraging, nesting and exploring. Providing fibrous materials including straw, ground wood, mushroom compost or natural vegetation also assists with satiety and can reduce aggression in sows.

Better systems and practices:

Compassion finds good straw-based indoor systems with solid flooring acceptable; part-slatted floors should not have more than 10% of the floor area slatted.

- Sows should be kept in stable groups with adequate space and functional areas in the pen.
- Farrowing and lactating sows should be kept in free-farrowing pens with manipulable material for nesting and bedding. The systems should be designed with the sow and her piglets in mind and should be proven to operate with low levels of piglet mortality.
- Meat pigs should be kept in stable groups after weaning and mixing and with space allowances that allow natural behaviours in the pen.

Active programmes should be in place to stop future mutilations. In the interim, the least invasive methods should be used (immunocastration, tooth grinding of just the tip of the teeth rather than clipping). Short- and long-term pain relief should be provided.

Bad systems and practices:

- Tethers and sow stalls (gestation crates) for pregnant pigs
- Farrowing crates for mothering sows
- Barren environments
- Fully-slatted flooring systems
- All mutilations such as tail docking, teeth-clipping, surgical castration and nose-ringing
- Early weaning
- Breeding for excessively high piglet numbers.

Quail



Better systems and practices:

Pens or aviaries in which quail are kept should be large enough for quail to fly without the risk of injury.

Systems in which quail are kept should provide for natural behaviours including nesting, scratching for food, dust for dust-bathing and cover to provide a sense of security. The environment should provide bedding and be enriched with

suitable pecking objects.

Stocking densities should be low enough to avoid aggression and feather pecking without resorting to de-beaking.

Bad systems and practices:

- Keeping quail in cages
- De-beaking.



Rabbits



Best systems and practices:

Compassion in World Farming supports systems which give rabbits access to pasture throughout the year, or whenever conditions allow. Measures should be in place to minimize mortality, as rabbits outdoors are susceptible to disease and predation. Rabbits should always be kept in company, preferably in stable pairs or groups.

Better systems and practices:

Whenever housed, rabbits should be kept in enriched environments that provide for their behavioural needs. This includes bedding material such as straw (only when disease can be minimized), gnawing materials, opportunities for burrowing, hiding places and raised platforms. Rabbits should have sufficient space to run and jump and sufficient height to raise themselves to their full height. High-fibre forage such as grass or hay should be available at all times.

For breeding does, suitable nesting areas should be provided with the opportunity to nurse their young in isolation. While it is preferable that rabbits are kept in stable pairs or groups, it may be necessary to keep individuals (breeding bucks) separate. However, single-housed animals should be able to have some social contact with neighbouring animals through pen partitions. In order to keep does in groups, measures must be in place to minimize aggression. Natural mating should be utilised rather than artificial insemination.

If it is ever necessary to separate an individual from the rest of the group or pair, for example when a mother is about to give birth, s/he should at least be able to sniff and rub noses with other rabbits through netting (or similar) at the edge of the pen.

Bad systems and practices:

- Keeping rabbits in cages
- Keeping rabbits in isolation
- Prophylactic use of antibiotics.



Sheep (Meat and Dairy)



Best systems and practices:

The extensive pasture-based nature of most sheep-rearing allows animals to express natural behaviour and has high welfare potential.

Where inspection of the sheep is infrequent there may be significant welfare risks, such as high mortality rates of newborn lambs, emaciation or painful conditions such as footrot. Therefore,

management regimes should include regular inspections to prevent welfare problems. Shade and shelter should always be available.

Sheep should be bred for high levels of health and welfare including for easy lambing and for resistance to fly-strike and footrot. Ideally, sheep should be kept in stable long-term family groups with natural weaning.

In best systems sheep should not suffer mutilations such as castration, tail docking or mulesing.

- Castration can be avoided by such means as slaughtering males before they reach puberty or keeping male and female lambs separate after weaning.
- Tail docking and mulesing should be avoided by breeding sheep which are resistant to fly-strike.

Dairy ewes should be bred such that they can maintain health and condition on a pasture-based diet. Resulting offspring should be reared in humane systems. Compassion supports systems where milking ewes are still able to suckle their offspring and welcomes the practice of keeping sheep in stable long-term groups with natural weaning. Dairy ewes should be bred so male offspring can be viably reared for meat.

Better systems and practices:

During any phase-out of mutilations, less painful methods should be used and pain relief should always be applied. Immunocastration is preferable to surgical or ring castration, followed by the short scrotum method.

Whenever housed, sheep should have access to a comfortable bedded area which is large enough for them all to lie down simultaneously. Fully-slatted flooring systems are not acceptable. High-fibre forage should be available at all times.

Where lambs are weaned or sent to market or slaughter early, it should not be before they are independent of their mother for food and never before the age of 3 months.

