

ANIMALVOICE

Official mouthpiece in South Africa for Compassion in World Farming

See inside:

Top Muslim vet says
battery farming is 'sin'

SA Council of Churches
denounces our treatment
of animals

Appeal to supermarkets by
poverty NGO:
'Make us literate shoppers'

Wildlife in conflict
with farmed animals

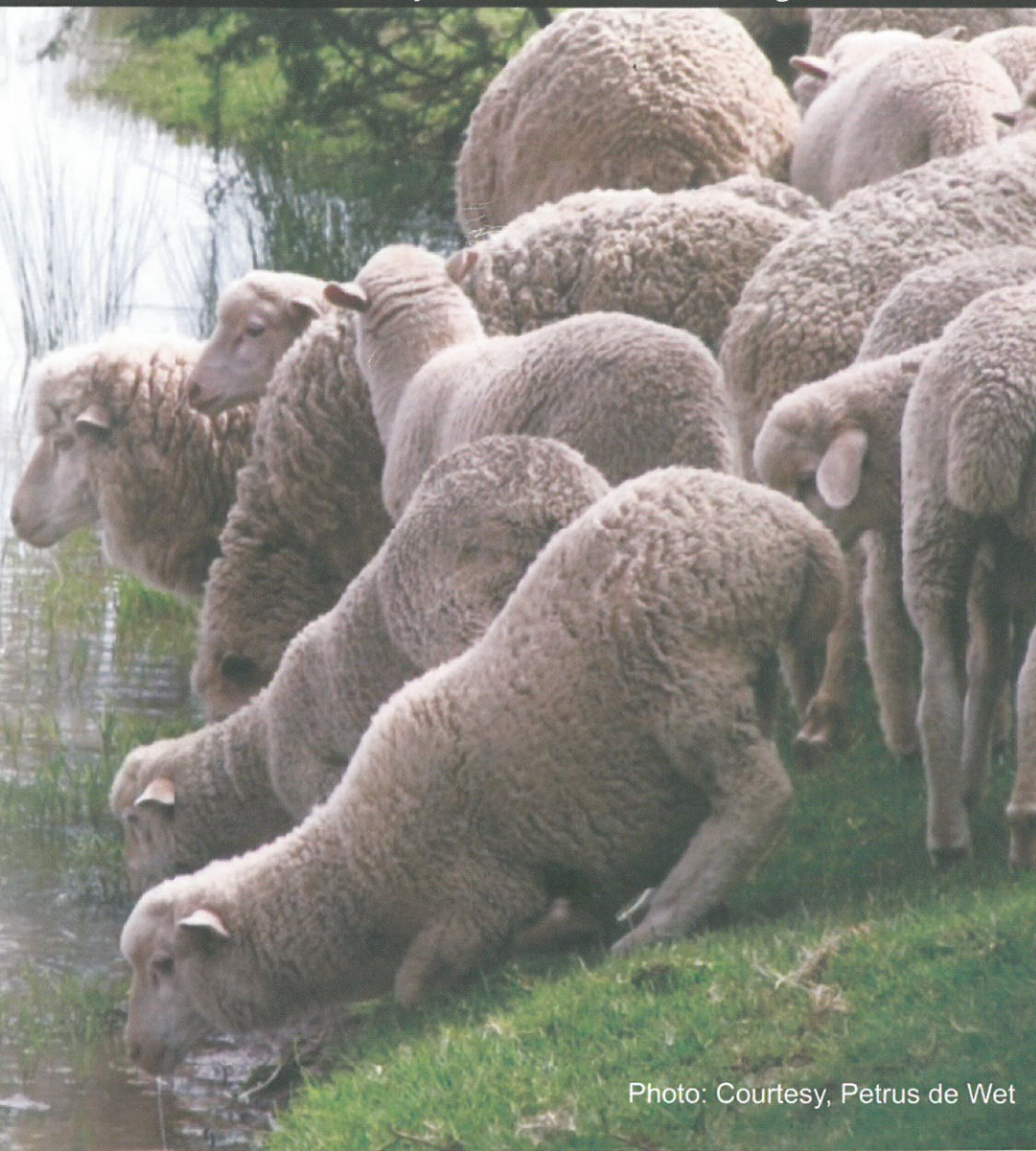


Photo: Courtesy, Petrus de Wet

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

CAPE TOWN has become the first city in Africa to officially endorse one meat-free day a week.

In a unanimous vote taken in council chambers late on Tuesday, 6th April 2010, the City's Health Portfolio Committee agreed to endorse the call by *Compassion in World Farming (South Africa)* for one meat-free day a week.

Said Tozie Zokufa, South African representative for *Compassion in World Farming*: "It is a triumph. We started negotiating with the City Health Committee last December. Their decision to work with us on this issue is not only a triumph for human health, but also for the planet and animal welfare too.

"We believe that Cape Town may be the second city, globally, to have officially endorsed one meat-free day a week, following on the heels of Ghent, Belgium."

The date of the official launch of Cape Town City's one-meat-free-day-a-week, in cooperation with *Compassion in World Farming (South Africa)*, will be announced soon.

Increasing Our Compassionate Footprint

COMPASSION
in world farming 

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Transforming Culture

Global culture of excess is biggest threat to planet - Worldwatch Institute

"If we are to survive, human civilization must make a seismic transformation away from consumerism, and towards a culture centered on sustainability." This stark warning comes from the renowned Worldwatch Institute, a Washington DC-based organisation regarded as the world's pre-eminent environmental think tank.

In its State of the World 2010 report, published in January 2010, the Institute states that the global culture of excess is emerging as the biggest threat to the planet.

"Preventing the collapse of human civilization requires nothing less than a wholesale transformation of dominant cultural patterns. This transformation would reject consumerism... and establish in its place a new cultural framework centered on sustainability.

"Until we recognize that our environmental problems, from climate change to deforestation to species loss, are driven by unsustainable habits, we will not be able to solve

the ecological crises that threaten to wash over civilization," it states.

The report goes on to say that over the last 50 years, a consumer culture of excess has spread across the planet. What started as a trend fifty years ago in the USA as part of the American Dream, *Consumerism* has now been adopted as a symbol of success in developing countries from Brazil to India to China, fuelled by businesses in their efforts to win over consumers.

Yet, it states, nothing short of a shift in our Culture itself, will resolve the dire problems facing humanity.

