

Where Do Easter Eggs Come From?

Chickens who lay eggs on factory farms live in battery cages stacked on top of each other in huge warehouses. Confined seven or eight birds to a cage, they don't have enough room to turn around or spread even one wing. Conveyor belts bring in food and water and carry away eggs. To prevent stress-induced behavior caused by extreme crowding, such as pecking their cagemates to death, hens are kept in semi-darkness, and the ends of their beaks are cut off with a hot blade (and no painkillers). The wire mesh of their cage rubs their feathers off, chafes their skin, and cripples their feet.

Egg suppliers consider hens who can no longer produce eggs quickly enough completely worthless, and they have to figure out what to do with the so-called "spent hens." In order to avoid having to pay someone to haul them away, some egg suppliers bury them alive as a method of disposal.



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Chickens are inquisitive animals. In their natural surroundings, they form friendships and develop pecking orders, love and care for their young, and enjoy a full life that includes dust-bathing, making nests, and roosting in trees. On factory farms, however, chickens are denied everything that is important to them.



Easter Eggs Can Make You Sick

Doctors recommend that you avoid eating eggs after typical Easter activities. The Briar Cliff Pediatrics website offers this advice:

To avoid acquiring bacterial illness, do not eat eggs that have been "hidden" or played with, especially any in contact with dirt or the outside elements. ... The most common bacterial contamination is usually Salmonella or Staphylococcus, causing nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea and fever.

- Number of Americans **sickened** from eating salmonella-tainted eggs every year: more than **650,000**
- Number of Americans **killed** from eating salmonella-tainted eggs every year: **600**

Start a New Tradition

Why not use the plastic eggs that you can fill with treats and surprises, or hide individually wrapped candies instead? Kids would much rather find something fun like that in the grass than a hard-boiled egg anyway.

Update your Easter traditions to make them cruelty-free. DON'T buy eggs this Easter.

For more information on cruelty-free options, visit peta2.com, or e-mail peta2@peta2.com.

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