

ANIMAL VOICE

Official mouthpiece in South Africa for Compassion in World Farming

A World First!

**South African Consumers join hands
to present the new
Consumer Commission
with a mass Class Action
against Factory Farming...**



**Will Commissioner Mohlala bring
relief to the 'unconscionable'
suffering of pigs and chickens?**



Increasing Our Compassionate Footprint

COMPASSION 
in world farming

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Protecting Consumer Rights...



Ms Mamodupi Mohlala took office on 1st April 2011 as National Consumer Commissioner.

She is tasked with giving effect to South Africa's very 'toothy' Consumer Protection Act, internationally acclaimed for placing South Africans among the most protected and powerful consumers in the world.

In terms of the Act, consumers have the right to take action against conduct, in the course of production, that is 'unconscionable'.

The Act then defines 'unconscionable' as being 'unethical or improper to a degree that would shock the conscience of a reasonable person.'

Empowered by the new Consumer Protection Act, South African consumers have joined together in a Class Action against some of the worst cruelties of factory farming, where animals live and die in states of mutilation, shocking deprivation, torment and suffering.

Leading the Class Action, is *Compassion in World Farming's* Tozie Zokufa, former veterinary public health practitioner and meat inspector whose nine years spent in abattoirs around South Africa, convinced him that the African concept of *ina ethe* - give and take - must be afforded to animals too!

COMPASSION in world farming 

Says Zokufa: "I became very aware that our relationship with the animals we use for food, was out of balance.

"As things stand, we take all that we possibly can from farmed animals - while giving them only the very barest essentials to keep them alive.

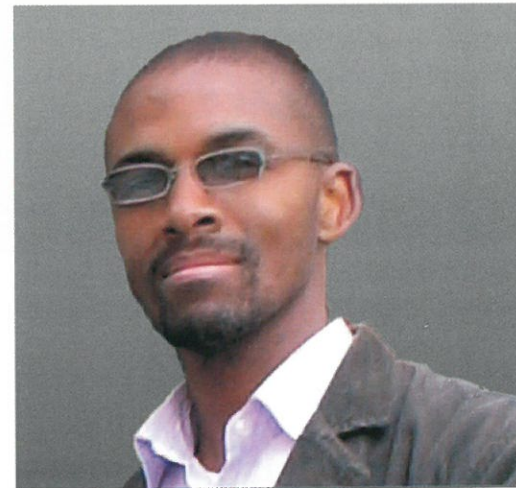
"Most of the big food retailers invite consumers on a daily basis to commit moral crimes by taking advantage of consumer ignorance. With fancy jingles and pretty pictures, they invite us to buy their foodstuffs, many of which have been so cruelly produced that shoppers take refuge in 'denial', refusing to believe the truth even when one tries to enlighten them. How often have I heard: 'but that doesn't happen in this country!' or 'it can't be!'

"Yes, it happens right here in South Africa. And yes, I am offended. I am incensed. I lay the blame for the breakdown in our moral social fibre at the foot of the big corporates.

"We should all be incensed! This Class Action is about ordinary people taking back their power to live their lives ethically, responsibly and with integrity.

"Compassion in World Farming and our supporters are deeply offended and shocked by what we consider to be the unconscionable, unethical and improper treatment of animals on factory farms.

"For the purposes of this Class Action we are focusing on pigs and chickens. We have come together as a voice of protest for the 23 million laying hens and the 103 000 breeding



sows in South Africa who never see a blade of grass or a ray of sunshine in their lives and who are immobilised to a degree that they do not get to use the legs with which they were born!

"Yes. We are shocked and these practices deeply offend us."

See NEXT PAGE for *Compassion in World Farming's* official complaint to Consumer Commissioner Mamadupi Mohlala.



COMPASSION'S OFFICIAL COMPLAINT TO THE CONSUMER COMMISSIONER



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Date of Submission : 21st February 2011

FOR KIND ATTENTION:

Consumer Commissioner Mamodupi Mohlala

COMPLAINANT:

Tozie Zokufa, Representative of Compassion in World Farming (South Africa), an NGO which represents the public interest, in accordance with Section 4 of the Consumer Protection Act.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT:

Some current methods of animal production, namely keeping female pigs in sow stalls, keeping laying hens in battery cages, destroying male chicks born into the egg industry, and causing avoidable suffering to broiler (meat) chickens, are unconscionable and unethical or improper to a degree that shocks my conscience and offends me personally, as well as the supporters of Compassion in World Farming, as reasonable people.

SPECIFICALLY:

PIGS:

The keeping of breeding sows in metal enclosures called stalls or crates that immobilize the animals, preventing any movement forwards, backwards or sideways, for four years, is unconscionable and unethical and improper to a degree that is offensive and shocking to me personally, and to the supporters of Compassion in World Farming. These sows go to slaughter without having experienced any of life's basic gifts and without having exercised even one of their natural behaviours. Even the behaviour of walking on their four legs, is taken away from them.

