

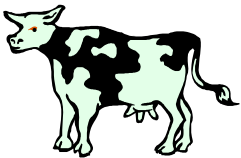
STOP TASMANIAN ANIMAL CRUELTY

NEWSFLASH

May 30, 2009

WOOLWORTHS UNDER FIRE AGAIN FOR SUPPORTING CRUEL FARMERS

Stop Tasmanian Animal Cruelty has confirmed that supermarket giant Woolworths, which continues to support a pig farmer facing multiple cruelty charges, also purchases large supplies of eggs from Glen Peter Balke of Sun Valley Poultry, who was convicted yesterday on animal cruelty offences. Balke was fined \$3,000.

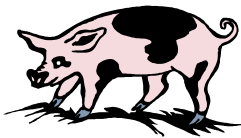


Balke was convicted of 'doing an act which caused pain to an animal' and 'failing to provide veterinary treatment to a sick or injured animal'. Inspections by DPIW officer Colin Jessup found, on separate audits, hens confined in tiny cages on top of the rotting carcasses of their cage mates to such an extent they could not stand properly. Mr Jessup found another 27 dead, rotting carcasses, and cages and birds covered in manure. One dead hen was being cannibalised, an indication of the distress suffered by the birds.



StopTAC's Suzanne Cass said:

"It is inconceivable that Australia's largest supermarket operator apparently has no 'due diligence' procedures in place, and sources its products from operators charged, and in this case, convicted, of shocking cruelty offences. Gary William Oliver, the pig farmer from Winnaleah has been ordered to enter a plea in relation to the appalling conditions on his maggot infested pig farm which we saw on Stateline earlier this month. The state those pigs were in was simply pitiful. Now we find that Woolworths sources its eggs from a farm where the hens were so confined by the bodies of other hens, deep in manure, that they could not even stand naturally. Mr Jessup found the bodies of at least 45 decomposing hens, and that is just obscene.



"There is certainly no such thing as a "clean, green Tasmania" for animals used in farming, and Premier Bartlett's claims of a "kind, clever, connected" Tasmania are worthless in the face of these atrocities. These operations are hidden away from the public gaze, and the merciless suffering of all these animals goes on unchecked and mostly unreported.



*We are urging people not to shop at Woolworths **at all** until such time as it makes a clear statement that it will cease supporting these farmers in particular, and the horrific intensive farming practices generally", concluded Ms Cass.*

For further information, please contact Suzanne Cass on 0420 988 221