



Massachusetts Ballot Initiative Seeks to Curb Farm Animal Confinement *Measure for 2016 Ballot Would Prohibit Inhumane Cages and Crates*

(Aug. 19, 2015) Boston, Mass. — Citizens for Farm Animal Protection has announced a new ballot initiative in Massachusetts to curb extreme confinement and lifelong immobilization of animals at industrial-style factory farms. The coalition aims to collect more than 90,000 signatures in order to qualify this animal welfare proposal for the 2016 statewide ballot.

Among others, the coalition includes the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Humane Society of the United States, United Farm Workers, Center for Food Safety, family farmers, veterinarians and public health professionals.

The measure would ensure that certain farm animals are able to stand up, lie down, turn around and extend their limbs by phasing out the extreme confinement of breeding pigs, veal calves and egg-laying hens.

Ten states have already passed laws to address these kinds of inhumane practices, and nearly 100 major food retailers—including McDonald's and Walmart—are working with suppliers to make similar reforms in their food supply chains.

The measure, in practical terms, means that certain animals – specifically veal calves, breeding pigs and egg-laying hens – will not spend their lives in cages barely larger than their bodies.

In addition to requiring that Massachusetts producers meet these modest requirements, the measure would ensure that whole eggs and whole, uncooked cuts of veal and pork sold in the Commonwealth are also compliant.

In the veal industry, calves are often confined to crates so narrow, the young animals cannot even turn around. Tethered by their necks, many are virtually immobilized for their entire 16-week long lives. Most female pigs used for breeding in the pork industry are confined to gestation crates, which are concrete and metal cages so small the pregnant pigs cannot take even one step in any direction.

This measure has won support from food safety advocates, because intensively confined animals suffer from weakened immune systems, which allow dangerous bacteria to proliferate. For example, numerous studies show that egg operations confining hens in small battery cages have higher rates of *Salmonella*, the leading cause of food poisoning-related death in the United States.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said: “The biggest names in the food retail sector are already moving to buy their pork and eggs from farmers raising animals outside of small cages, and by approving this measure, Massachusetts residents bring along the outliers and assure more humane treatment of animals raised for food.”

Carter Luke, president and CEO of MSPCA-Angell, said: “This ballot question fits squarely within the MSPCA-Angell’s animal welfare mission as it relates to farm animals: to end the intensive confinement practices that cause needless pain, suffering and stress to the animals involved. It’s unacceptable for egg-laying hens, breeding pigs and veal calves to be prevented from lying down, standing up, extending their limbs or turning around freely. That’s why we’re calling for compliance with this modest animal welfare standard.”

Matt Bershadker, president and CEO of the ASPCA, said: “So many animal confinement practices on farms are unacceptably cruel, preventing animals from fully extending their limbs or even turning around freely. No animal should have to suffer like that. We support this ballot initiative that rejects some of the cruelest farming practices used today.”

Mary Nee, president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, said: “The cruel confinement of farm animals is inhumane and also threatens the health and safety of Massachusetts residents through increased risk of foodborne illness. When there’s an effort to improve the protection and treatment of animals – whether they are companion, working or farm animals – the Animal Rescue League of Boston is there to help.”

- To download b-roll video, [click here](#).
- To download images, email awest@humanesociety.org.
- Twitter hashtag: #StopCrueltyMA.

Media Contacts:

- Humane Society of the United States: Anna West, 240-751-2669, awest@humanesociety.org
- MSPCA-Angell: Rob Halpin, 617-314-2808, rahalpin@mspca.org
- The ASPCA: Maureen Linehan, 646-628-0006, maureen.linehan@aspca.org
- Animal Rescue League of Boston: Ami Bowen, 617-293-3530, abowen@arlboston.org
- Zoo New England: Brooke Wardrop, 617-989-2030, bwardrop@zoonewengland.com

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation’s largest animal protection organization, rated [most effective](#) by our peers. For 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation’s largest provider of [hands-on services](#) for

animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our [advocacy campaigns](#). Read more about our 60 years of [transformational change](#) for animals, and visit us online at humanesociety.org.

About the ASPCA®: Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first animal welfare organization in North America and serves as the nation's leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit www.ASPCA.org, and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

The MSPCA-Angell is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine and provides direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year. Founded in 1868, it is the second-oldest humane society in the United States. Services include animal protection and adoption, advocacy, humane education, law enforcement, and world-class veterinary care. The MSPCA-Angell is a private, non-profit organization. It does not receive any government funding nor is it funded or operated by any national humane organization. The MSPCA-Angell relies solely on the support and contributions from individuals who care about animals. Please visit www.mspca.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mspcaangell

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect. In 2014, 15,100 animals received the care they needed through ARL shelters, rescue and law enforcement services, and community veterinary programs. The ARL receives no government funding and relies solely on the generosity of supporters to help animals in need. To learn more about the impact of your donations on animal, visit arlboston.org.

Zoo New England manages Franklin Park Zoo in Boston and Stone Zoo in Stoneham. Both are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Zoo New England's mission is to inspire people to protect and sustain the natural world for future generations by creating fun and engaging experiences that integrate wildlife and conservation programs, research, and education.

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association was formed as a home for veterinary professionals who want to join together to speak out for animals, engage in direct care programs for animals in need, and educate the public and others in the profession about animal welfare issues. The HSVMA is an affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. www.hsvma.org