DESIRED OUTCOME: A phase-out, to begin immediately, of sow stalls/crates for South Africa's breeding sows in favour of group housing, as is already being practised in other parts of the world where stalls/crates are banned or are being phased out.





LAYING HENS:

1. The keeping of laying hens in battery cages which afford each hen, individually, a space allowance that is 75% of an A4 sheet of paper - for life - is unconscionable and unethical and improper to a degree that is offensive and shocking to me personally and to the supporters of Compassion in World Farming. In order to keep these animals in such conditions, they are debeaked, detoed and go to slaughter without having experienced any of life's basic gifts and without having exercised even one of their natural behaviours such as scratching, pecking for food, dust-bathing, sun-bathing, stretching their wings and laying their eggs in a nest. Even the ability to walk has to be relearned if they are removed from these battery cages.

DESIRED OUTCOME: A phase-out, to begin immediately, of battery cages for laying hens in favour of barn and free range production methods, as is being done in other parts of the world where bans and phase-outs are already in place.



2. The destruction of 23 million male chicks born into the egg industry annually, in macerating machines or by drowning/suffocation/exposure and/or neglect is unconscionable and unethical and improper to a degree that is offensive and shocking to me personally and to the supporters of Compassion in World Farming. This is especially unconscionable in an African context where poverty and hunger are a daily experience for so many.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Farms like Boschveld Chickens use the male chicks in poverty alleviation schemes and this example should be followed by the entire industry.

BROILER (MEAT) CHICKENS:

The keeping of broiler chickens in cramped conditions and on litter that causes foot, hock and breast burns, is unconscionable and unethical and improper to a degree that is offensive and shocking to me personally and to the supporters of Compassion in World Farming.

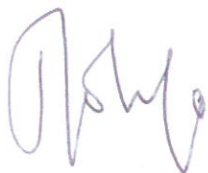
DESIRED OUTCOME: A free range environment for broiler chickens as already practised successfully and economically by, some SA farmers, must replace intensive chicken farming.

IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH:

Feeding impoverished communities diseased and fatty off-cuts of intensive/factory farming, in the guise of feeding the poor cheaply, is resulting in a dramatic escalation of disease and obesity in these communities, such that it is unconscionable and unethical and improper to a degree that is offensive and shocking to me personally and to the supporters of Compassion in World Farming.

DESIRED OUTCOME: Roll-out of a national programme that encourages the eating of quality meat as opposed to mass produced meat, with a greater dependence on fruit and vegetables.

Yours sincerely,



TOZIE ZOKUFA

live

Maceration of male chicks born into the egg industry



De-beaking and de-toeing of female chicks born into the egg industry (see this in action on YouTube)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe-FvoPZaQE>
<http://www.animal-voice.org/News-2011/>

ON 22 FEBRUARY 2011, COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING INVITED CONSUMERS TO JOIN OUR CLASS ACTION AGAINST UNCONSCIONABLE METHODS OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION. Thank you, everyone, for your participation.

CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of Compassion's Class Action give their reasons...



Agricultural Economist
Kobus Erasmus

"Viewed from an agricultural business or profit perspective it is difficult to motivate moving away from factory farming towards free range farming practices. The controlled environment of factory farming makes sense when trying to achieve economies of scale. It is easier for the farmer to expand, leading to lower prices and obvious financial benefits for both producer and consumer.

"However, as factory farming becomes increasingly refined and sophisticated, the cost to both farmer and consumer on an ethical level, is enormous. Animal welfare is something which many farmers feel forced to overlook in order to stay competitive.

"But would the consumer so readily demand cheap eggs and meat if the true conditions in broiler and battery hen houses were open for all to see? A situation has developed where the trade feels forced to protect the consumer from knowing the dirty details of the farming process in order to sell the product. Consumers on the other hand, either do not think about the farming methods, or are satisfied with as little information as possible.

"By keeping the facts of factory farming concealed, it is easy to see how low-priced battery eggs and broiler meat have almost become staple foods. The cramped and overcrowded living conditions on factory farms inhibit and distort the natural behavior of chickens in every possible way. Millions of chickens live and are processed through this system in South Africa on a weekly basis. The situation cannot improve if the people who eat them are kept in the dark about the dismal state of affairs. In effect the consumer is causing animal abuse on a massive scale without knowing about it.

"Consumers have a right and an obligation to know the



Veterinarian
Dr Brett Bard BVSc MRCVS

impact of their eating habits on both animal welfare and the environment."

"Compassion in World Farming's Class Action presents a call to action to put an end to institutionalised cruelty, which is sadly, now the accepted norm in food production.

