

California stops choking the chicken

By Addie Rubino
Reporter

According to 63% of Californians, animal cruelty is not okay. On Nov. 4, 2008, California made history by passing Proposition 2, also known as the Standards for Confining Farm Animals.

Standing up and fully extending our arms is a privilege we as humans take for granted. California farmers deny that right to egg-laying hens, breeding pigs and calves raised for veal.

But not any more.

The cruel and inhumane practice of keeping animals in cages so small that they are unable to turn around, lie down comfortably or extend their limbs has ended because of Prop. 2, which will go into effect across California by 2015 so farmers have plenty of time to catch up on the standards.

Many people have had concerns about the safety of the egg industry in California. Luckily, many of the arguments against the proposition are not only untrue, but at this point they're also moot.

With the economy spi-

raling downward, many people are concerned about raising egg prices. It is estimated, however, that prices will not increase significantly for eggs because of the new, less cramped cages. At the most, consumer prices may rise just pennies

Many people who opposed Prop. 2 were misinformed and believed that Californians would simply bypass California humane farmers and import eggs from Mexico. However, even Dan Sumner, who wrote an anti-Prop. 2 report,

Perhaps the most tragic of all the arguments against the proposition, however, was the thought that animals wouldn't produce if they weren't happy.

The fact is that good productivity and health are not necessarily indicators of good welfare, nor happiness.

In fact, some of the worst animal welfare problems come from farmer efforts to achieve greater production and earlier and faster growth. Agricultural ethicist Dr. Bernard Rollins states, "When productivity as an economic metric is applied to the whole operation, the welfare of the individual animal is ignored."

Before this proposition passed, it was legal for farmers to keep hens in cages smaller than a letter-sized sheet of paper for more than a year until they were slaughtered.

The hens were unable to move more than an inch. Now they must be allowed to extend their wings fully and turn around.

It's not the most humane way of keeping animals, but it's a start. Good work, California.



per dozen.

For less than a penny per egg, the hens are now able to extend their limbs fully and lay down.

said that it was "unlikely... Mexico doesn't produce much feed corn and that's why Mexico isn't a logical place for production."



(Monique Lupu)

Parking pariahs, your time will come...

By Addie Rubino
Reporter

Has anyone else noticed the severe lack of space in the District parking lot? We have plenty of spots in the District.

133, to be exact.

But that doesn't seem to matter when the kids at our school park like idiots, tending to take up more than one spot.

You know who I'm talking about: the kids with the SUVs (myself included) who try to fit into a parking spot but simply can't.

We are forced to squeeze into a spot at the risk of not being able to open our doors, or we have to park slightly askew so we can later get out of our spots.

It turns out that the average parking spot in the

District is a mere 82 inches from side to side.

I even measured one spot that was just 78 inches wide, but the average width of a space in other parking lots is usually somewhere around 103 inches.

My car, also known as "The Beast," is approximately 86 inches wide.

How am I supposed to park in a parking spot that is way too small and also be able to get in and out of my car?

Technically I could, but I would need to infringe on someone else's spot and at the risk of getting a strongly worded note on my windshield.

Recently, school was out and I had parked that morning in the District.

I walked down to find my car completely boxed in.

I ended up having to crawl on the hood of someone else's car to unlock my doors so I could climb in through the trunk. Not my idea of fun.

There is a simple solution. Just repaint the lines and make them slightly wider!

The number of parking spaces may shrink, but in the end the number of spots actually usable will grow.

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