

**NORTH CENTER ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

March 11, 2009

Mr. Daniel Hauff  
Director of Investigations  
Mercy For Animals  
3712 N. Broadway, Suite 560  
Chicago, IL 60613

Daniel:

As you know, I am a practicing small animal veterinarian in Chicago. I see domestic birds in my practice in addition to dogs, cats and other exotics. I graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000.

I watched the video provided by Mercy For Animals of your latest egg-laying hen investigation with horror. I never want to eat an egg again!

These are the main issues I have with the treatment of the animals:

- Live hens were being tossed into "dead hen" garbage bins and left to die. This is reprehensible.
- Dying hens were trapped in the conveyor belts and wire cages, and were shown gasping for air dying a slow and agonizing death.
- The worker who half-heartedly and incompletely wrings the necks of hens and then casually kicks them to the ground leaving them to die slowly.

The entire facility seems to be a disgrace. It is overcrowded with many hens crammed into cages together.

I do not know what the "standards" are in this area. My reactions are based on common sense. I have not seen any other hen facilities to make a comparison. Even without previous egg-laying facility experience or frame of reference, I can confidently state that these hens are clearly suffering.

If there is anything else I can do to help bring this horror to an end, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Angela K. Duke, DVM*

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