In the preface to the report, Worldwatch Institute's president, Christopher Flavin, says: "As the world struggles to recover from the most serious global economic crisis since the Great Depression, we have an unprecedented opportunity to turn away from consumerism. In the end, the human instinct for survival must triumph over the urge to consume at any cost."



"The sustainability revolution will be more challenging than any previous social revolution," says Ethics Institute.

Professor Willem Landman, CEO of the Ethics Institute of South Africa, believes that the sustainability revolution is inevitable. "The only serious question is whether the leaders of the world will realise, sooner rather than later, the need for, and their role in, this revolution," he says.

"It will require a more profound mental paradigm shift by humankind than any other major social revolution in history, greater than the abolition of slavery or the industrial revolution.

"The sustainability revolution must be premised on values of integrated respect for the basic needs of humans, animals, and the natural environment.

"There is much persuasion to be done to win over hearts and minds to the sustainability revolution. But there has never been a better time to do so, because we are beginning to see a future that is too ghastly to contemplate," he said.

EDITORIAL

Recently I received photographs of a wedding ceremony that took place in Nelspruit. It was a lavish affair, costing upwards of R50m according to the Mail & Guardian. Just a few kilometres from the venue there is a community that is experiencing a serious lack of service delivery. The question arises: *what is excessive consumerism?*

To my mind, we are now experiencing a culture that is out of control. According to the **Readers Digest** (March 2010), "*generation alpha*" - the children born between 2010 and 2025 - will be more materialist than any other generation before them. If we are raising our eyebrows at today's consumerism, should we not then be very afraid for the future?

The world currently consumes 60 billion animals and it is estimated that by 2050 we will consume 120 billion animals; I personally think this will happen before 2050.

Let us revive our old value systems and denounce the culture of "more is better". We cannot even tell the difference any more between necessity and luxury. Let us ring in a new culture that befits the old adage WASTE NOT, WANT NOT. This is a journey that starts with the food on our tables.

Sincerely,

Tozie Zokufa (Deputy Editor)

Eating less meat

is part of the Sustainability Revolution,

says Compassion's CEO, Philip Lymbery

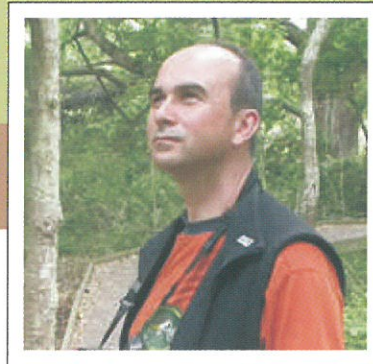
“Clearly, the debate around sustainable diets is heating up and farm animal welfare has an increasingly central part to play in future food policy, especially when it comes to the careful use of limited resources,” says Lymbery.

“The global impact of factory farming is huge.

“An area of land equivalent to the size of the European Union is used to grow feed for farm animals. Yet these crops could provide valuable food directly for the 1 billion people who go to bed hungry each night. On average, to produce 1kg of animal protein requires nearly 6kg of protein in the form of feed grains.”

Lymbery said that globally, livestock production was escalating and was predicted to double to 120 billion farm animals a year by mid-Century.

“Large numbers of animals in small spaces on factory farms can lead to environmental degradation and threats to our health as well as unimaginable animal suffering,” he said.



“This call by Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for the UK government, adds further fuel to calls for a change in our food system; one that aims to feed people with decent, quality food, sustainably produced.”

From a health point of view...

“Our diet is warming the planet. It is also damaging our health. Changing our diet is difficult, but doing so would both help slow climate change and bring significant health benefits,” says **Sir Liam Donaldson**, Chief Medical Officer for the UK government.

Quoted recently in The Daily Mail, he said reducing meat consumption by 30%, could save 18 000 human lives from premature disease every year.



Cape Town's famous restaurant, Catharina's, starts the ball rolling for Meat Free Mondays



Tozie Zokufa, deputy editor of

Animal Voice and his fiancé Fundi Ludidi, enjoyed vegetarian cuisine recently, as part of Meat Free Mondays at Catharina's restaurant on Steenberg Estate, the oldest farm in the Constantia Valley, about 20 minutes from Cape Town.

Chef Garth Almazan believes

Catharina's is the first restaurant in South Africa to support one meat free day a week. He said: “A sustainable future demands that we cut down by making a simple lifestyle change, such as making just one day a week a meat-free day.

The concept 'Eat less meat for a better planet' was a wonderful opportunity to inspire meat lovers to explore and experiment a little with vegetarian food, he said.

Commented Tozie: “The food was divine! Fundi, my fiancé, concurred and said it was a pity that vegetarian options were not more available at the popular franchised food outlets.”

*Will Cape Town become the first city in Africa to support **one meat-free day a week**?*



Keep watching this space!

Good Earth - ke

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) suggests that our Consumer Culture is at the root of Climate Change. **Reverend Siyabulela Gidi**, Director of the SACC agreed to speak to us about how to propel ourselves away from consumerism and into a Culture of Good Earth-keeping.

Animal Voice: Reverend Gidi, the SACC has recently published a 104-page document entitled **Climate Change: A Challenge to the Churches in South Africa**. It is a compelling assessment of the challenges we face and how to begin to resolve them. What compelled the SACC to produce this document?

Siyabulela Gidi: The earth and all its inhabitants – human and non-human – are currently facing an unprecedented ecological crisis, bringing us to the brink of mass suffering and destruction for many. The crisis is human-induced, caused by the agro-industrial-economic complex and the culture of consumerism.

Animal Voice: So where do we start to try and rectify the quagmire we've made for ourselves?

Siyabulela Gidi: The challenge to our survival is not merely at an ecological level. The challenge also lies in the human heart. Climate change requires nothing less than a radical change of direction, a change of heart and mind, a transformation of our society at the level of culture itself.

Animal Voice: Culture is an immensely entrenched dimension of any society. Any change would require a deep understanding of what is wrong and why we need to change.

Siyabulela Gidi: Yes indeed. We need to recognize that we have been captured by the lure of consumerism;

that we believe that our happiness and success depends on what we eat, wear, own and use. We are trapped in the logic of consumerism which always emphasises what we lack. We are reminded daily of our unfulfilled needs - putting Consumerism at the heart of Culture.

Animal Voice: The SACC document also refers to the 'regular consumption of animal products' as part of this culture of consumerism. Would you agree that the cultural expectation to eat meat every day has given rise to the misery of billions of animals who spend their lives in factory farms and die without ever having seen the sun, soil or exercised any of their natural behaviours?

Siyabulela Gidi: Absolutely yes.

