

Opinions of Veterinarians and Positions of the AVMA

**Analysis of Eight Commonly
Occurring Farming Practices**

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I. BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Study Background

The American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) is considered by many to be the official voice of the veterinary community in the United States, and it is often looked to for its position on animal welfare issues. The organization claims to represent “more than 69,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services.” These veterinarians look to the AVMA to represent their views on various practices and industries involving animals. In recent years, however, the AVMA has been criticized for endorsing animal husbandry practices for farmed animals that are controversial and considered to be inhumane by a number of veterinarians as well as the general public.

Several opinion polls have been conducted over the past decade to measure the public's attitudes toward various farming practices. These studies have consistently shown that a majority of citizens oppose some animal husbandry practices that have become standard on today's farms. The general public also strongly favors legislation to prohibit such practices. With very few exceptions, there are no published polls or other studies that measure veterinarians' opinions about these issues. As a result, it has been difficult to determine whether the AVMA's positions accurately reflect the majority opinion of the veterinary community. The primary objective of the current study is to determine whether or not the AVMA's stances on certain controversial animal farming practices are consistent with the viewpoint of the majority of veterinarians in the United States.

In the summer of 2002, the AVMA formally and explicitly voted to endorse the use of gestation crates, two-foot wide enclosures in which pregnant sows are confined during their gestation period (i.e. pregnancy). The sows' ability to move is so severely restricted that they cannot walk or even turn around during their four-month pregnancy. The AVMA position statement endorsing gestation crates was published a couple of months prior to a November 2002 ballot initiative vote to make the use of gestation crates illegal in the state of Florida. As the November 2002 vote approached, opponents of the ballot measure cited the AVMA's endorsement of gestation crates on numerous occasions, hoping to sway the electorate to reject the gestation crate ban.

Despite the AVMA's widely publicized support for gestation crates, Floridians voted to amend their state constitution to prohibit the use of gestation crates on November 5, 2002. Moreover, contrary to the AVMA position, veterinarian respondents to the current study cited gestation crates as the *most objectionable* of the eight practices under discussion (83% of respondents believe the practice is objectionable). At their annual meeting in summer 2003, the AVMA discussed a policy statement to withdraw their endorsement of gestation crates and to more carefully examine the issue. After a heated debate, the AVMA amended the proposal and agreed to more carefully study the welfare ramifications of using these confinement devices, but they did not withdraw their 2002 endorsement of gestation crates.

The AVMA has also come under fire for defending the practice of forced molting of egg laying hens. “Forced” or “induced” molting involves starving hens for two weeks or longer to shock their systems into a new egg-laying cycle. Resolutions to discourage forced molting have been presented before the AVMA each year for five consecutive years, but the AVMA has yet to adopt a policy discouraging forced molting. In the current survey, more than 80% of veterinarians believe the practice of forced molting is objectionable.

The AVMA has also taken what many believe to be pro-industry positions on issues such as housing egg-laying hens in “battery cages” and cutting off pigs' tails in order to reduce aggression caused by

overcrowding. Although the AVMA supports these practices, veterinarians responding to the current study found them objectionable; 80% found battery cages to be objectionable, while 65% found tail-docking of pigs to be objectionable. As a result of these and other positions, a growing number of veterinarians and others interested in animal health and well-being are questioning whether the AVMA is accurately representing the opinions and interests of the veterinary community.

In late 2003, Farm Sanctuary conducted a nationwide survey of veterinarians to measure their opinions with respect to eight controversial practices used on industrial farming operations, including: confining and tethering calves in veal crates; confining breeding sows in gestation crates; confining egg laying hens in battery cages; feeding veal calves a diet deficient in iron and fiber; forced molting of egg laying hens; cutting off the tails of cows and pigs; and transporting, marketing, or slaughtering downed animals for human food. The survey asked veterinarians to express whether they considered these practices to be very objectionable, objectionable, acceptable, or very acceptable (an option for “no opinion / need more information” was also provided). The survey also included an open-ended space for “particular interests, comments, or concerns about farm animal welfare.”

Summary of the AVMA Positions

The AVMA has adopted position statements on a number of controversial farming practices, including most of those addressed in the current study. According to the organization's website, the following represent the AVMA's positions on the eight farming practices under discussion. For reference, please visit the AVMA website at <http://www.avma.org/policies/animalwelfare.asp>.

- ⇒ **Veal Crates** – The AVMA implicitly endorses any crate, tether, or other mechanism of confinement that “permits calves to stretch, stand, and lie down comfortably.”
- ⇒ **Battery Cages** – The AVMA endorses “housing layer chickens in cages” and does not set a minimum space requirement, instead suggesting that “all hens should be able to stand comfortably upright in their cages” and that “feeder space should be sufficient to permit all birds to eat at the same time.”
- ⇒ **Gestation Crates** – The AVMA states that “individual gestation stalls meet the aforementioned criteria, provided the appropriate level of stockmanship is administered.” The criteria mentioned include minimizing aggression and injuries, among other factors.
- ⇒ **Veal Diets** – The AVMA states that producers must “ensure that calves receive a daily diet that is nutritionally adequate to maintain health.”
- ⇒ **Forced Molting** – The AVMA supports “induced” molting, suggesting but not mandating that “intermittent feeding or diets of low nutrient density are recommended rather than total feed withdrawal.” The policy further states that “water should not be withdrawn.”
- ⇒ **Cow Tail Docking** – The AVMA had not addressed the tail-docking of cattle until just prior to the release of this report in April 2004 when it adopted a position opposing the practice. In the absence of this new policy, a resolution to oppose tail docking of cattle would have come up for a vote at the AVMA's convention in summer 2004.
- ