

Courageous Chickens Venture into Cyberspace

Just when you thought it was safe to go surfing, the brave birds at the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary created a web site destined to hold your rapt, and sometimes horrified, attention for hours on end.

The site contains links to everything you never wanted to know about the poultry industry, and everything you need to know to become involved in the struggle to save the lives of chickens and other farmed animals.

A special feature of the site is its extensive treatment of the connections between animal liberation and the issues that occupy other activist movements. You'll find helpful sections on such topics as the environment, poverty, world hunger, and the oppression of women and people of color.

As an added bonus, you'll encounter classic animal liberation texts not found on other websites. There are even a few new recipes from the kitchen at ESCS.

So, stop by and see us...if you dare.

[www.
bravebirds.
org](http://www.bravebirds.org)



the **Chicken Chronicles**

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Mad Chickens Seize Maryland Homestead More Takeovers Predicted in 2002

More than 150 hens and roosters have assumed control of a two acre parcel in rural Maryland. According to the titular owners of the property, Pattrice and Miriam Jones, the takeover began slowly in early 2000 with an influx of birds who had escaped from local farms or jumped from trucks headed for the "poultry processing" plants. Next came a group of hens who had been "retired" from a North Carolina egg factory, and another group of hens seeking refuge from a tornado in Ohio.

"We're not even sure how it happened," said Pattrice Jones, looking somewhat dazed as a svelte red hen named Fanny plucked at her pockets for food. "One day we stopped our truck to pick up a chicken in a ditch, and now..." She gestured help-

lessly at the multicolored aggregation of birds sprawled across a series of spacious foraging yards as Miriam Jones stepped in to pick up the tale. "At first, we thought that we found him," she said, referring to the first bird who found his way here. "But now we know that he was the one who, in fact, found us."

The birds living at what is now known as the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary continue to welcome hens and roosters who have managed to somehow escape the clutches of the poultry industry which dominates the local economy. "One of those big so-called broilers finds his or her way to us almost every week," said Fanny. "The poor dears are only six weeks old, but they're already bigger than me!"

Larger groups seeking

refuge also continue to arrive, according to the Joneses. Last summer, a group of more than 20 roosters made homeless by the closure of another sanctuary arrived and immediately took to the trees. Most recently, a group of 30 local birds arrived on the same weekend as another group of 30 rescued from a live poultry market in Boston.

"All I can say," exclaimed Miriam, "is thank Gaia for the angel who bought us a second barn and for all the people who have donated money for food and medicine!" The couple volunteers their time to care for the birds.

"I can't say that we donate the land," said Pattrice, "because they've simply taken it. And I'd better warn you that I've heard them calling to the local cows. Your neighborhood was mentioned. Mad? You bet they're mad! I expect we'll be seeing more takeovers in 2002."

Strange But True

Maryland Chickens Break Hearts in Italy

Think Globally — Act Locally... and vice versa. That just about sums up the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary motto for 2001. Throughout the year, the sanctuary has continued to expand the number of birds to whom it offers a safe harbor, while at the same time taking both local and international action to change the human practices that make sanctuaries necessary.

Located in the midst of factory farms and only a short drive from several processing plants, the ESCS has a two-fold local mission: to offer sanctuary to local birds while at the same time working to undercut local support for the poultry industry.

Because it is run by two activists with deep backgrounds in other social movements, the role of ESCS within the animal liberation movement is to be a bridge builder, facilitating the kinds of connections and coalitions that will be needed if we are to succeed in our struggle against very wealthy and powerful industries. If we hope to succeed against such foes, we must increase both our internal diversity and the diversity of our coalitions with other social movements. This will allow our educational efforts to reach a larger segment of the global population and also ensure that we have sufficient numbers of supporters of our political actions.

Throughout the year, ESCS has worked to stimulate awareness and discussion of these issues within the animal liberation movement. For example, Patrice Jones (who formerly coordinated the Baker-Mandela Center for Anti-Racist Education) spoke at AR2001 on the specific steps animal liberation organizations must take to become more diverse.

Because the corporations which make their money from the blood of animals do not limit their operations to the

United States, we cannot afford to limit our vision to our region, or even our nation. The movement against factory farming must be diverse and truly international. Thus, ESCS eagerly participates in actions aimed at blocking the worldwide expansion of factory farming and promoting more sensible and ethical food policies.

At the local level in 2001, ESCS took action by publishing several letters and one editorial in the local newspaper; by joining with United Poultry Concerns to stage a protest of an award given to Frank Purdue by a local university; and by talking to local farmers and workers about the harms done to them by the poultry industry. Again and again we made the point that the poultry industry harms people and the environment as well as the animals.

At the international level, ESCS has helped to support and shape the new Global Hunger Alliance, which is coordinated by Patrice Jones. GHA brings together more than 60 organizations from more than 20 nations to oppose the expansion of factory farming and promote plant-based solutions to hunger.

That's how the birds got to Italy. Speaking in Rome on behalf of the Alliance, Jones told audiences what it's like to live where the water is poisoned by poultry industry runoff. Speaking to tens of thousands at a peace rally, she stressed the importance of solidarity, not only with other people but also with "the plants and the animals and the earth herself."

Of course, she carried snapshots of the ESCS birds, which she whipped out at every opportunity, moving several young anarchists, and a few seasoned activists, to tears.

911 for Animals

"But what does it mean for animals?" That's the question that many of us ask in relation to social or political events. This question has never been more relevant than now, when in the wake of the horrific mass murders in New York and DC, our nation has chosen to meet violence with violence, menacing innocent people and animals (not to mention the ecosystem) in the process.

We who stand up for the animals everyday must realize that it is never okay to kill for fun, profit, or ego gratification. Yet, this is exactly what is happening in Afghanistan right now. The true aims of this

human animals deserve the same compassion and respect demands that we care about the human children who are being terrified, killed, injured, displaced, and orphaned by war.

8. Because peace activists are compassionate people who might over time be convinced to extend their compassion to non-human animals.

7. Because any wartime constraints on civil liberties will jeopardize our ability to advocate for animals.

6. Because if we ever wish to gain the support of a critical mass of people, the animal liberation movement

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one-sided "war" are to gain control of profitable oil pipelines and to increase the personal power of George W. Bush.

Realizing that some animal liberation activists might not see the peace movement as falling within their scope of interests, ESCS Coordinator Patrice Jones recently prepared and distributed the following "Top 10" reasons why animal activists must join the peace movement:

10. Because war and animal exploitation are two expressions of the same cultural orientation toward domination rather than cooperation.

9. Because our own argument that human and non-

cannot afford to remain estranged from social justice movements.

5. Because the U.S. military practices vivisection on a massive scale, testing chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons on animals.

4. Because military attacks on urban spaces terrify, kill, injure, displace, and abandon companion animals.

3. Because military attacks on rural locations terrify, kill, and injure farmed animals.

2. Because bombs and biological weapons destroy habitats and poison the environment upon which all animals depend for sustenance..

1. Because bullets, bombs, and biological weapons don't distinguish between human and non-human animals.

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