Animal Voice: The SACC points out that society's poor people – the vast majority who still hope to enter the consumer class, will be hit hardest by Climate Change.

Siyabulela Gidi: The levels of consumption enjoyed by the Consumer Class can only be sustained at the expense of others – including the poor; the generations to come; other living beings. Our generation's insane addiction to material wealth is a form of

consumer apartheid that upholds affluent binge habits but denies the poor a decent standard of living. It is ironic that some of us have only recently rejoiced in the moment when we could switch on a light bulb for the first time in our own home. Now we are told to switch it off. Climate change is often seen as a European, white, middle class concern and people are deeply angered and embittered by the injustice of it all. Injustice is not sustainable.



eping

*We need to transform our
communities into good
earth-keepers.*
— Rev. Gidi

Animal Voice: The SACC also suggests that consumerism is based on an incorrect interpretation of Genesis 1:27 to 'subdue the earth' and 'rule over it'.

Siyabulela Gidi: This "Master" theology suggests that God has created the entire universe for the sake of human beings, attributing immense power and authority to humans. We entitled ourselves to rule over others, especially other species. We all too easily justify it to ourselves as to why we may kill and eat other animals or use them for our experiments. The church has a moral and

theological responsibility to set aside such arrogance and stupidity and to embrace its role of stewardship to lead the way in caring for creation; We need our congregations to become eco-congregations. This is one of the ways forward.

Animal Voice: You said at the beginning that we need to transform our culture. To reach into our hearts and find healing for our exploitation of Earth, and its innocent inhabitants. What is the new Culture to be?

Siyabulela Gidi: The new Culture calls for:

- a theology of humility;
- a denunciation of the philosophy of domination;

- confession that we have not allowed the earth and its creatures to flourish;
- an embracing of the role of stewardship to individually and collectively promote the well-being of the land and all its creatures in all that we do;
- an understanding that in order to ensure sustainability, we must establish justice for all.

Psalm 24

*The earth is the Lord's, and
everything in it, the world, and
all who live in it.*

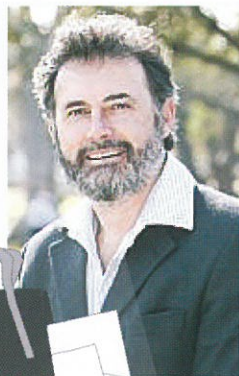
The most important human endeavour is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life. — Albert Einstein.

Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth

Cape Town environmentalist and lawyer **Cormac Cullinan** has drafted a *Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth* for discussion at the *People's World on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth* conference, held by the President of Bolivia in Cochabamba in Bolivia between 19 and 22 April 2010.

In terms of the draft Declaration, a fundamental cultural shift must take place – away from an anthropocentric (people centred) perspective of the world, towards an eco-centric perspective.

To take part, please contact **Lisi Mallinson** at lisi@greencounsel.co.za



Article 1. Fundamental rights and freedoms of all beings

(e) the right to be free from pollution, genetic contamination and human modifications of its structure or functioning that threaten its integrity or healthy functioning;

Europe-wide ban on battery cages is on track

...due to come into force on 1 January 2012

Poland had asked for the ban to be deferred for five years until 1 January 2017 arguing that it would lead to a shortage of eggs in Poland.

However, the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers ruled on 22 February 2010 that the ban would go ahead as planned.

Strenuous lobbying by Compassion in World Farming headquarters in the UK and its partners throughout the EU has achieved the Europe-wide phase-out of eggs from conventional battery cages. The phase-out period began in 1999, giving battery egg farmers 13 years to change their production systems.

"When Poland attempted to delay the ban, we rallied our supporters and the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers were deluged by 10 214 objections to Poland's request," said Compassion's CEO **Philip Lymbery**.



In less than two years' time, one of the cruelest methods of farming ever invented – the barren battery cage – will be banned throughout Europe. Sadly, for the 23 million laying hens trapped in battery cages in South Africa, there is still no end in sight for their living nightmare.

Are battery eggs Halaal or Haraam? — see page 18

Only free range eggs to be served at the 2012 London Olympic Games



But, it's not enough, says Jenny Jones

The up-coming London Olympics and Paralympics should be an inspiration to youngsters to take up sport and lead healthy lives. 'Yet,' suggests the Green Party's Jenny Jones, it will end up being a festival of sport and mostly junk food.

Writing in Food Magazine's 19th February 2010 issue, Jones, who was formerly chairperson of the advisory body to the city of London on food matters, said healthy physical activity could be achieved only if it was fuelled by healthy nutritious food.

"Here lies the appalling mismatch between the 2012 sponsors McDonald's and Coca-Cola and other fast food and drink companies (which continue) to perpetuate the perverse link between fast food and drink and sporting achievement," she said.



What about Bafana Bafana? - see back page

Note from Ed:

Will the FIFA World Cup become a festival of sport and junk food?

Both fast food giant McDonald's and Coca-cola are FIFA Partners in South Africa.

Pick n Pay Responds

to our call for a ban on battery eggs

Jonathan Ackerman, Marketing Director says:

In terms of the products we sell, our position as a mass retailer means that we do have to offer our customers a choice. As you know, we currently offer our customers a choice between conventional and speciality eggs, which include Free-Range, All-grain, Grain-fed, Omega-3 and Canola.

While we do not overtly influence our customers towards a specific preference, we would most certainly prefer it if our customers chose the free range option. However, it is an economic reality that not everyone is able to do so, due to the often prohibitive cost of free-range eggs and the fact our customer base ranges vary widely from those whose income is not able to extend to this kind of choice, up to those for whom this choice is an easy one.

Currently free-range eggs make up 12.8% of the total egg category within Pick n Pay, and grew at 8.4% in volume for the past year. Battery eggs make up approximately 87.2% of the total egg category within Pick n Pay. As I am sure you can appreciate, most retailers sell battery eggs because as retailers our business is to supply a demand. However, at all times, our suppliers conform to all the correct guidelines laid down by both the Poultry Association and the NSPCA. However having said that, should the demand for free range eggs increase to the point that the demand exceeds the demand for other varieties, there is no doubt we would consider phasing out battery eggs.

We encourage consumers to continue this debate and keep us informed. Ultimately, the more people who buy free range the better. Our thanks for the excellent work you are doing to create awareness and help consumers to make the right choice.

Best Regards,
Jonathan Ackerman
Marketing Director.