Sheep (Meat and Dairy) continued

Bad systems and practices:

- Long distance transport and live export
- Zero grazing of sheep where they are denied access to pasture
- Early lambing, whether through breeding or through the use of hormones to stimulate lamb production, especially where the lambs are born so early that they reach slaughter age before the time that sheep are given access to pasture

- Breeding sheep to produce more lambs than they can effectively rear for a full lactation without loss of body condition and never for more than two lambs per ewe
- Insufficient winter feeding
- Mutilations such as tail docking and castration
- Mulesing
- High levels of lameness due to footrot
- Sale of orphan lambs with an unhealed navel at market.

Dairy ewes:

- Routine killing of male offspring and surplus females shortly after birth

Welfare outcomes

Welfare outcomes should be measured in all systems to ensure the welfare potential is achieved. In the case of sheep this could include levels of parasites, lameness, body condition, easy lambing and lamb mortality.

Turkeys

Compassion in World Farming is opposed to all mutilations of turkeys including de-beaking, toe cutting, de-snooding and dewing



Best systems and practices:

Compassion prefers free-range systems with access to an outdoor range with good ground, bush and tree cover, and suitable artificial shelters; there must be plenty of natural pecking opportunities to operate with beaks intact.

Insulated housing with good ventilation is needed to reduce the risk of feather

pecking on still warm days. Slower growing breeds and no thinning are the best options. Systems for turkeys should allow for a range of species-specific behaviours, such as scratching, foraging, pecking, dust-bathing, perching, walking, and running.

Breeds should be selected such that the birds reared for meat enjoy good health with low levels of lameness. Turkey breeders (parent birds) should be able to walk easily and maintain health without feed restriction. Male turkey breeding birds should be physically capable of mating naturally. Breeds should also be selected for low tendencies towards injurious pecking, so that fully-beaked turkeys can be kept without a high risk of feather and injurious pecking.

Better systems and practices:

When housed, turkeys should be provided with natural light, straw bales, raised platforms for perching and pecking objects (such as hay bales). Stocking densities should be low enough to avoid the risk of aggression or feather pecking, to allow birds to perform natural behaviours, to control environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, ammonia and dust levels and to maintain good litter quality. Stocking densities should never exceed 25kg of bird per m² for a 5kg turkey. Friable litter should be provided for foraging and dust-bathing.

Compassion strongly urges the use of slower growing breeds, but where fast growth rate breeds are used we advocate a monitoring/reduction programme for leg health through gait scoring. If thinning (where a proportion of the population is removed for slaughter at a lower weight) is conducted, segregated thinning should be used to minimise stress to the remaining birds.

Catching birds prior to slaughter should be done humanely and efficiently and should cause minimum stress. Inverting birds should be avoided and birds should not be carried by the legs. Turkeys should be caught and lifted by the wing and opposite leg; this allows them to be supported under the breast in the hold position. 'Thinning' (catching part of a group of birds to keep the stocking density of the remainder within legal limits) should be avoided since it has negative welfare and health implications.

Bad systems and practices:

- The use of high stocking densities
- The use of fast growing breeds with high risk of leg health problems

- Continuous or near continuous light rearing in dimly-lit sheds
- Barren environments
- All mutilations such as de-beaking, toe cutting, de-snooding and dewinging
- Thinning, which causes stress to the remaining birds.



Welfare Outcomes

Welfare outcomes for turkeys can include measures of feather cover, levels of scratch injuries to the back, lameness, footpad dermatitis, hock burns and breast blisters as well as mortality levels.

Wild and non-domesticated species

No animal should be farmed unless their physical and behavioural needs are first understood and provided that these can then be met in practical farming situations.

Compassion in World Farming is therefore opposed to the farming of wild and undomesticated animals. This includes such animals as ratites (ostriches, rheas), crocodiles, alligators and most species of marine fish.

CROSS-SPECIES POLICIES

KILLING OF WILD ANIMALS FOR FOOD

Compassion's general policies are restricted to animals farmed for food. However, the principle that all animals should be dispatched humanely should also be extended to wild animals killed for food. This includes wild caught fish, cephalopods and crustaceans which are killed in exceptional numbers.

Wild-caught fish should be killed humanely as soon as practicable after landing (see *Farmed fish section for discussion of humane and inhumane methods*). Live fish should never be gutted, filleted, frozen or subjected to any other form of processing whilst still alive.

The same principle applies to crustaceans including crabs, lobsters, prawns and shrimps. Methods of killing which cause severe stress for a number of seconds or more, including boiling lobsters and crabs alive or subjecting them to very high pressures, should not be considered humane.

Research and development of humane methods of killing marine animals for food should be regarded as a high priority.

