



2022-12-07

Joint letter:
Peter Kullgren
Landsbygdsminister
Regeringskansliet

We, the undersigned organisations, jointly call on the Swedish government to ban cages in egg production. It can be done in the Animal Welfare Ordinance or through an order to the Board of Agriculture, but it needs to be done now to save 300 000 hens from suffering.

Ban cages in Sweden and reduce suffering in the egg industry

Sweden is usually seen as a good country for animals, with a progressive animal welfare legislation that protects animals from suffering. But laying hens in cages have been excluded from this and other countries have surpassed Sweden in this matter. It is now time to take action to reduce suffering in the Swedish egg industry. To ban cages is also very much in line with the society's perception of good animal welfare standards as well as the European citizen's initiative "End the Cage Age". Almost 50 000 of all signatories came from Sweden, and they all want to ban cages in the European Union as a whole.

But work still needs to be done. Sweden is one of the countries that still allow hens to be kept in cages, with no more room than an A4 sheet.

Phasing out the crowded cages in Sweden is fully doable. It is also in line with the adaptation to a more sustainable agriculture and the Swedish Animal Welfare Act's paragraphs on natural behaviour and freedom of movement. Sweden can and should be a role model for other countries to do the same towards the implementation of a full EU ban on cages – which will take some time.

That is why we stand together, from all over Europe, urging the Swedish Government to phase out and ban all cages in Sweden before the suggested time frame within the EU, in 2023. It is important to act as soon as possible for the 300 000 hens that still suffer cramped together in Swedish wire cages, and to meet the expectations from a society that cares about the wellbeing of farm animals.

You can ban cages, as early as next year, through:

- Making a clarification in the Animal Welfare Ordinance that hens need freedom of movement and that it is not allowed to keep them in cages from 2023.
- Sending a request to the Board of Agriculture to update the regulations on poultry to clarify that cages aren't allowed.

Yours sincerely,

Djurens Rätt, Sweden
Albert Schweitzer Foundation, Germany
Anima International, International
CAAI (Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry), Bulgaria
Dzīvnieku brīvība, Latvia
Equalia, Spain
Eurogroup for Animals, International
Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling (F.R.E.E.), Romania
Fundacja Alberta Schweitzera, Poland
Humánný Pokrok, Slovakia
L214 - Éthique et animaux, France
Nevidimi zivotni (Invisible Animals), Bulgaria
Oikeutta Eläimille, Finland
The Humane League, United Kingdom
Verein Gegen Tierfabriken, Austria
Voices for Animals, Russia