Open Letter to Bafana Team Doc

Dear Dr Ntlopi Mogoru,

We note that Bafana midfield star of the 1996 African Nations Cup, Eric Tinkler has been quoted by News 24 as saying:

"Our players do not eat the right foods. They do not get the right nutrition. Soccer players are athletes. But in South Africa we lag behind because we are not building up player's strengths."

Please consider insisting that the team members eat only organic and free range food to assist them achieve peak performance.

Sincerely,

Tozie Zokufa (Deputy Editor)



"Please help us to become Literate Shoppers"



Abigail Peters, Head of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty says: "Because we support them, supermarkets need to inform us. Not knowing how our food is produced, is a form of *illiteracy*. I make this appeal on behalf of the poor: Supermarkets, please help us to become literate shoppers."

Small doesn't mean stupid!

Perhaps the most surprising signs of intelligence have been found in birds — whose tiny heads and small brains were long assumed to be a complete barrier to sentience. All that is changing fast, however, with many species showing powerful memories and reasoning power.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/biology_evolution/article6991028.ece

Pasture-Reared Chickens



Why would any young South African, living the high-life as a stockbroker at the London Stock Exchange, give it up to return home to a piece of land occupied by a plantation of Blue Gums?

Animal Voice asked **Angus McIntosh** to explain what motivated his move back home...

Here we interview him on his farm between Somerset West and Stellenbosch in the Western Cape.

Animal Voice: Tell us what motivated you to uproot your family from your upmarket home in Battersea, near London, to return to South Africa to become a small-scale farmer.

Angus McIntosh: It started off with our green architect. He then introduced me to **Avice Hindmarch** who then introduced me to permaculture and biodynamics. Then I read *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by **Michael Pollan**. The basic thesis of this book is that most people put their trust in supermarkets to feed them — not knowing or caring about how their food is produced. That book put me on a path to taking responsibility for what we eat.

Animal Voice: So, you came back from London and here we stand on your 270 ha farm leased from Spier Wine Estate.

Angus McIntosh: Yes, the history of this farm was one of absolute abuse. It had been mined for gravel and chemically farmed for vineyards, tobacco, carrots, apples, nectarines, and then Blue Gums took over. You could say the land had been raped.

Animal Voice: What I see now is land covered in grasses, clovers and herbs with 'eggmobiles' over there, and nearer to us, moveable chicken runs for broiler (meat) chickens.

Angus McIntosh: Yes, and what you don't see is the huge variety of

wildlife that has returned: snakes, raptors, gerbils, rooikat/caracal, you name it.

Animal Voice: So this is the future of chicken production, would you say?

Angus McIntosh: Yes. This is far more than free range. This is pasture-reared chicken and eggs. This is biodynamic farming where our animals benefit from each other and the land benefits from all of them. Our chickens — be they broilers or layers —

eat insects and grass and scratch open cow pats. There are 19 varieties of grasses and legumes planted here for them. The First law of Nature is one of diversity and this is what our farm is all about. The conventional and so-called free range farmers feed between 3 and 3.25 kgs of grain for every kilo of chicken flesh. We have doubled the feed conversion ratio because of the variety of food available to our chickens as well as the fact that we let our chickens be chickens. They sleep at night and during the day eat grass and insects. This means we feed only 1.5 kgs for every kilo of chicken sold.

Animal Voice: Let's talk for a moment about something less pleasant. Your abattoir is right here next to the chickens.





Animal Voice Deputy Editor **Tozie Zokufa** (far left) chats to **Angus McIntosh** about the 640 broiler (meat) chickens he produces every 24 hours.

The manure left behind every day fertilizes the land. Probiotics are put into their water to maintain optimal health. At night, the hatches are securely locked to ensure the chickens can sleep peacefully. Not even a small mouse can enter. Once the grasses have bounced back, cows come to graze, leaving cow pats behind them. When the chickens are eventually returned to that patch of land, the cowpats are choc-a-bloc full of nutrients.

(By contrast, broilers on a factory farm live on the same litter for the entire duration of their lives, are routinely fed antibiotics and the lights are left on at night to encourage them to eat and eat and eat.)

The first obvious 'plus' is that they don't have to be loaded into crates and trucked long distances to slaughter?

Angus McIntosh: Yes. The chickens are slaughtered at about seven weeks. Each chicken is held quietly while an electric current is passed through its comb. It is rendered unconscious immediately. There is no fear, no loading, no transport, no hanging upside down on a conveyor belt, no electrical bath that their

heads have to go through to stun them. Their intestines, feathers and so on go directly into composting.

Animal Voice: People often ask me if 'free range' is really humane. My standard answer is: "It's better than being crammed into cages (for the layers) and sheds (for the broilers) on a factory farm." But the life you are giving to the chickens here is beyond anything I expected. You have put 'humane' into a class of its own.



Writing on the Wall

Calligrapher, **Aniela von Maltitz** prepares to write a quote from Kahlil Gibran on the wall of the abattoir, to honour the cycle of life. Farm workers are encouraged to have a sense of reverence for the lives they are taking. (In a conventional abattoir, the chickens are shackled by their feet to a conveyor belt and slaughtered at the rate of 136 birds per minute.)

Eggmobiles for the layers

Getting hold of Angus's pasture-reared eggs proves difficult at the moment because restaurants have "hoovered them up", as he puts it. "I go to the restaurant and ask them for a plate. I break an egg into the plate and it is solid, viscous, erect and the yolk is strong and round. The sale is done, on the spot." The Eggmobiles are moved to new pasture every three days. This keeps the flock happy with their surroundings and happy to lay in the nests inside the mobile. If left on the same ground for longer than three days, the cock will move his hens to new ground and the hens will look for nests in the grasses.



Angus's pasture-reared chickens and eggs are in the same price range as factory farmed broilers and free range eggs. They are marketed as **Spier Chickens – Pasture Reared Chicken**.



Nursery

Baby chicks are kept indoors for their first 3 weeks. Classical music is piped into the nursery.

See page 14 for a broiler chicken rescue story.

Gin Traps contraptions of torture

Gin Traps are hideous contraptions of torture. In the last decade, Dr Bool Smuts, Director of the conservation NGO, the Landmark Foundation, has uploaded onto the internet gut-wrenching photographs of the victims of gin traps – leopard, caracal, jackal, eagle and other predators – and lobbied for a ban on gin traps.

In our last issue, livestock farmer Joseph Steyn gave his side of the story. Now **Animal Voice** asks **Petrus de Wet** to throw further light on this dark issue. Mr de Wet is **Chairman** of the *Livestock and Game Industry's working group on Damage-Causing Animals*.

