

Certified Humane Cage-Free Eggs Resolution

Whereas, the Columbia College Student Council acknowledges the need to promote humane and socially conscious policies whenever possible,

Whereas, eggs currently sold in Columbia Dining services establishments come from factory farmed hens forced to live in overcrowded, poorly lit, barren cages no more than 16 inches wide, meaning that in her entire life a hen is not able to even spread her wings¹,

Whereas, due to such tight confinement, the hens are constantly rubbing against these wires and are often featherless and covered with bruises and abrasions,

Whereas, most hens in these conditions suffer calcium depletion and cannot be used to produce eggs for more than a year; after which, they are sent to the slaughterhouse to produce low-grade chicken products since their meat quality is so poor,

Whereas, our distributor, Sysco, has cage-free systems that meet Certified Humane² standards—the most stringent available—in which hens are able to walk and spread their wings, are provided perches and pools in which to dust bathe, and are provided regular health inspections thereby significantly improving their quality of life,

Whereas, several European countries have entirely banned the use of battery cages and the European Union plans to phase out cage-produced eggs by 2012 due to animal welfare concerns³,

Whereas, more than 150 colleges and universities have switched completely or partially to the use of cage-free eggs, which has reduced the suffering of tens of thousands of hens⁴,

Whereas, the student council understands this to be an opportunity to extend the University's commitment to social responsibility by supporting and encouraging the growing market for humanely produced eggs,

Be it resolved, that the Columbia College Student Council calls for Dining Services to order cage-free eggs from its suppliers for all on-campus dining establishments.

Authors,

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¹ FactoryFarming.com: Factory Egg Production. *Access Farm Sanctuary Research Report, The Welfare of Hens in Battery Cages* <<http://www.factoryfarming.com/eggs.htm>> (20 October 2007).

² Compassion Action for Animals. *FAQ About Cage Free Eggs*. <<http://www.exploreveg.org/feat/cagefree/cage-free-faqs>> (21 October 2007).

³ The Humane Society of the United States. *No Battery Eggs' Campaign Exposes the Hard-Boiled Truth about Laying Hens*. <<http://www.hsus.org/farm/camp/nbe/>> (21 October 2007).

⁴ The Humane Society of the United States. *Cage-Free Egg Production vs. Battery-Cage Egg Production*. <<http://www.hsus.org/farm/camp/nbe/>> (21 October 2007).