

Activists must break law to expose cruelty and save lives  
New Zealand Open Rescue  
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A month ago they chained themselves to the top of silos at a battery hen farm to draw attention to the plight of battery hens. Today they are nursing rescued battery hens they took during a daring rescue last night.

Last night Deirdre Sims and Marie Brittain illegally entered a Waikato battery farm rescuing several hens and documenting appalling, but typical, industry conditions.

Ms Sims explains, "The public don't get to see what goes on inside factory farms. Breaking the law and risking arrest is the only way we can expose the cruelty that these industries go to great lengths to conceal."

The action was taken in support of 'Person in a Cage' Carl Scott who is currently living in a cage for one month and calling for the public to make submissions to the government to ban battery cages.

"During our rescue last night we found a hen which had become trapped underneath the feed tray. She is very weak and thin, indicating she had been trapped for days unable to reach food or water. In a shed containing approximately 20, 000 hens, its not surprising that a single hen could remain trapped without farm workers noticing. She is unable to stand and it is unclear at this stage if she will be crippled for life."

"Both Marie and I have been inside battery hen farms countless times. But time and again we are shocked and saddened by what we see. The suffering of these animals is unimaginable and unacceptable."

"The egg industry is proposing to replace standard battery cages with so-called 'colony' cages. But for a battery hen, a cage is still a cage. Three millions hens can't walk properly, run or stretch their wings. It's not a normal life for a chicken and cages need to be banned immediately," concludes Ms Sims.

Sims and Brittain are calling for the government to listen to calls from the public to ban all cages for layer hens including the proposed colony

cage systems. The Code of Welfare for Layer Hens is open for public submissions until 29 April.