



In Defense of Animals



Animal Protection & Rescue League

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IDA AND APRL MAKE FOIE GRAS FLAP AT FRENCH EMBASSY

Shocking New Undercover Video Reveals Appalling Conditions on French Foie Gras Farms

Washington, D.C. — IDA and the Animal Protection and Rescue League (APRL) join the Citizen's Initiative for the Abolition of Force-Feeding (CIAFF) to urge French Minister of Agriculture Dominique Bussereau to adhere to a European Union (EU) directive that prohibits the use of battery cages and the force-feeding of birds for foie gras. France has been the only EU member country to publicly snub the directive, citing concerns that costs would increase if force-feeding methods were abolished. Animal activists, including a former USDA meat inspector and veterinarian, holding posters reading, "France: Foie Gras is a Cruel Faux Pas," will present footage from a yearlong investigation in the Southwest region of France that documents industry-wide abuse of ducks and geese on foie gras farms:

When: Wednesday, December 15, 12:00 noon

Place: Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW

CIAFF investigators witnessed female ducklings having their necks broken and being ground to death, thousands of birds intensively confined into battery cages so small that they were unable to raise a wing, and birds suffering from diarrhea and vomiting after four pounds of corn mash is pumped, by air-propelled pumps, down their throats. Ducks who survive the force-feedings suffer from a painful illness that causes their livers to swell five to ten times their normal size. Force-feeding results in a ten-fold rise in mortality in ducks.

Investigations on the only two foie gras farms in the U.S. revealed ducks crammed into filthy, feces-ridden sheds and others isolated inside wire cages so small that the animals could barely move. Barrels full of dead ducks who had choked or whose organs ruptured or exploded during the traumatic force-feeding process were discovered.

The controversy surrounding foie gras production has become a hotly debated international issue. At least fifteen nations including Israel and Germany have banned force-feeding because of its cruelty. California recently passed a ban on the sale and production of foie gras from force-fed birds, and many U.S. restaurants, including Jardinière and Chapeau in San Francisco and the world famous Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, have stated that they will no longer serve foie gras after learning of the cruelty behind it.

"Anyone who eats foie gras is personally responsible for the suffering of thousands of ducks and geese," said Elliot M. Katz, DVM, IDA's president and founder. "Many French citizens are ashamed that France has a near-monopoly on this cruel product and plans to ignore the EU directive."

For more information and to view the video online, please visit www.StopForceFeeding.com or www.stopgavage.com. Broadcast quality footage of CIAFF's foie gras investigation is available upon request.

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