

CAGED EU SOWS

**WARNING:
DISTRESSING
IMAGES**



Who? Sows in stalls and farrowing crates

Where? 16 farms across France, Italy, Poland, Spain

When? February to May 2022

What? Caged animals are condemned to immense suffering

Why? The EU must ban cages without delay

Factory farming is the single biggest cause of animal cruelty on the planet. In Europe alone, over 300 million farm animals are confined in cages every year.

This year, independent investigators commissioned by Compassion in World Farming visited 16 farms across Europe, to expose the suffering endured by sows. They went to farms producing premium products like Prosciutto di Parma and Jambon de Bayonne, and to farms supplying standard pig meat. The investigation reveals caged animals are condemned to immense suffering and lives that simply aren't worth living. **It's time to End the Cage Age.**

NEARLY HALF OF AN ADULT SOW'S LIFE IS SPENT IN A CAGE

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Insemination | Poland



Sow stalls | Italy



Birth | France



Farrowing crates | Spain



FINDINGS FROM THE INVESTIGATION

Poland



Bar biting. Abnormal behaviours of repetitively biting the bars and sham chewing are thought to be caused by chronic hunger and frustration.

France



No space to move in sow stalls. Each sow is confined to an individual cage, barely bigger than the size of her body. Each cage prevents nearly all movement, other than standing up and lying down.

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The sow stall and farrowing crate represent a cage roughly the same size and shape as the animal herself.

This degree of restriction of movement is more severe than for any other animal farmed for food globally.”

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CIWF Researcher

Spain



Forced to lie in their own urine and faeces. Sows are instinctively clean and excrete away from where they lie. Cages prevent their natural behaviour and also increase the risk of urinary tract infections.

Italy



Unable to nurture her piglets. A sow's interactions with her piglets are severely restricted by the cage.

Poland



Painful injuries. The sow lies, severely restricted, on a hard floor which causes hock lesions and pressure sores.

Italy



No escape. This mother can't get away for a break from the persistent attention of her piglets.

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No animal should have to live its life in conditions like these. Almost all natural behaviours are denied to these intelligent and sentient creatures. They look at us with eyes filled with despair, how can we live with ourselves if we allow this cruelty to continue? These animals do not belong in cages.

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Investigator

END THE **CAGE** **AGE** CAMPAIGN

Over **300 million farmed animals suffer in cages** across Europe. This is cruel, unnecessary and has no place in Europe. Our campaign seeks to ban cages completely.

In June 2021, the European Commission agreed to phase out the use of cages for farmed animals across the EU. An historic commitment, but the campaign is not over. The meat industry is running on the offensive, trying to extend the transition period and delay the legislative proposal. This is why we must **keep up the pressure** and ensure the EU Commission's commitment is turned into **tangible actions by EU institutions and Member States!**

Learn more about our End the Cage Age campaign and **take action** at endthecageage.eu **to improve millions of farmed animals' lives.**