

7 December 2020

88%* of UK public think cages are cruel, new poll reveals

A new poll carried out by Compassion in World Farming and YouGov has found that 88%* of the British public believe using cages in farming is cruel to farm animals. The survey, which was commissioned by Compassion in World Farming, Animal Equality, Four Paws, Humane Society International – Europe, WeMove Europe and World Animal Protection Netherland, also found that 77% support a complete ban on the use of cages in farming. These results show that people are aware of the fundamental cruelty of cages and support the phasing out of this outdated practice.

Cages confine and restrict animals' movements and prevent them from carrying out natural behaviours. Yet, recent data analysis from Compassion found, just 63% of UK laying hens, sows and quails are reared in cage-free conditions.

“Over 16 million hens are caged, while a quarter of a million UK mother pigs are forced to give birth in farrowing crates and raise their piglets through bars,” says Natasha Smith, Senior Campaigns Manager for Compassion in World Farming UK. “This poll makes it clear that UK citizens believe this is unacceptable. The support is there – now the Government must take action to take action to reflect public opinion and get farm animals out of cages.”

EU citizens are in agreement: the End the Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), which was handed in to the European Commission in October, gained almost 1.4 million signatures from individuals calling for an end to the use of cages for farm animals.

~ends~

For more information please email media.team@ciwf.org or call 01483 521 615

Notes to Editors

1. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2,083 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7th - 8th October 2020. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). The full set of results can be found [here](#).
2. Compassion in World Farming was founded in 1967 by a British dairy farmer who became horrified at the development of intensive factory farming. Today Compassion is the leading farm animal welfare organisation dedicated to ending factory farming and achieving humane and sustainable food. With headquarters in the UK, we have offices across Europe, in the US, China and South Africa.
3. To find out more about Compassion in World Farming visit: www.ciwf.org
4. *Respondents were asked to read this information before answering the question:

“In the European Union (EU), more than 300 million farmed animals (e.g. hens, pigs, rabbits, ducks, geese, calves etc.) are kept in cages to be raised for food. Some people argue that the confinement and restriction of natural movement caused by cages is not justifiable. Other people argue that cages are necessary for economising farming as it allows animals to be farmed on a large scale.”