"Central to the veterinary profession's creed is commitment to the protection of animal health and welfare; the prevention and relief of animal pain and suffering; and public education about the sentience of non-human animals. We have the knowledge and skills to recognize the physical and psychological agony experienced by millions of hens in battery farms and sows confined to crates. These methods are clearly intolerable and indeed shocking to the conscience of any reasonable person.

"There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence demonstrating the complex emotional lives of animals, their advanced sensory and motor development, capacity for feeling pain and pleasure, and sophisticated communication skills, that leaves no doubt regarding the sentience of animals.

"When animals suffer, we suffer with them. The misery we have inflicted on our domestic animals is reflected in the society in which we live. We can no longer allow the abuse of animals to continue by imposing outdated, unconscionable farming methods.

"The public need to know and understand that they are supporting and encouraging animal maltreatment on a massive scale.

"When compassionate methods of farming are implemented, it will also be a small step towards regaining our human dignity."

Factory farming is a reflection of dysfunctionality in humankind...

Gauteng Businesswoman **Khomotso Mogale** says: "Inhumane methodologies of farming are a reflection of dysfunctionality in humankind. We are mostly not enlightened about issues of animal welfare and the implications of inhumane farming methodologies on our health. There is a need to educate South Africans and bring debate into the public domain. Silence means consent to these unlawful systems. With insight, I have no doubt South Africans will exercise their right to object."



CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of Compassion's Class Action give their reasons...



5fm RADIO DJ **GRANT NASH**

"I've been vegan for just over a year and ethics was the Number 1 reason for this. After being exposed to the way animals are treated in

factory farms, it was unconscionable for me to be part of the torture and cruelty.

"If it is so okay to eat animals and their products, then parents should be willing to let their children go on a field trip to an abattoir or a hatchery. There are very few parents who would let this happen yet they happily feed their kids products from these cruel industries.

"We have to teach consumers that animals and their products are luxuries not necessities. You can live a fulfilled and wonderful life full of tasty things to eat, from plants and plant-based things.

"You don't need to participate in the torture that is factory farming to LIVE. We also need to force farmers to find ways to treat animals with respect and dignity and still make a profit and add to the economy."



Dr. Nadia Sanger

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it limits the freedom of living animals to live their lives in a dignified way.

"This kind of treatment of farm animals is unacceptable throughout the world, but particularly in South Africa which has emerged from a history of institutionalized and sanctioned state violence.

"By continuing to practice violence in the form of unconscionable and unethical farming processes, where other animals are treated with no respect and harmed in unspeakable ways, South Africa is reinforcing violence as a normative way of operating in our current democracy."



Food Technologist

Anga Finini-Khumalo

"I would classify battery eggs as 'tears in a shell', and ham/bacon as 'hammered ham' and 'banged bacon'.

We need to treat each other as we want to be treated and this applies to our treatment of animals as well. We are all inter-dependent and Industry should not allow itself to be corrupted into making easy money at the cost of the animal's well-being. We need to remember that Quality Raw Material (QRM) + Quality Manufacturing of Food (QMF) = Quality Consciousness of Life. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by an end product that looks good, but isn't."



Heart FM News Presenter and Mother-to-be **Mantsadi Molotlegi**

"My unborn child, as we speak, is vegetarian purely because I am. As he grows up, I won't deprive him of meat if he wants it, because let's face it, children are curious and he will come across other children eating meat. But I will teach him about humane eating and the importance of treating animals with kindness. Right now there is a paradigm shift happening across the world and a lot of people are becoming aware of what they consume.

"My child will be part of a generation that is conscious in this way. He will be part of a generation that knows the importance of treating animals with care and respect, and he will demand nothing less."

"In effect the consumer is causing animal abuse on a massive scale without knowing about it."

— Agricultural Economist, **Kobus Erasmus**

support response

CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of **Compassion's** Class Action give their reasons...



Dr Elisa Galgut, lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Cape Town, has made this appeal to Commissioner Mohlala:

"I am trying to think of reasons to persuade you that the abominations of factory farming should be outlawed.

"But are reasons alone sufficient? Can you, using mere argument,

persuade the racist that apartheid was a crime against humanity? Can the anti-semitic be persuaded that the Nazi death camps were horrors of stupefying proportions? Reason must be tempered with compassion in moral judgement and action.

"Anyone with an ounce of pity knows that confining sentient beings in cramped cages and depriving them of fundamental needs is morally obscene. How can one deny such a claim, and still consider oneself a human being? Cruelty - despite being supported by powerful

interest groups - has no place in decent society.

"Indeed, treating animals as though they were mere 'things' is a symptom of the most profound irrationality, a kind of madness. The decisions you make will affect the lives of millions of intelligent, sentient beings, who are currently subjected to unimaginable cruelty. You have the power to change that.

"Just as the overthrowing of apartheid seemed radical until it happened, so the liberation of factory-farmed animals from their prisons will seem inevitable as soon as it is done. We are bound together as human beings in virtue of our shared compassion; it is within these bounds of enlightened morality that I write to you and urge you no longer to allow the brutalities of factory farming to stain our society."