ANIMAL HANDLING

Farm animals should be treated humanely throughout any handling procedures. All animal handlers should be experienced and competent in handling and moving farm animals and understand the behaviour patterns of animals.

Facilities for handling and loading including ramps and races should be designed to minimise stress to the animals. Handling should be calm and animals should never be hit, for example, using sticks or electric goads. Animals which are unable to walk should be swiftly and humanely killed without being moved.

The inversion of poultry should be avoided. Turkeys should never be carried by the legs, but should be caught and lifted by the wing and opposite leg; this allows them to be supported under the breast in the hold position. Chickens should never be carried by a single leg or with more than three birds in a hand.

MARKETS

Compassion in World Farming is opposed to the use of livestock markets. Animals should travel directly from farm-to-farm or from farm to slaughterhouse.

TRANSPORT

Best systems and practices:

Ultimate goal is on-farm slaughter, completely avoiding transport.

Better systems and practices:

Animals should be killed close to where they are born and reared, to ensure minimal transport times.

Animals going for slaughter should be sent to a slaughterhouse as near as possible to the farm of rearing. Any long distance transportation should be restricted to meat or carcasses rather than live animals.

An overall maximum limit of eight hours should be placed on all journeys for live farmed mammals and a maximum limit of four hours for poultry. Multiple journeys should not be permitted. Animals that are not fit to travel should not be transported.

Vehicles used for transportation should be of high specification providing suitable space, bedding (for mammals), ventilation and carry provisions of water and feed.

Bad systems and practices:

- i. Long distance live transport of farmed animals for slaughter or fattening
- ii. Live export across sea.



SLAUGHTER

Best systems and practices:

Compassion in World Farming believes that humane slaughter means death without suffering. This is only possible if certain standards are met:

- The slaughter method kills the animal instantly (e.g. with some electric stun-kill methods);
- The animal is rendered instantly insensible to pain (stunned) before slaughter and remains entirely unconscious until death;
- The slaughter method is non-aversive and does not cause pain or distress (e.g. with some inert gas killing methods).

It is also essential that animals are handled humanely in the period leading up to slaughter; this includes avoiding the shackling or inversion of conscious animals.

Compassion in World Farming believes that only slaughter methods that entirely meet the above criteria should be permitted and that enforcement must ensure that all animals are provided these standards.

Better systems and practices:

Electrical stun systems which render animals instantly unconscious and insensible to pain followed by a single neck cut of both carotid arteries to ensure rapid bleed out and death. Stun-kill methods are preferred, however.

Captive bolt systems which cause immediate loss of consciousness followed by a neck cut as above.

Gas mixtures which cause mild aversion, e.g. mixtures for poultry with moderate levels of carbon dioxide, but which avoid the pain and stress of shackling involved in electrical stunning systems. Inert gas systems are preferred.

Critical points in the slaughter process should be routinely monitored using CCTV.

Bad systems and practices:

Any slaughtering method which does not render the animal insensible to pain prior to slaughter and until death, e.g.:

- Throat cutting without prior stunning
- Electro-immobilisation (use of currents insufficient to cause unconsciousness)
- Neck wringing of poultry (except in emergencies).

Gas stunning systems which are highly aversive, e.g. with high levels of carbon dioxide as used with pigs.

RELIGIOUS SLAUGHTER

Compassion in World Farming is not opposed to religious slaughter in principle, only to slaughter methods which cause pain and suffering. The law should require all animals to be effectively stunned before throat cutting, including those which are subject to religious slaughter.

Compassion in World Farming supports engagement with religious communities into the development and acceptance of humane religious slaughter practices.

MUTILATIONS

Compassion in World Farming is opposed to the mutilation of farm animals (see species sections for details). Mutilations should be avoided by better breeding, appropriate enriched environments, management and nutrition and making the farm environment fit for the animal, rather than using mutilations to make the animal fit into the farm.

Systems should be designed to fulfil the welfare needs of the animals rather than altering the animal, through physical or genetic mutilations to fit a bad system.

GENETIC ENGINEERING AND CLONING



Compassion in World Farming is opposed to the genetic engineering or cloning of farm animals where these techniques are:

- likely to cause suffering to the offspring or the dam; *or*
- where they are used to accelerate the inclusion of undesirable animal traits from a welfare point of view.
- There are significant risks that as a consequence of developing and using these techniques, there are unintended health and welfare consequences for the manipulated animals or their offspring.

Compassion in World Farming would like to see a ban on genetic engineering and cloning of animals farmed for food. Until such time as a ban is achieved, Compassion in World Farming calls for a moratorium on further developments and a complete ban on the release of genetically-engineered or cloned farmed animals onto our farms. Descendants of genetically-engineered or cloned animals should not be permitted in the food chain.

We oppose patents being granted to genetically-engineered or cloned farm animals or the processes for producing such animals. Through patenting, animals are viewed as inventions, which is ethically out of step with the growing recognition that animals are sentient beings and should be treated as such.

