



WHERE DOES YOUR TURKEY COME FROM?

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TURKEYS LIVE A LIFE OF PAIN AND MISERY



CONFINEMENT AND MUTILATION

Factory farmed turkeys spend their entire lives in sheds with thousands of other birds. Three to five million turkeys are killed every year in Australia for meat. Up to 14,000 turkeys are placed in a shed at the same time. A portion of the turkey's beak is cut off when they are only a few days old. This procedure is carried out without anaesthetic and without follow-up treatment for pain or infection. Turkeys live in an average of an A3 sheet of paper-sized space each until they are slaughtered at approximately 10 - 12 weeks (a turkey's natural life span is around 10 years). If a cat or dog was subjected to these conditions it would be illegal.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING

In the sheds, turkeys are forced to live in artificial lighting (fluorescent) which is used to distort their normal sleeping and feeding patterns in order to make them put on weight faster perpetuating growth rate, body weight, mortality and susceptibility to diseases and respiratory problems. Birds show signs of stress when exposed to light for continuous periods as they are sleep deprived.

A GENETICALLY ALTERED BIRD

As turkeys are bred to put on as much weight as possible in the shortest length of time they become susceptible to heart disease and experience great difficulty in supporting their overweight bodies. As a result turkeys suffer painful swollen joints, obesity, degeneration of the hip joints and crippled legs and feet.

One industry expert explained in one report:

"If a 3kg human baby grew at the same rate that today's turkey grows, when the baby reached 18 weeks of age it would weigh approximately 227 kg."

Turkeys are too large to naturally breed and have to undergo a procedure called 'artificial insemination'. The male turkeys are masturbated and their semen is collected and then injected via a syringe into the female turkey, inflicting enormous stress on the birds.

HEALTH

The sheds are not cleaned during the three month living period creating a build-up of urine and faeces and contaminating the air. This can cause respiratory and eye diseases and contribute to reduced food intake, weight loss and lameness. Bacterial infections and respiratory disorders are common problems and the birds may develop extremely painful burns on their legs and breasts. Turkeys will often develop wounds which become infected after being smothered in excrement.

TRANSPORT AND SLAUGHTER

At the end of the growing period all the commercially raised turkeys (who are still infants) are stuffed into crates and transported in cramped conditions to the slaughterhouse. Injuries and broken bones are common, inflicting enormous pain and stress. Once inside the slaughterhouse the young birds are hung by their legs from metal shackles on a moving rail. They then proceed through an electrified bath of water, their throats are cut by a blade and they are then dipped into boiling hot water. Turkeys will often bend their necks to avoid the electrified bath or the blade and will then proceed to the scalding tank and be burnt alive in boiling water.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Tell your family and friends about the cruelty involved in turkey farming.

Think before you purchase any turkey product for you and your pets.

Take the time to inform supermarkets and restaurants about the cruelty involved in factory farming of turkeys.

For more tips on how to help please visit bigbirdsbigcruelty.org and download a copy of the **activist toolkit on how to take action for turkeys**, or contact bigbirdsbigcruelty@gmail.com