This organisation includes representatives of the *National Wool Growers Association of South Africa*, the *Red Meat Producers Organisation*, the *SA Mohair Growers Association*, and *Wildlife Ranchers of South Africa*. He is also **President** of the *National Wool Growers Association* and **Chairman** of the *International Wool Textile Organisation's Forum on Environment and Animal Welfare* that sits in Brussels.

Animal Voice: None of us want to see photographs of leopards that have been caught in gin traps and have been forced to chew off their own legs in an effort to free themselves. Vegetarians and vegans will say:

"The solution is simple. Cut out meat and wear synthetic fibres." But for the vast majority of the population, cutting out meat is not an option. How can we begin to tackle this issue?

Petrus de Wet: It's about education. We migrated from Europe a few hundred years ago and our ancestors brought some devices like ploughs, gin traps and so on. Many of these devices are not suited to Southern Africa, like the old medieval gin trap and its incorrect use. But the modern adjustable soft catch trap and its correct application remains one of the most effective tools we have to combat this massive problem of predation of our sheep.

As I say, it's about education, farmers and professional hunters are being educated in the correct use of these soft catch traps. This education however should not stop at the farm gate. The general public and those calling for the ban of these devices need to be educated too.



Animal Voice: Is it true that some 3 500 lambs and goat kids are killed or mutilated by predators every day in SA?

Petrus de Wet: The University of Free State did a scientific study in 2008/9 to quantify the problem. The study was part of research for an MSc thesis. The findings suggested that 6.35% of both adult sheep and lambs of every small stock flock in South Africa die from predation by jackal and caracal every year.

Let's do the maths. According to statistics of The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) there are about 25m sheep and 6m goats in South Africa. That's a total of 31m. 6.35% of 31 million equals 1.96m deaths per year. This means 5393 sheep and goats are eaten daily by predators. Predation costs the farmer –the individual producing the food and fibre in rural South Africa a minimum of R1.2bn per annum.

Predator-Friendly Lamb



Animal Voice: In recent years, more humane methods of deterring predators have been suggested, such as putting collars on the sheep and angora goats or using Anatolian sheepdogs/donkeys/alpacas that are said to keep predators at bay. Could you tell us if any of these methods are working? Is it naïve to suggest that we bring back shepherds?

Petrus de Wet: Collars work initially but the predator very soon learns to catch and eat from behind. Anatolians work well on a small flock. Many proponents of Anatolians have found that they have unwittingly introduced another predator (the dog itself) into the environment and that also has its problems. Regarding donkeys and alpacas, results are varied, some good, some useless.

Shepherding the animals back to a kraal at night would result in soil erosion thus causing immense damage to the environment. It would not be a sustainable solution in the long term and the cost would be huge in terms of labour. Economies of scale have forced us to farm bigger, employ less staff and the cost of fencing has escalated to almost

Word is out that **Woolworths** will be introducing Predator-Friendly Lamb one of these days.

Asked for comment, Woolworths' Good Business Journey specialist Tom McLaughlin, said: "While the Woolworths predator policy and approach is only the first step on a long journey, we're confident that it will be successful and that farmers will be able to stop using poisons, gin traps and other inhumane methods to protect their livestock. We also don't believe that non-lethal predator management will cost more. Time will tell. The trials that our farmers ran in the last year using Anatolian guard dogs indicate that lamb farmers do save money but more extensive trials are needed to convince farmers."



beyond our means. This is a major contributor to our problem.

Animal Voice: I heard it said that it is because we have killed all the rodents (dassies and so on) that predators such as jackal and caracal are forced to predate on sheep which are not their natural food source. Please could you comment.

Petrus de Wet: Absolute rubbish, there are as many dassies, hares, spring hares, rats, birds as in the old days. Sheep and in particular lambs are abundant and much easier to catch than a hare or a dassie. Black-backed jackal, caracal, lion, leopards, birds and humans adapt very quickly and change very readily to food that is freely available.

Animal Voice: I believe Woolworths has got a programme going that will soon enable them to sell 'predator-friendly' lamb. Are other supermarkets trying to be part of the solution? Can supermarkets play a role?

Petrus de Wet: If it pays it stays, the consumer ultimately will determine if there is a market for such a product or not. The production of this product is going to be more expensive. Is the consumer willing to pay more? My experience tells me the consumer buys on price. Time will tell.

Please see overleaf for another solution to this problem....



Predators quickly learn to attack from behind once protective collars are put onto the sheep.



Photos: Courtesy Petrus de Wet



SA Farmer hailed by international organisations

KwaZulu Natal farmer **Richard Haigh** has been hailed by both the **Worldwatch Institute** and by **Slow Food International** for his agro-ecological methods of raising food. Both traditional crops as well as indigenous Zulu sheep and Nguni cattle are farmed on Richard's *Enaleni Farm* outside Pietermaritzburg (enaleni means 'abundance' in Zulu). **Louise van der Merwe**, Editor of *Animal Voice*, asked him whether predation is a problem for indigenous sheep and cattle as much as it is for the imported breeds on which we have become so dependent. Here is his reply....

“We do have predators in this area and while we take the extra precaution of kraaling the sheep and cattle at night, we also breed specifically for the ability of mothers to protect their off spring.

A fascinating characteristic of many indigenous breeds is that their wildness is not bred out of them. Our Zulu sheep are aggressive mothers and we encourage this trait. It is something you want to purposefully breed for with sheep, given their potential vulnerability to jackal, lynx and stray dogs.

We have English Bull terriers and Canine africanus on the farm and the sheep take no nonsense. I've seen the sheep band together and collectively thump the dogs. We have a ram who is generally friendly but if you touch his ewes he charges at you and if you aren't looking out for him you'll land up on the ground. The Nguni cattle also have this very protective trait. We keep a 10m distance from the cows when they have calved. The dogs daren't go anywhere near them or their calves for the first few weeks.

In regard to leghold traps, there are times in animal husbandry when predators get too clever and confident and they have to be managed in some way. I think the question is what is the most humane way of managing the predator. Gin traps are not humane.

We caught a lynx that had become very bold and was running off with our poultry. I was concerned that the sheep were also at risk. Everyone said just shoot it.

Well, I could have taken that option but we managed to trap her, and have her darted and relocated at no expense to ourselves.

I think that being a farmer, for me, is to live in a relationship with the

animals, plants and the earth that we farm. I want the best relationship I can have and this interconnection is what stabilizes and nurtures an agro-ecological farming approach.