Marlise Richter:

PhD Candidate in Public Health, Wits University (South Africa) and University of Ghent (Belgium):

Public Health arguments against Factory Farming

"There are overwhelming public health rationales for putting an end to factory

farming and the inhumane treatment of animals. The most persuasive and scientifically rigorous piece I have recently read comes from a document entitled '[A Plea for sustainable livestock farming - an end to organised irresponsibility](#)' (2010).

"This document was written by more than a 100 Dutch professors who summarise the overwhelming public health evidence for putting a stop to factory farming now. The document states: '[Never before in history have we spent such a small fraction \(less than 10%\) of our family income on food. And never before has the production of food had such an enormous impact on our environment. The cost of food has decreased. The price is being paid by animals, nature and the environment - and thus, in time, by us and future generations.](#)'

"The scientists point out that animals have been bred to yield higher outputs than ever before: in the last 25

years, 25% more eggs per hen, 40% more growth per animal and 40% more milk per cow have been attained. This has had devastating effects not only on animal health, well-being and happiness, but also on human beings.

"Modern diets that are meat-intensive mean that people are consuming increased amounts of saturated fat. These are linked to increased cardiovascular diseases, colon cancer, obesity and diabetes and other illnesses.

"The intensive use of antibiotics and chemotherapeutics to try and offset the unnatural crowded living conditions of animals, are exceedingly bad for people's health. Pathogenic agents such as Q-fever, MRSA, ESBL-bacteria and other pathogens have also made humans victims. In contrast, vegetarians and vegans weigh less than meat-eaters and are generally more healthy. Public health evidence is clear: factory farming is harmful to your health."

"The efforts of the animal rights movement are rightly directed at decent people who both know and don't know that there is something going on that stinks to high heaven."

— Nobel Prize for Literature Laureate: JM Coetzee



Petro Ferreira

"Animal factory farming is unconscionable. Animals can feel, and it goes totally against nature. It is all just for the sake of money. What a sad day that money counts more than respect for ALL living beings."



Freddie Williams

"Factory farming is unconscionable because we should be the custodians and protectors of our animals. Yet we show how barbaric we are by treating them so inhumanely."



Dr Astrid Jankielsohn

"Factory farming views animals as property to be used and abused at will."

"Compassion is about realizing where we come from, acknowledging the fact that the history of every living being is within us and that we are connected to every living soul. When we truly realize this we can no longer treat the world around us with indifference."

"In our technological age we have become more and more isolated from the rest of creation. We have taken ourselves out of our natural environment and elevated ourselves above it. We tend to make decisions based on our own greed."

"Compassion is about being 'good' not just 'less bad'. In our everyday lives it is in our power to make the right choices. Let us live with the knowledge that every one of our actions has consequences and we need to be mindful of what we do where other life is concerned."



Carina Thiar

Factory farming is unconscionable because those animals have feelings too and cannot be seen as just food for human consumption. Just like domestic animals, farm animals have rights too!



Jenny Copley-Forster

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it disregards the scientific fact that farm animals are sentient beings with psychological and emotional as well as physical needs."



Jenny Johnson

"I am joining Compassion in World Farming because I have become more and more aware that cruelty is imposed on most of the animals we are eating. I cannot eat an animal that has been tortured."



Heather Hawke

"I believe factory farming is unconscionable because it abuses living creatures cruelly for profit. This is a violation of nature and is degrading to the human spirit."



Clare Okell

"Factory farming is unconscionable because the methods are without compassion for sentient beings. To build a nation of compassionate people, cruelty can never be justifiable and must be totally unacceptable."



Anne van Vliet

"Factory farming is unconscionable because all basic rights such as freedom to move, freedom from suffering, pain and fear are denied to the animals being 'farmed', from birth to death."



Jeanarie Norquoy

"Animals are sentient beings that feel pain and fear just as a human beings do. Animals need space to roam and move freely, they should not be confined to small spaces where they are unable to move and have to live on their own faeces."

"Factory farming is inhumane, cruel and unethical. No animal deserves this sort of life."



James Lewis

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it is cruel, unsustainable, inefficient, unhealthy, environmental destructive and immoral. WHY do we then support and continue along this path? It is time for enlightenment and change to a better future."



Noeline van den Berg

"Factory farming is unconscionable because animals are kept in cruel, horrendous conditions, suffering from birth to the day they are killed."



Sue Goutier

"Factory farming is unconscionable because there is no regard for the pain and suffering experienced by animals bred for food. Everything is energy, including feelings and emotions. When we eat meat, not only do we absorb the physical part of the animal, but we also take on the trauma that has been experienced by them just prior to their death."



Michelle Reid

"We are slaughtering millions of animals on a daily basis: A bit like Auschwitz, every day. People want to keep their heads in the sand. They'd rather not spoil their dinner.

