



PETA

THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT TURKEYS

Turkeys are intelligent animals and protective parents. On factory farms, they are denied everything that is natural and important to them and are subjected to routine mutilations – like having their beaks and toes chopped off – that would be illegal if dogs or cats were the victims.

Please, don't eat turkeys.

When not confined to filthy factory farms, turkeys spend their days caring for their young, building nests, foraging for food, taking dustbaths, preening themselves and roosting high in trees.

They relish having their feathers stroked and like to chirp, cluck and gobble along to their favourite tunes. Anyone who spends time with them at farm sanctuaries quickly learns that turkeys are as varied in personality as dogs and cats.



Turkeys on factory farms are kept in extremely crowded spaces, and to keep them from scratching and pecking each other, workers cut parts of their beaks and toes off with a hot blade – without giving them any pain relief. More than a million turkeys die in their windowless sheds each year in the UK, sometimes starving to death because their mutilated

beaks hurt so much that they can't eat.

At the abattoir, turkeys are hung upside down by their weak and crippled legs. Their heads are dragged through an electrified "water bath", which often immobilises them but does not render them unconscious. Many dodge the tank, which means that they are completely conscious when their throats are cut. And if the knife misses its mark, the birds are burned to death in the tank of scalding-hot water used for feather removal.

Turkeys aren't just eaten at Christmas – more than 15 million are slaughtered throughout the year in the UK.



But on factory farms, most turkeys will never even see the sun or breathe fresh air. They have been selectively bred so that they will gain an enormous amount of weight in a short period of time, which for many leads to painful, swollen joints, crippled feet and heart attacks – all when they are just a few weeks old. They sit mired in waste, and the fumes

from their urine burn their eyes and lungs. They are fed a steady diet of antibiotics to keep them alive in conditions that would otherwise kill them.

Modern turkeys grow so quickly that if a 7-pound human baby grew at the same rate, the infant would weigh 1,500 pounds at just 18 weeks of age.

Go Vegan: Eating for Life

Going vegan is the best way to help animals, the environment and your own health. Vegans are less likely to suffer from heart disease, cancer and diabetes and more likely to maintain a healthy weight.

Serve a faux turkey this Christmas. For a free vegetarian/vegan starter kit full of recipes, shopping tips and health information, call 020 7357 9229 or visit PETA.org.uk.

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