On the other hand if we view farming as an exchange of commodities, then we will be exploitative of our natural resource base and treat our farm livestock and predators as soulless commodities.”



Richard Haigh (left) keeps a drugged caracal / lynx steady after his local SPCA tranquilised the animal with a dart.

Richard later released the animal into a suitable environment, away from his farm. His partner, Dave Brennan (right), looks on.

This is how we treat 'them'



Photo: Courtesy Colette Teale (Karoo Animal Protection Society)



Photo: Courtesy Colette Teale (Karoo Animal Protection Society)

Hundreds of sheep were left standing in the blazing sun for more than six hours on the N2 just outside Swellendam in January this year.

"The animals were packed so tightly that none of them could move," said **Colette Teale**, chairperson of the **KAPS (Karoo Animal Protection Society)**. "The ones at the edges craned their necks through the rails trying to breathe. The conditions of those in the middle could only be imagined.

The driver was sitting indoors, apparently waiting for the evening when he intended to drive the sheep to a slaughterhouse in Port Elizabeth.

He planned to arrive at seven the next morning which meant that for nearly 24 hours these bewildered sheep were forced to stand congested, in their own urine and faeces, terrified, unable to move or cool down.

"Are we to accept that, for the sake of our next lamb chop, countless sheep are to be put through such torture? Or is it time to speak out against the everyday cruelty suffered by so many farm animals?"

Heart-rending footage of calves as young as 6 months old, being branded on their faces, was caught on camera by the NSPCA in March.

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MpwgY12tyl>

SA slaughter statistics

Chicken is South Africa's favourite meat, but pork consumption has increased sharply by 59% over the last decade, according to Landbou.com. Slaughter statistics for SA show that:

- 2.9 million cattle are slaughtered for beef annually
- 5.8 million sheep and goats are slaughtered for lamb, mutton and goat meat annually
- 2.6 million pigs are slaughtered for pork annually
- 600 million broiler chickens are slaughtered for chicken meat annually. This figure excludes the huge informal slaughter trade

PIGS IN SOW STALLS : Below is an artist's impression of what it would look like if we treated our pets like we treat the national sow-breeding herd. Currently 120 000 highly sentient breeding sows are trapped in cages like these. **In 2013, sow stalls will become illegal throughout Europe.**



Angora rabbits farmed in Ladismith for their fur

May all that have life be delivered from suffering.
— Gautama Buddha

Recently, Candy Ristic who runs a chicken Rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg for 'spent' ex-battery egg-laying hens, rescued a white chicken from a Zandspruit live market and found that this was a different kind of chicken altogether...

Day 1

Stopped at Zandspruit to rescue a chicken. Got back into the car, a little confused. The chicken on my lap is different to the chickens I usually pick up. Although she looks fully grown in size, I feel as though I am dealing with a chick. We are all quite taken aback by her very large and oversized legs. My daughters name our new chicken Bella Ella.



Day 2

She is a chick! I realised in a shocking moment today that Bella Ella is a broiler. Broilers have been selectively bred over half a century to be big and meaty.

They are designed (by man) to go from birth to slaughter size in less than 6 weeks! I have never actually seen one (except in the supermarkets, neatly refrigerated and cling wrapped). It is very disturbing to watch Bella. She cheeps like a chick, has the tiny underdeveloped comb of a chick, is timid like a chick, wants to snuggle into my hair like a chick - yet she is the same size as our fully-grown layers. I place Bella at just over five weeks old - which, in industry terms, means she's ready to eat (!).

Day 7

Bella has been with us for one week. Friends are visibly horrified and moved to tears at what they observe in Bella. There is a gross disconnect between this large, oversized body and the peeping of a chick, who would still be young enough to take refuge under a mother's wing, if she hadn't been bred to be giant.



Day 9

I am afraid for Bella and what the future holds. The prognosis is not good. Lameness is a huge risk as the weight of her body puts more and more pressure on her legs. I notice that Bella waddles under the weight of her body, and needs to sit and rest every few steps.

Day 10

Bella weighs 2 kgs now and is clearly uncomfortable, constantly stretching her legs and shifting position. She uses her beak to pull at her legs and nails. I imagine that what we are seeing is severe growing pains.

Day 12

Noticed Bella sneezing yesterday. Increased mucus and sneezing over night. Bella has a cold and it has not gone to her chest. She is on an antibiotic.

Day 15

Got wildlife rehabilitation expert Karen Trendler, to look at Bella. She thinks her middle toe is starting to roll outwards due to heavy body weight. Suggested I mix her food with low cal high fibre veggies, to slow down her weight gain. I feel frightened for Bella. Her own body is designed to eventually work against her.

Day 18

Bella thinks minced carrot mixed with her ground pellets is not for her. However, she will have to get used to it. She is clumsy, and waddles like a duck. She now sits to eat.



Day 26

Bella weighs 3.8 kgs. This is outrageous. She is over twice the size of fully grown layers.

Day 30

Bella is mucousy and sneezing again. This is the third time this has happened since I have had her. Our new bird vet, Jean Davidson, has put her onto an anti bio for 10 days.

Day 35

Beautiful Bella is showing signs of improvement. Today when I spent time sitting with her she was alert and curious. I had some beads around my neck, which she wanted to peck at. She also spent a lot of time examining my face, and hands, gently pecking at moles and scars. This is typical chicken behaviour. Something that they do to each other. I am pleased. It is a good sign.

Day 40

Excellent day! She took herself outside and had a short sand bath. She gets tired easily and gets short of breath. She spent some of the day pecking at the sand, and scratching a little in the mud near our garden tap. Bella has not done any of this before. There is no doubt she is feeling better. I often wonder what Bella's future holds. Will we be able to substantially assist her in prolonging her fated life? I guess right now, I am pleased simply for the fact that Bella has had the opportunity to do a few natural chicken things, and knows what it is to be loved.

Day 37

Thought we were well on road to recovery. But today, rushed Bella to Gene as she seemed to be gasping for breath, and coughing every 30 to 40 seconds. Her heart seems to have some extra random beats every minute. Continuing with anti bio, and high care. I feel afraid again.

About 15 million broiler (meat) chickens are slaughtered every week in South Africa. Selectively bred, at least a quarter of them become lame around the last 20% of their short 40-day lives in chronic pain, because their skeletons cannot support their extra weight.