If they had to face the reality of what we are doing, they would simply have to be conscious and have to change, and for most, that is too much hard work."



Athalie Crawford

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it is abominably cruel to animals, environmentally unsustainable and a breeding ground for viruses such as swine flu,

believed to have originated in a pig factory farm in Mexico."



Paul Kahanovitz

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it does not consider the sentience of non human animals and so subjects them to suffering and to an awareness of their impending death."



Lori Jade McDonald

"Factory farming is unconscionable because I know God wouldn't want it that way. It's sad, inhuman and not meant to be. Then people want to know why they live such terrible lives.

It is because our animals are treated with no respect, live in fear and then we eat that meat.

"At the end of the day it's BAD KARMA we are consuming!!!"



Dani de Klerk

"Factory farming is unethical in the way that it strips animals of their basic capabilities such as being able to move, raise their offspring or even go out into the sunshine.

"It is an unjust and immoral practise which only exploits animals and has little regard for conservation, food safety and animal welfare. I am taking a stand for *Compassion in World Farming SA* because I believe that through solidarity we can make a difference which will not only help relieve the exploitation of animals and the environment, but can benefit and improve South African society as a whole."



Angela Tuson

"Factory farming promotes such unethical commercial practices as slavery, exploitation of consumers and environmental irresponsibility.

"It is particularly gruesome as it exploits both the 'farmed', or to be more clear, the 'processed' living beings being ground up for profit, AS WELL AS the consumer. Consumers are offered limited choices so as to maximise profits (a basic business strategy), but consumer health and their choices are then negated. Antibiotics, growth hormones, preservatives and toxic packaging are just some of the health-risks involved.

"As industries are being held more accountable by consumers, factory farms have managed to retain unscrupulous and corrupt business practices.

"Factory farms have been compared to the Nazi concentration camps of the Second World War. It's a worthy comparison."



Mike Picker

"Factory farming is a system that, by definition, cannot avoid inflicting significant physical pain and mental and behavioural stress on the animals raised and killed in its

production chain. The details of the industry are entirely sanitised in respect of the consumer, who has little idea that they are supporting a system that is synonymous with pain and suffering. I have no doubt that the majority of meat consumers would be repulsed by the system if they were to view the various stages of intensive meat production first hand."



Wendy Hartwig

"Factory farming is unconscionable because these animals live and suffer everyday in unjustifiable conditions. These conditions not only affect animals, but also harm the environment and humans as well."



Alexandra Ledger and James Ellis

"Factory farming is unconscionable because:

1. It brutalizes farm-and-abattoir workers;
2. Factory farmed animals are given all kinds of drugs, which you then eat.
3. You wouldn't want your child to see factory-line slaughter, and you don't want to see it yourself. Ask yourself why?
4. The distinction between pet-animals and food-animals is arbitrary."

"I urge you no longer to allow the brutalities of factory farming to stain our society."

— Dr Elisa Galgut



Lynne Wills

"Factory farming is unconscionable because not only are there environmental impacts, but no living creature should suffer the torture of a factory farm. Animal welfare HAS to be a priority to end their suffering."



Julia Barnes

"Factory farming is unconscionable, because the animals are treated as units of production, instead of as living sentient beings capable of immense physical, psychological and emotional suffering."



Carole Ann de Fraga

"Factory farming is unconscionable because of the high cost to animals caused by systemic scale and intensity. Animals suffer physically and psychologically, their sentience, intelligence and dignity ignored in the quest for ever greater productivity."



Uta Higgs

"Factory farming is unconscionable because all beings have the same right to life. If we HAVE to farm them and eat them at least let's not be cruel about it!"



Karen Gottschalk

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it treats animals as inanimate objects, ignoring the fact that they suffer pain, distress and extreme discomfort for the sake of extra profits."



Kaeyla McGee

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it is appallingly cruel, and wrong on so many different levels that I, and many others, refuse to eat meat because of it."



Lynn Stacey

"Factory farming is unconscionable because it's cruel, it produces unhealthy meat, and as Mahatma Gandhi said "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".



Lara Potgieter

"Nobody has the right to deprive another being of that bit of light and life to which its birth on earth has entitled it."



Mea Lashbrooke

"I, Mea Lashbrooke of Kenilworth, Cape Town, South Africa, have joined the organization *Compassion for World Farming SA* because day after day millions of animals suffer in order to satisfy our needs, but more often our greed."

"I strongly believe that people who need to eat meat do not need to do so more than two or three times a week, and I am certain that animal husbandry could be reduced in scale and in addition be carried out along the humane lines laid out by *Compassion for World Farming SA*."

"All it takes is knowledge and will. Ignorance has never been an acceptable strategy for sustainable survival in any sphere of life."



Art Beux

"When I see pictures or footage of animals suffering in cages, batteries, sheds, etc I feel sick. What they call factory farming, I call an animal holocaust and it comes from a society that calls itself civilized! It must be stopped immediately!"

