

# Has anyone betrayed more animals than the American Veterinary Medical Association?

**B**etrayed is a strong word. But look at the facts.

The AVMA veterinarian's oath promises to "protect animal health and relieve animal suffering." Yet, astoundingly, the AVMA endorses practices that intentionally make animals sick while supporting some of the cruelest conditions for raising farm animals to be found anywhere in the world. So cruel they are banned or being phased out in Europe. But they are common right here in the United States and the AVMA is keeping it that way.

Isn't that a betrayal?

Ten billion farm animals are raised for food in the United States every year. Can you think of anyone else who has betrayed so many?

Here are some of AVMA's worst betrayals.

## Sow Stalls: A Lifetime of Immobility

In 2002, Florida voters outlawed the use of sow stalls in that state. Sow stalls are barren metal cages barely larger than the sow herself in which the pregnant animal spends most of her life. She can't turn around or lie down comfortably, let alone exercise.

But when California legislators tried for a similar ban, it was quickly derailed because AVMA policy says it is fine to confine pigs in a cage so small they are unable to walk or even turn around for most of their lives.



Always pregnant, never free to turn or exercise. This cruel confinement is endorsed by the AVMA

## Laying Hens: Starvation and Death by Wood Chipper

AVMA again showed its anti-animal philosophy in California last year when, according to San Diego County authorities, Dr Gregg Cutler, a vet on AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee, advised an egg farmer to get rid of twenty five thousand hens by throwing them, alive and fully conscious, into a wood chipper—advice that was gruesomely followed.

In spite of widespread public outrage, Dr Cutler remains on AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee.



A member of AVMA's Animal Welfare Committee told a California egg farmer to get rid of twenty-five thousand live hens with a wood chipper after their laying slowed down

No surprise then that AVMA policy also allows egg producers to starve hens for up to 14 days in a procedure called "forced molting" that shocks the birds into a new cycle of egg-laying.<sup>1</sup> Starving hens is outlawed in Europe, but not here.



When laying hens are starved for a prolonged period of time, as many as a quarter of the flock may die. This beak trimmed, almost featherless survivor is not in great shape either

In a large operation, prolonged starvation kills many of the birds and leaves the survivors with weakened immune systems and endemic levels of salmonella—hardly ethical medical care.

## Veal Calves: Intentionally Sick

Veal crating is another U.S. practice that will soon be illegal in Europe. Pale veal is produced by intentionally making the calf anemic



This calf will spend his entire life in a wooden crate only two feet wide. Calves become so ill that many must be dragged to slaughter

and debilitated. The calf spends his whole life squeezed into a two foot wide wooden crate. Yes, the AVMA defends that as well.

## AVMA: Beholden to Industry, not Medicine

Most vets are decent people who care about animals. That same concern to help animals, not hurt them, must be the guiding principle at the AVMA. Instead the organization panders to agribusiness giants. Giving the AVMA's seal of approval to unscrupulous producers promotes rather than alleviates, disease and suffering. For billions of American farm animals, it is the ultimate betrayal.

## Your Voice Can Upgrade AVMA Policies

The AVMA can change if you and your veterinarian get involved. Give your vet a copy of this ad (printable copies can be downloaded at: [www.ari-online.org/cruelavma](http://www.ari-online.org/cruelavma)) and ask him or her to urge the AVMA to adopt ethical positions on animal welfare. And please protest to the AVMA yourself using the contact information below.

If you would like ARI or one of the other organizations below to send you and your vet additional information, please use the coupon or email [info@ari-online.org](mailto:info@ari-online.org) Remember, AVMA policies affect billions of animals. Your action can make their lives vastly better.

Please send additional information to the persons(s) whose contact information is provided below.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your Vet's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Animal Rights International  
PO Box 532  
Woodbury, CT 06798

## Contact the AVMA by writing to:

Jack O. Walther, President  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
1931 North Meacham Road - Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Phone: 847.925.8070 · Fax: 847.925.1329

More information on the AVMA can be found at [AVMAHurtsAnimals.com](http://AVMAHurtsAnimals.com)

Photographs of sow and veal crates courtesy of [www.farmsanctuary.org](http://www.farmsanctuary.org)

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of how the starvation of hens forces them into a new laying cycle go to [www.ari-online.org/molting](http://www.ari-online.org/molting) or [www.upc-online.org/molting/](http://www.upc-online.org/molting/)