ANTIBIOTICS



Compassion in World Farming is opposed to routine prophylactic use of antibiotics. Animals should be bred for natural immunity and should be kept in high welfare conditions which maintain immunity and in which disease does not rapidly spread. The use of antibiotics as growth promoters is entirely unacceptable.

Compassion in World Farming accepts the responsible use of antibiotics therapeutically to treat disease.

Overuse of antibiotics should be avoided as it is associated with the development of strains of infectious bacteria that are resistant to antibiotic treatment and may therefore pose a threat to human and animal health.

GLOSSARY

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| Buck | A male rabbit. |
| De-beaking | Mutilation to remove a portion of the beak of poultry, typically carried out using a hot blade or an infrared beam (only the latter method is permitted for laying hen chicks in the UK). |
| De-snooding | Mutilation to remove the fleshy flap of skin that hangs over the beak of turkeys. |
| Doe | A female rabbit. |
| Double-muscled breeds | Breeds of livestock that carry a mutation to a gene controlling muscle growth, resulting in grossly enlarged muscles. |
| Dubbing | Procedure used to remove part of the comb (fleshy outgrowth on the top of a bird's head connected to the beak) from the head of birds (chickens, turkeys). |
| Dust-bathing | A natural behaviour of chickens and various other animal species, important in the maintenance of the skin and feathers or fur. It involves covering the body with dust or sand, followed by shaking. |
| Embryo transfer | The placement of an embryo or embryos within the uterus with the intention of establishing a pregnancy. Embryo transfer is used in livestock, mostly cattle, to increase the number of offspring that can be obtained from a female animal considered to be of high value. |
| Equid | Any of various hoofed mammals of the family <i>Equidae</i> , which includes horses, donkeys and zebras. |
| Feedlot | An area of land where livestock, most often cattle, are kept at high stocking densities for fattening prior to slaughter. The animals' feed is generally high in concentrates and is intended to promote rapid weight gain. |
| Fly-strike | Infestation of an animal by parasitic fly larvae which eat into the flesh. It commonly affects sheep, especially where the wool becomes soiled with faeces. Tail-docking and/or mulesing may be carried out in an attempt to reduce the risk of fly-strike. |
| Forced moulting | The practice of inducing a flock of poultry to moult (shed and replace their feathers). It is often achieved by withdrawal of feed for up to two weeks and is used by commercial egg producers in many countries in order to increase egg production by bringing on a new cycle of egg laying. Forced moulting is not practised where birds are slaughtered after a single laying cycle, such as in the UK. |
| Friable | Easily broken up or crumbly. |

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| Fully-slatted flooring system | A housing system where the entire floor surface is constructed of slats (which may be made of various materials such as plastic, metal, concrete or wood) with gaps in between. Such systems have no solid-floored area, often making the provision of bedding, nesting or other enrichment material impossible. |
| Immuno-castration | The use of a vaccine to delay the sexual development of male pigs. The vaccine contains a hormone analogue. This is a protein similar to, but not identical with, gonadotrophin-releasing factor (GnRF), a hormone which is indirectly responsible for the production of sex hormones. The immune system produces antibodies which destroy GnRF. As a result, the body ceases to produce sex hormones and the testes shrivel. |
| Injurious pecking | Harmful pecking behaviour in poultry, which includes feather pecking, vent pecking and cannibalism. |
| Marginal lands | Land that yields a very low economic return or on which there is a high probability of crop failure. |
| Mastitis | Painful inflammation of the breast or udder tissue in mammals, commonly affecting dairy animals. |
| Mixed rotational farms | Farms that both raise livestock and grow crops in rotation. |
| Mulesing | Mutilation to remove wool-bearing skin from around the tail and buttocks of sheep. |
| Permanent pastures | Grassland maintained indefinitely for grazing (as opposed to temporary pastures periodically ploughed up as part of an arable rotation). |
| Polled cattle | Breeds of cattle that do not have horns. This avoids any issues with mutilations to remove the horns (dehorning) or horn buds (disbudding). |
| Pullet | Young hen (prior to the onset of egg-laying). |
| Scrubland | Land primarily covered with low-growing woody or thorny vegetation. |
| Thinning (broiler chickens/turkeys) | Removal of part of a poultry flock for slaughter prior to the slaughter of the entire flock. This can cause stress in the flock and is often used to facilitate stocking at higher densities. |
| Weaning | The process by which a young mammal switches from a diet based primarily on the mother's milk to the diet of an adult animal. This is generally a gradual process under natural conditions but, in modern farming practice, young animals are often weaned abruptly by removal from the mother at a young age. |
| Winter garden | A covered verandah attached to a poultry shed to provide natural light and often environmental enrichment. |