(see *Art's Chickens* p13)



Jan Beeton

"Factory farming is unconscionable because

- 1) animals suffer terribly
- 2) it is totally unnecessary to eat

meat and

- 3) it harms the environment through the use of unnecessarily large amounts of water and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions."



Thando Mbele

"According to International consumers' rights, we, as consumers, have a right to information, so I appeal to all producers in the meat industry to disclose everything, from the first stage of production right up to the availability of the product in the market-place."



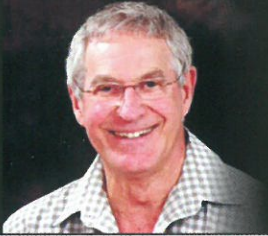
Judy Miller

"All are on this planet to co-exist and do no harm to one another. Animals have feelings, physical and emotional, and deserve to be treated with respect and humanity. To cause them suffering just so that we can make a profit is a crime. It causes me great pain and suffering in my heart to see how we treat our precious animals."

support response

CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of Compassion's Class Action give their reasons...

Leading Animal Scientist supports Compassion's '*Consumer Rebellion*'



Animal Scientist, KZN cattle farmer and author, Dr André Mentz, has given his full support to *Compassion in World Farming's* official complaint to the Consumer Commission. *"For years now, I have done everything possible to convince SA's agricultural authorities to farm with nature, not against nature, but to no avail. Your consumer rebellion is fully justified and I support it,"* he told Animal Voice's deputy editor, Tozie Zokufa.

Dr Mentz, whose book *The Holistic Alternative* roundly rejects the intensification of animal production, believes that the basic principle of all livestock production is about converting pasture into live mass.

He explained "For example, cattle, as ruminants, are created to live only off grass and in doing so, to produce the best quality meat. The drastically unnatural methods used by feedlot managers to change a herbivore's physiology to function like a mono-gastric animal, are outrageous, and a blatant violation of ethical norms. It is a sin against God's creation."

Dr Mentz added that prior to the introduction of feedlots, where cattle are forced to eat grain for quick fattening, environmental

problems like pollution, greenhouse gasses and unhealthy red meat were unknown to the industry.

"It is unbelievable that all the appeals from governments, and numerous organizations at national and international level, to conserve electricity, to conserve water, to prevent pollution, greenhouse gasses

"Something is terribly wrong when agricultural practices become an extermination of nature."

and all the other environmentally unfriendly aspects of feedlots, have not been translated by Agriculture into 'Eco animal production'."

Eco animal production, he explained, was a system that worked in cooperation with the environment. "To put it very clearly, Eco animal production is the exact opposite of every facet of intensive animal production, or factory farming, as it has become known today.

"I challenge anyone to give one reason to justify the existence of feedlots in this country. Feedlot production is in the hands of people who view animals as having no value beyond their ability to produce the highest output at the lowest cost. It is not an agricultural business; it is an industrialised operation. Something is terribly wrong when agricultural practices become an extermination of nature."

Dr Mentz predicted that the new Consumer Act would generate a lot of 'fireworks'. "It seems to be the only way to bring about change in animal farming, and, the sooner the better," he said.

Dr Mentz's philosophy is:

Soil is life

All flesh is grass

The creation is precious

A feedlot near Lionsrock, outside Bethlehem in the Free State. In his book *The Holistic Alternative*, Dr Mentz describes feedlots as 'a major embarrassment'. He says: "There are mainly three things that make the existence of a feedlot industry unacceptable anywhere in the world. The first revolves around the extent of permanent pollution of the total ecology of a feedlot. Secondly, all the favourable healthy aspects of red meat are counteracted by the diet of concentrate (containing unacceptable additives). In the third place, feedlots tend to rape all of the ethical norms relating to the housing and treatment of cattle."



Soul Food — Art Beux's Chickens



CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of Compassion's
Class Action add their names...

MORE SIGNATORIES TO CIWF's COMPLAINT TO THE CONSUMER COMMISSION

Dr Felix Schneier
Rosemary Miller
Pat Featherstone
Cheryl Hopkins
Ethel Pittaway
Cornelis Uys
Chanel Rowan
Lynette Burger
E van Straaten
M R Daniels
Peter Dunn
Joy Rosario
Liesel Krieger
Patricia Glyn
Anneke Brits
Prof A E van Blerk
Ondria Curtin

Carolyn Chadwick
Maureen Brown
Mrs M G van der Walt
Mrs Eileen Buyskes
Matthew Edwards
Kylie Ramage
Audrey Eyton
Janice and Steve Cox
Barbara and Marius de Waal
Catarina Andrade
Melanie Jessop
Rae Perl
Simon Perl
Helen Lombard
Cecile Schoeman
Karen Gottschalk
Lynn Stacey

Heather Howe
Smaragda Louw
Braam Malherbe
Jenny Copley
D Logan
Theresa Henning
K Paschen
D L Watkins
Paula Lasersohn
Art Beux
Karen Tipton
Kim Blanchard
H Mouton
Vegetarian Society of South Africa
Elisa Galgut
J M Young
Wilkinson

CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of Compassion's Class Action add their names...

