

NEWS LETTER



Meet "our team" that has been working so hard to help reduce the suffering of animals



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Raising awareness through innovative campaigns

We kicked off our campaign in Goromonzi. Our team went to Goromonzi where we educated the farmers on the negative impacts of battery cages on chicken welfare. Battery Cages are cruel and directly compromises animal welfare. The laws of Zimbabwe makes it an offense to unnecessarily confine an animal. Unknown to the farmers was that chickens can feel pain, pleasure, and boredom as much as humans do. The farmers were also unaware of the laws regulating animal cruelty. Apart from these setbacks the farmers were keen to learn about the laws, good welfare practices and the nature of hens. In the process, we learned that lack of knowledge can also be detrimental to hen welfare as it affects how humans handle these creatures.

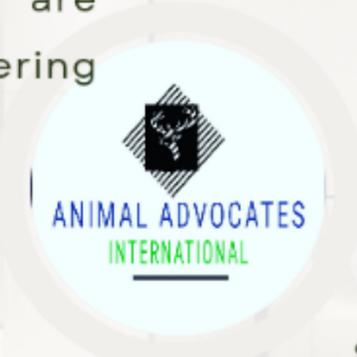


The training that we conducted at Manyere pointed out that farmers are willing to adopt to a free-range system. Prior to emancipation of the cruelty associated with the use of battery cages, farmers had no interest in chicken welfare simply by virtue of it being the most basic animal to be kept by humans for consumption of its products. The trainings motivated farmers to practice good welfare to protect their animals, themselves as well as the environment.



Transition from animal agriculture to plant based agriculture

Apart from raising awareness about animal welfare standards and laws, we distribute bean seed to farmers so that they grow beans for consumption and for commercial use and reduce the suffering of animals raised for food. Plants which are a source of various nutrients are helpful in eliminating the suffering of animals.



Snare removal campaigns

Furthermore we take hands on approach in reducing wild animal suffering by anti-snare walks. Snares are one of the cruelest means of hunting considering animals can sometimes languish for days or weeks before dying from their injuries, dehydration or from starvation. In some cases, snares are never checked ensuring that any animals caught can suffer immensely and then are left to rot.

Animal welfare standards training workshops

The training that we conducted in Chinhoyi at Orange Grove Hotel which was attended by vital stakeholders such as village heads, veterinary officers, agritex officers and a councilor proved fruitful as insightful thoughts were shared which proved to be a positive move in championing egg laying hens' freedom. The discussion shared ideas on how best we can keep egg laying hens



HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE TRAININGS AND CAMPAIGNS:

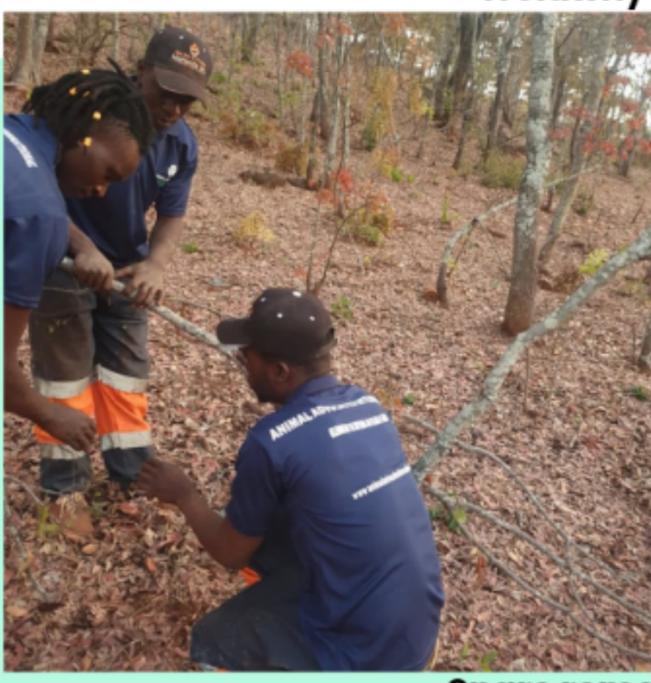
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Chinhoyi Training



Trelawny campaign



Snare removal campaigns



Farm visit



Raising Animal welfare standards workshops

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Some of the literature that we made (law code book, pamphlets, posters etc).

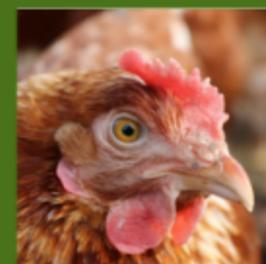
WHY BRING AN END TO BATTERY CAGES!?

To be free from pain and suffering is a cardinal right for chickens in cages, they are given space less than the size of this leaflet and hence cannot afford to behave in their normal way.