(For more info go to www.satyamag.com/feb06/dsilva.html)

For help on rehabbing chickens, contact Candy Ristic on candy@discoverymail.co.za

Will factory
farmed chicken
be served at
the 2012 London
Olympics

(see page 6)



AZTEC Sacrifice

CULTURE CAN CHANGE



Courageous MP Lindiwe subject of **abuse**

We cannot justify keeping in place customs which deny our humanity as a people.

- Lindiwe Mazibuko MP

Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko has become the first Member of Parliament to condemn the bare-handed killing of the bull at the Nguni feast of Ukweshwama in KwaZulu Natal every December.

Speaking during a Parliamentary Debate on 15 February 2010 on President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation address four days earlier, Ms Mazibuko said the President had failed to deal with the "burning issue" of whether "cultural identity and practice should ever be allowed to supersede our humanity."

She said that traditional customs associated with AmaZulu culture, to which she herself belonged, had recently been pushed into the spotlight "sparking a long-overdue debate on the meaning of culture in contemporary South Africa."

Practices such as lobola, polygamy and the ritual bare-handed slaughter of a bull had been singled out for censure and the words "it's my culture" had increasingly come to be accepted as a legitimate response to questions probing the acceptability of such customs.

Mazibuko said she believed there could be "no justification in keeping in place customs which violate gender equality and deny our humanity as a people."

She pointed out that during the "furore" last year surrounding the revival of the Nguni ritual of bare-handed bull-killing, Sunday Times columnist, Fred Khumalo, had branded the custom reprehensible and declared: "African culture? Not in my name."

"Fred Khumalo argued that – as with the cruel practice of bull-fighting in Spain, or fox-hunting in the United Kingdom, about which similar debates rage on in those countries – the defensive resort to 'culture' in order to justify dated customs



Cat and Dog Meat



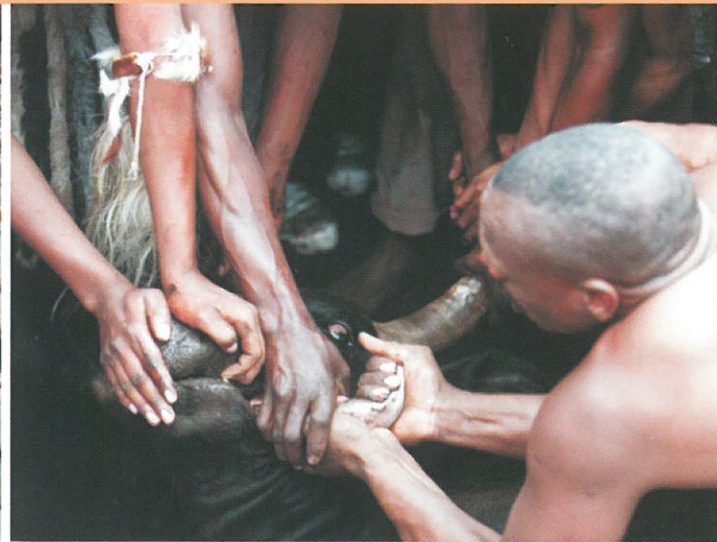
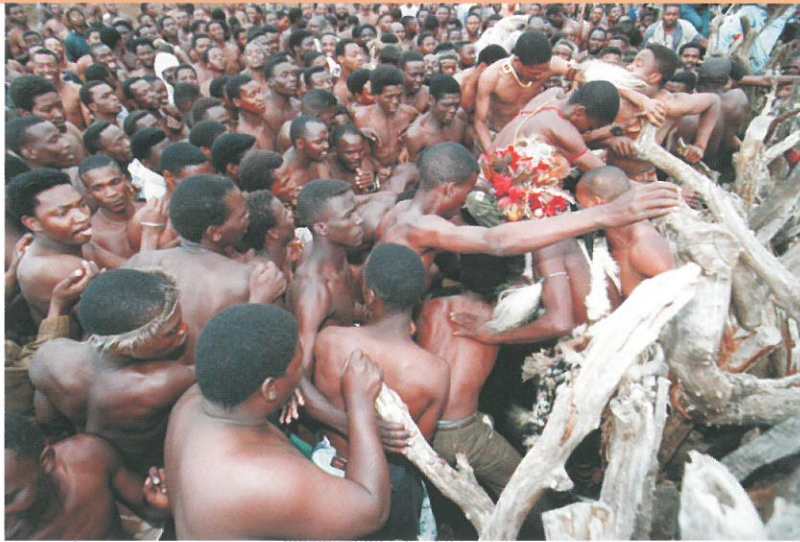
China moves away from a cat and dog-eating culture

Cat and dog meat may soon be banned from restaurants in China, ending thousands of years of tradition, according to **Mail Online** of 27 January this year.

According to the article China is set to introduce its first draft legislation against animal abuse effectively removing both dogs and cats from the menu.

Transgressors would face jail time of up to 15 days and fines of up to 500 000 yuan (R540 000).

Mazibuko tackles the touchy in the name of CULTURE



and practices slows the progress of any society which claims to be compassionate, equal, and committed to doing no harm."

Mazibuko also referred to other ethnically 'chauvinistic' customs that were in need of urgent review such as child betrothal, forced marriages, lobola, polygamy and levirate.

She concluded: "In order for this debate to move forward, it is up to us as elected representatives to look these issues in the eye and begin to engage honestly and openly about whether we can continue to preach equality, whilst continuing to endorse customs which marginalise women and children and denigrate our humanity."



Deputy Minister of Police, **Fikile Mbalula**, objected to Ms Mazibuko's speech saying *she was not qualified to talk on these matters*.



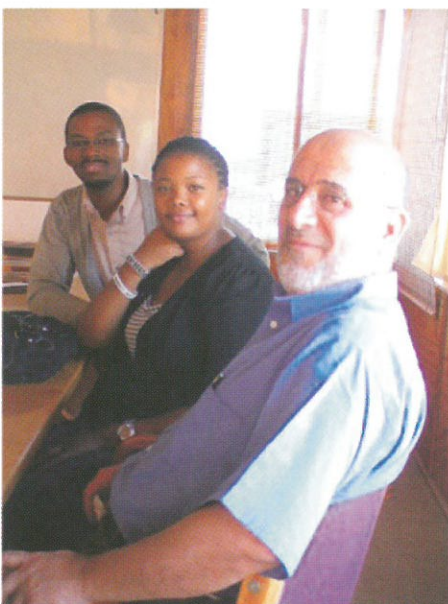
John Callaghan, International Development Director for Compassion in World Farming, and Dr Abdul Rahman, Secretary of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, based in India, travelled to Cape Town in March for a week of meetings and interviews on the theme "Beyond factory farming: Sustainable Solutions for Animals, People and the Planet". Dr Rahman is also the former dean of the Veterinary School in Bangalore and a member of the OIE (which is the animal equivalent of the World Health Organisation).