MORE SIGNATORIES TO CIWF's COMPLAINT TO THE CONSUMER COMMISSION

Vaughn Berger
Yvonne Kiraly
Colleen Frost
Frank Molteno
F C Williams
Pam Wills
Eileen Chapman
Freda van der Merwe
Sheree Kidson
Shelley van Braningen
Cheryl Hopkins
Ilke Hay
Yvonne Kiraly
Colleen Frost
Marlaine Pretorius
Lynn Stacey
Vaughn Verger
Colleen Frost
Zelma Opland
Pet Action
Fiona Scorgie
Heather Hawke
Carol Friedman
Tony Gerrans
Lauren Benatar
Helga Steyn
Nicola Vernon
M Pike
P Ackerman
Bryan Howard
Merilyn Howard
Celeste Ferraz
Paul Edwards
Sarah Smith
Hermien Voigt
Karin Parry
Zelma Opland
Jacqueline Clingman
Wendy Paarman
Tanith Curtin
Shelmerdene de Gersigny
Lise Parry
Tom McLaughlin
Dianne Pitro
Maria Kreiner
Marie Uys
Anne Hemmings
Wolfgang Planz
Polly Edwards
Elaine Greenwood
Natalie Hoy
Irene de Beer
Yvonne Maree
Rosey Edwards
Sandy du Plessis

Patsy Down
Danielle Blanchard
Surekha singh
Susan Franks
Shayleen peeke
Lechelle
Chris Burlock
Louise Brown
Tina Weavind
Anthea
Stephen van der Spuy
Lyn Brown
Grant Nash
Lauren
Tracey- Jayne Henn
Therese Rennie
Heather Murch
Liesel Krieger
Lauren Geiger
Michelle Nicolopoulos
Klarika Nettleton
Carole de Fraga
Brenda Haviga
Jacqui Theunissen
Brian Geldenhuis
Shelley Geldenhuis
Julie van Niekerk
Linda Jaquet
Heinz Althaus
Gianna Althaus
Melissa Weavind
Jill Mortimer
Karin Eriksson
Jan Beeton
Michelle Daniels
Pamm Legg
Michelle Legg
Jeanne Groenewald
Colleen McDuling
Alan Friedland
Monique Friedland
Melanie Le Roux
Joachim Wiesinger
Tanya
Elizabeth van Straaten
Helga Steyn
Nicky Wilton
Helen Wiesinger
Liesel du Preez
Mea Lashbrooke
Desire
Kerstin Dippenaar
Dianne Mc Alpine
Michelle de Villiers
E F Hanratty

Sheila Becker
Sarah Ford
Winelands SPCA
Melisa Frank
Lauren le Roux
Pat Barr-Sanders
Michele Klemp
Kelly Bradfield
Freddie Williams
Janine Hood
Duane Love
Nicole jaanson
Cornelia Botha
Marlaine Pretorius
Albert Buhr
Jeanne Henn
Linda Jooste
Kim Diedericks
Natalie Becker
Gail Vermoter
Annedore de Brauwere
Lenja Jansen
Fiona Scorgie
Paul Kahanovitz
Jason Krain
Fiona Koch
Muriel Gravenor
Hannelie Carstens
Jonathan Racussen
Genie de Waal
Birgitte Cameron
Karen de Klerk
Astrid Jankielsohn
Liesl Kruger
Crischelle Hanekom
Jaen-Pierre Klaassen
Louise van der Merwe
Ivan van der Merwe
Sharon Duggan
Sheila Vanderplank
Petra ten Velde
Shannon Whateley
Melanie Burns
Hugh Sussens
Gillian Gernetzky
Brenda Rimensberger
Vanessa Nias
Linda Haylett
Elzbieta Bruce
Shellique
Sandra Yeo
Rosemary Yates
Katja Tommila
Lori McDonald
Thanissara

CALLING FOR **REFORM** Supporters of **Compassion's** Class Action add their names...

