

New York State Ponders Better Conditions for Farm Animals

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ALBANY, N.Y. - (Business Wire) The Humane Society of the United States and Farm Sanctuary, headquartered in New York , announced enthusiastic support for legislation introduced in the New York State Assembly to provide more room for farm animals.

The bill, A08163, introduced Tuesday by Assembly member Linda Rosenthal, D-Manhattan, prohibits confining breeding pigs, calves raised for veal, and egg-laying hens in cages that prevent them from turning around or extending their limbs.

“This modest measure would make a world of difference to animals subjected to the terrible pain, discomfort and abuse of extreme confinement for months on end. Common sense and an abundance of scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that animals suffer when forced to remain immobile nearly all of their lives,” said Pat rick Kwan, New York state director for The HSUS.

Californians overwhelmingly passed a similar measure, The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act, by ballot initiative last fall.

“It’s simply inhumane to confine animals in cages so small they can’t turn around or extend their limbs,” said Gene Baur, president and co-founder of Farm Sanctuary. “We’ve rescued enough animals from these cruel confinement systems to know how debilitating they are, and we urge swift passage of this humane legislation to end this abuse on factory farms in New York.”

The bill has been referred to the Agriculture Committee, where it awaits a vote.

Facts:

- The measure would phase out extreme confinement systems such as battery cages for hens, veal crates for calves, and gestation crates for pigs.
- The HSUS and Farm Sanctuary were the main backers of the California proposition, which was endorsed by groups including the Center for Food Safety, the California Veterinary Medical Association, Union of Concerned Scientists and the Consumer Federation of America.
- In addition to California , four other states have passed similar reforms, including Colorado, Florida , Arizona and Oregon .
- The bill is co-sponsored by the following legislators: Nelson Castro, D-Bronx, Amy Paulin, D-Westchester, Alan Maisel, D-Brooklyn, John McEneny, D-Kings, Micah Kellner, D-New York, Brian Kavanaugh, D-Manhattan, Joan Millman, D-Brooklyn, Patricia Eddington, D-Suffolk, Annette Robinson, D-Brooklyn and Richard Gottfried, D-Manhattan.