Animal Advocates International

Animal Advocates International mission is to improve the well-being and enhance the legal protection of non-human animals. Our vision is to be leading animal advocates in Africa



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FOR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ www.animaladvocatesinternational.org



ADOPTING THE FREE RANGE SYSTEM

Battery cage system is cruel to chickens, it does not provide for behavioural needs for egg laying hens. We must allow these birds to express their natural behaviour. Chickens need space to run, preen, wing flapping, stretching.

FEATURE

- Space
- Clean water
- Short grass
- Correct diet

Battery cages are cruel

Egg-laying hens are sentient beings capable of feeling pain and pleasure just like any another animal. Confining egg-laying hens in battery cages is cruel. Causing unnecessary suffering to animals is a crime in terms of section 3 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Battery cages deny egg-laying hens the opportunity to express their natural behavior of roaming around, foraging, pecking, and dust bathing. Battery cages lead to feather pecking resulting in feather loss due to poor environment. Egg-laying hens suffer from keel bone fractures because of lack of exercise. Chickens deserve better welfare conditions. Egg-laying hens must be moved from battery cages to free range system.

Benefits of free range mechanism

- Cage free provide physiological, and behavior needs for egg-laying hens
- Chickens are not overcrowded, have more space, and can breathe fresh air
- Chickens enjoy natural behavior
- Chickens can forage for food
- Chickens are free to roam around
- Chickens can dust bath, scratch, and peck
- Chickens can turn around
- Chickens can freely open their wings
- No unnecessary suffering
- Free range offer highest welfare
- Create jobs as they will be hired to pick eggs

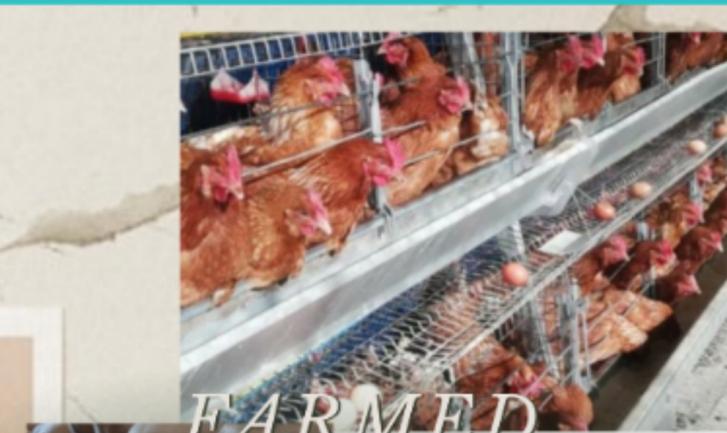
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Time to put an end to the cruel battery cage system!



FARMED ANIMALS LAW CODE



FREE RANGE SYSTEM;

- Designs for free range systems must include:
- Enough space to allow perching, dustbathing, scratching, and foraging
 - Proper lighting, ventilation, and laying nests.
 - Shed for protection from bad weather
 - Clean feeders and drinkers
 - Sand or dry earth for dustbathing



ADAPTING FROM BATTERY CAGE MECHANISM TO FREE RANGE SYSTEM



Let us free egg laying hens and stop animal abuse.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE TRAININGS AND CAMPAIGNS:

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MAFCANE BANDA: POULTRY FARMER

- Keeps 2500 birds in battery cages
- Committed to end the cage system.
- Committed to end the cage system if funding to build the free range System is available.



MOMENT CHOMUZINDA: POULTRY FARMER

- Keeps 2500 birds in battery cages
- Committed to end the cage system gradually and adopt the free range
- Has already started migrating from the cage system to the free range mechanism



MASIMBA POULTRY FARMER

- Keeps 2000 birds in battery cages
- Committed to end the cage system and adopt the free range
- Wasn't well informed about how the free range works



CHRISTOPHER MANYOKA: POULTRY FARMER

- Keeps 5000 birds in battery cages
- Committed to end the cage system gradually and adopt the free range
- Well informed about how the free range works bt sites space as major stumbling block, very much committed to end the cage system.



SUNNY TIMA: POULTRY FARMER

- Keeps 15000 birds in battery cages
- Committed to end the cage system gradually and adopt the free range
- Well informed about how the free range works bt sites space as major stumbling block.

2022 Key achievements:

1. We made innovative campaigns against the use of battery cages in the poultry farming industry.
2. Raised awareness to 188 (150 farmers, 20 agricultural officers, 18 veterinary officers) stakeholders on the effect of battery cages on laying hens welfare.
3. Secured commitments from 7,5% of small medium scale farmers with a total of 27 000 laying hens who are willing to transition from battery cages to free range. The transition is pending. The farmers are willing to change on condition we help them with materials / resources to build free range systems, which we are actively working to figure out how to do.
4. Distributed beans seed to 10 poultry farmers to plant 🌱 beans and eat beans as an alternative to animal protein source there by creating a sustainable food system
4. Developed and distributed literature on the negative effects of battery cages.