MORE SIGNATORIES TO CIWF's COMPLAINT TO THE CONSUMER COMMISSION

Diane Francis
Joyce Kelly
Rosalind Stone
Jan Drake
Julie van Rijswijk
Monica Benade
Sarah Palmer
Ross Pringle
Shona Bagley
Lisa Wilson
Mada
Benita Lotz
Ericka Parrington
Tracey Groenewald
Monika von Moltke
Sam Jenkin
Marlene Ketjen
Cecile van Rensburg
Hazel Inches
Shauna Germishuizen
K Theron
Mark
Margaret Ludick
Karin Paschen
Alexandra Ledger
Tristram Wilson
Joan Lurie
Vittorio Bollo
Bob White
Sarah
Deanna Bollo
Sumi Atkins
George Cassab
Nadine Britnor
Jackie tobin
Kairen Brooke-Anderson
Lindsey Smith
Diana Muzik
Monika von Moltke
Candice Smith
Deidre May
Lin Kimberley
Monique Pienaar
Mellory Dayle Farr
Braam Malherbe
Paul Hawkins
Lorraine Shirley
Tony Logan
Pat Featherstone
Sue
Marion Smith
Anita Pienaar
Joy Malley
Brad Booth

Gail Turner
Lynn Slogrove
Linda de Wet
Bool Smuts
Dr Daphne Timm
Roxy Troxler
Hayley Zipp
Michelle debeer-Pieterse
David
Simon Gottschalk
Martin Gottschalk
Karen Gottschalk
Sean
Alison
Jenni Caister-Carbonari
Kirsten Doyle
Martina
Caroline Hope
Debby Scheun
Jacqui McLeod
Vicky Burger
Justin Channell
Heidi McGowan
Dan Hughes
Louise Snyman
Lezette
Samantha Walsh
Elsa Young
Russell Smith
Tammy Freedman
Charnell Bow
Sue Rudnick
Rina coetzee
Mari Horne
Nicole Minnaar
Amelia Sequeira
Lorna Gray
Fatimah
Claire Scott Wilson
A Doyle
Nicolette Maritz
Dorothy Graham
Nikita
SA Shahini
Rafael Camps
Nicky Bassett
Genevieve Rowan
Marjorie Gettliffe
Julie Van Rijswijk
Les Mitchell
Sonia Knott
Nicky Nagy
Kobus Erasmus
Charl F Du Plessis

Annelise du Preez
Lori Jade McDonald
Jan Buda
Prenesen Govender
Beverley Pretorius
Liz Metcalf
Warren Pike
Irene de Beer
Samantha Bouilliart
Mel Reeder
Gillian Pinks
Richard Holmes
Monica Benade
JJ Pienaar
Chanel Rowan
Alexandra Ledger
Dr Andre Mentz
Loren Anthony
Cecile Schoeman
Tracy Fourie
Elizabeth van Straaten
Charl Plank
Robbyn Wilkinson
Beulah May
Heila Nicolín
Dennis Fajans
Victoria Butler
Julia Barnes
Sonya Gusson
Debbie Dibb
Kim Blanchardn
Karin Paschen
Dorothy Watkins
Debbie Logan -
Theresa Henning
Sumi Bezuidenhout
Fiona Burton and Adrian Connors
Sonja Lord
Paul
Anneke Brits
Katie Cornell
Mark (Activist)
Candy Ristic
Wendy Hardie
Uta Higgs
Marina Rust-Evans
Lynne Goodman
Jill Young
Jason Krain
Carol Friedman
Julia van den Berg
Jenny Johnson
Billi Bruins
R. Fouche



It would seem that the Ministry of Agriculture is depending on Commissioner Mohlala to bring in Animal Welfare improvements, as much as we are! Read on... — Louise van der Merwe, Editor



**MINISTRY of AGRICULTURE
and RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
Provincial Government of the Western Cape

MINISTRY

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REFERENCE: 3/1/2/24 – 16/2011/86
ENQUIRIES: C Smart

Ms L van der Merwe
SA Representative: Compassion in World Farming
PO Box 825
SOMERSET WEST
7129

Dear Ms van der Merwe

RE: COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING: CONCERN ABOUT ANIMALS ON FACTORY FARM

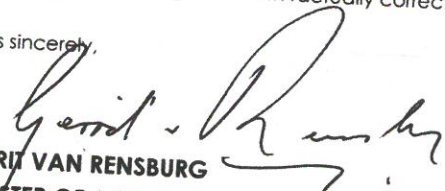
Your letter dated 31 January 2011, addressed to the Premier has reference.

We at the Western Cape Department of Agriculture share many of your sentiments regarding animal welfare on farms. It is well-known in veterinary and animal production circles that a healthy and contented animal is the most productive animal.

Therefore, in all our projects in which we have assisted emerging farmers we have ensured that all facilities and education have complied with the highest animal welfare standards. We also have a full ethics committee in our Department who are responsible for assuring the welfare of our state-owned herds and all animals used by the Department for research projects.

As the Provincial Departments are unfortunately not mandated to uphold the Animal Protection Act, we suggest that you make your concerns known to the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Consumer pressure is, however, the strongest force available to induce farmers to adopt good welfare practices and so we urge you to continue to increase public awareness by providing them with factually correct and in-context information.

Yours sincerely,


GERRIT VAN RENSBURG
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: WESTERN CAPE

DATE: 11/3/11

The Afrikaans or Xhosa version of this document is available on request.

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