

About the Portraits



The beautiful silhouetted cow opposite the title page and on the back cover is **Bosey**, who was rescued as part of a neglect case in New York. She now lives at Farm Sanctuary's New York Shelter, where she is currently one of the oldest members of the cattle herd.

— Photo by Derek Goodwin



More than 300 million layer hens just like **Gilly** (p. 1), **Glynda**, **Gilda** and **Wilhelmina** (p. 5) live in the United States under deplorable battery cage egg factory conditions.

You'll notice that the hens have deformed beaks. That's because they have been "de-beaked." When jam-packed into battery cages, hens will peck each other out of boredom, frustration, stress and fear. In order to reduce injuries from this unnatural behavior, it's standard industry practice to cut off part of the beak when they are chicks — a procedure done with a hot blade that severs bone, cartilage and soft tissue — all without pain relief. Many chicks die outright from shock. Those who survive live the rest of their lives without a fully functioning beak which they would normally use for exploring their surroundings and picking up food and other objects.



The hens also suffer from osteoporosis because their bodies use more calcium than they get from their diet to form shells for the artificially-high numbers of eggs they lay. An article in *Poultry Science* (vol 83, Issue 2) states, "...evidence suggests that [osteoporosis] may be widespread and severe. If true, most caged laying hens suffer osteoporosis-related bone fracture during the first laying cycle. Osteoporosis also makes bone breakage a serious problem during catching and transport of hens prior to slaughter. Estimates of mortality due to osteoporosis in commercial caged layer flocks are few, but range up to a third of total mortality. Many of these deaths would be lingering and attended by emaciation and possibly pain. ...Overall, the evidence indicates that cage layer osteoporosis is a serious animal welfare problem."

— Gilly & Wilhelmina by Marilee Geyer

— Glynda & Gilda by Windi Wojdak



Rudy (p. 6) was brought to Poplar Spring Sanctuary when he was just a youngster. Pygmy goats are farmed for both meat and milk, and because of their small stature, they are often found in "petting zoos." Rudy doesn't concern himself with any of that, though. He's just who he is: affectionate, adorable, lovable, and playful.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Peapod (p. 7) is another Poplar Spring resident. He was the "prize" in a greased pig contest. The person who "won" Peapod took him into the parking lot where he began beating and throwing rocks at him; other people joined in. A security guard witnessed this and was able to intervene. Peapod was taken in by a local rescue and then made his way to the sanctuary.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Rhubarb (p. 8) is a Rhode Island Red rooster who lives at United Poultry Concerns (UPC) in Virginia where he is very protective of the flock. When he spots danger, he lets out a shrill cry that alerts the other hens and roosters. When the threat is gone, he gives an "all clear" crow that lets everyone know all is well.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Francine (p. 9) is a little brown hen who, because of her very severe debeaking, has some trouble foraging and pecking. But she still manages to enjoy the many treats she receives at her home at UPC. For more information on all types of poultry, or to find out how to visit this "Poultry Paradise," go to www.upc-online.org

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



All varieties of domestic chickens are descended from Red Jungle Fowl, a wild bird found in Southeast Asia. **Francine** and her best pal **Iris** (p.9) have an instinctual desire to roost in the branches of trees and bushes, just like their undomesticated relatives and ancestors.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Benjamin (p. 10) was left one cold day at the bottom of UPC's yard next to the road. He was found alone and shivering in a plastic box with a brick on top. When he met the other residents, all of the chickens — including the other roosters! — welcomed him into their flock. Everybody loves dear, sweet Benjamin.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Violet (p. 10) was rescued from a major veterinary school battery cage research facility. Large numbers of farmed animals are used in university agricultural research projects, and at some veterinary schools animals are used for "practice" surgeries. Fortunately for Violet, her university days are over; she is free from the battery cage and enjoying her life at Farm Sanctuary in New York.

— Photo by Derek Goodwin



Julia, **Zenobia** and **Jolene**, (p.11) shown here relaxing at UPC, are bred for laying huge numbers of eggs. Although factory farmed hens are never allowed to hatch chicks, hens make excellent mothers and form strong family attachments. A mother hen begins bonding with her babies by clucking to her unhatched chicks, who will chirp back through their shells.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier



Elinor (p. 12) is a lovely hen who spends her days with her friend Troubadour, a handsome rooster, in their yard at UPC. They sleep together at night on their enclosed porch.

— Photo by Davida Gypsy Breier