Among the people they met were...

At right: **Bishop Geoff Davies**, Director of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute, with Dr Rahman (left) and John Callaghan (right). Said Bishop Davies: "Some people call it 'loss of biodiversity. I call it 'extinction of creation. We have to stop treating the rest of creation as other.' He added: "We need to change our values and attitudes and move away from the 'religion' of consumerism."



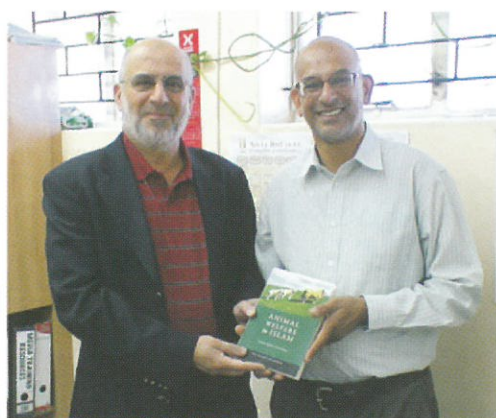
'The basic water requirements per person per year is 18 250 litres – the equivalent to producing one kg of beef.'



At left: Dr Rahman (front) with **Abigail Pieters**, head of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty and Tozie Zokufa (deputy editor of Animal Voice). Dr Rahman spoke of how India has created an income for stay-at-home women and in so doing, has become the largest milk producer in the world. The milk is produced by women, individually, but pooled into a cooperative system. 'There are 200 million cattle in India but no methane gas and stay-at-home women have an income. A co-operative society is something that could be adopted in South Africa to alleviate poverty," he said.



Above: Callaghan and Rahman gave a powerpoint presentation to **Dr Ginida Msiza**, Chief Director of Veterinary Services at the Department of Agriculture, Western Cape, pictured here with Dr Christie Kloppers, William Jephtas (right) and Dr Sewellyn Davey, Malmesbury State Vet (left).



Animal Voice also wishes to thank Woolworths and Pick n Pay for their hospitality to our visitors.

'Caging an animal is 'sin' in Islam.' – Dr Abdul Rahman, Secretary of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Above: Dr Rahman also met Mr Farid Sayed, Editor of Muslim Views. Said Rahman: "In visiting South Africa, my role is to tell Islamic leaders about how we have deviated away from the scriptures. We have forgotten that caging an animals is a sin in Islam.' Dr Rahman was interviewed by Mr Sayed and gave a powerpoint presentation on the effects of factory farming on climate change. He was also welcomed at the Mosque in Athlone for Friday prayers where more than 1500 people had gathered.

Win a free copy

Last word!

by Louise van der Merwe (Editor)

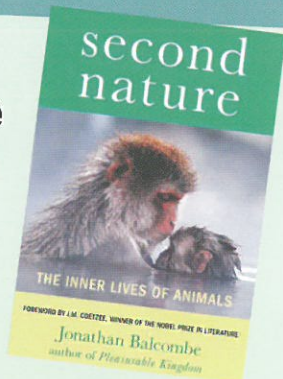


of Second Nature

by Jonathan Balcombe

Books4Change.co.za

is offering three readers a **free** hard-cover copy of Jonathan Balcombe's amazing new book **Second Nature – the inner lives of animals.**



Published by Macmillan and hot off the printing press, **Second Nature** invites readers into the awesome inner lives of animals, effectively giving the human pedestal a strong shake in the process.

As one of the world's leading scientists on animal behaviour and sentience, Balcombe makes this appeal on behalf of the many characters in his book: "To choose to act mindfully and compassionately toward our animal counterparts is to be aware of the consequences of what we buy and what we eat. Whenever we purchase something, we are effectively telling the manufacturer of the product to do it again."

Says **Amelia Mulder**, CEO of Books4Change: "The first three readers of *Animal Voice* to send me their answer to the question below, will receive a copy of *Second Nature* free. To enter, please answer the following question:

The word *Animal* comes from the Latin word *animalis*, which means

Please send your answer along with your postal address to **amelia@books4change.co.za**.

Amelia also manages a **Facebook** page for supporters of Compassion in World Farming (South Africa).

To join, please visit **www.facebook.com/compassion.za**.

If caging an animal is a sin, according to Islamic scriptures, does this mean that 98% of the eggs stocked by Pick n Pay, Shoprite/Checkers and Spar are HARAAM?

Dear Readers,

We were privileged to have Dr Abdul Rahman visit Islamic leaders in Cape Town in March. He left us in no doubt: Islamic scriptures forbid the caging of an animal, regarding it as 'sin' to do so. He added that he believed there would be a world-wide ban on battery cages within the next few years.

As editor of *Animal Voice*, I will now ask the President of the Muslim Judicial Council (021 6844600) and other leaders in the Muslim community to comment on whether eggs laid by hens in battery cages should be considered Halaal or Haraam.

If they are Haraam, we will ask Muslim customers to join hands with Compassion in World Farming to call, once again, for a ban on these cruelly-produced eggs.

What about factory-farmed broiler chickens whose bodies tell a story of abuse with bruises and ammonia burns? Are they Haraam too? And what about the fibre from Angora rabbits, such as those featured on page 13. Would the wearing of clothing containing angora rabbit hair also be 'sin'?

There are many questions to be asked.

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE!

Sincerely,

Louise van der Merwe

(Editor)

Please visit Compassion in World Farming's **Animal Sentience** blog, **The Lives of Animals**, to read about animals and their emotional lives.

<http://www.livesofanimals.org/tag/compassion-in-world-farming/>

NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL

If you feel you have benefited from reading *Animal Voice*, **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ENDEAVOURS.**

No donation is too small or too big! Please alert us to your donation by emailing us on **avoice@yebo.co.za** or faxing us on **021 4131297**.

We sincerely thank the late **Mrs Elsbeth Bland** for including us in her will. Please consider adding us to your will too. Our bank details are:

Account Name: **The Humane Education Trust** Account No. **9094070046** ABSA Bank Somerset West

Branch No. **334 712** Type of Account **Savings**.

(As a Public Benefit Organisation your donation is tax deductible)

You can also donate by CREDIT CARD.

<http://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/thehumaneeducationtrust>

Thank you!

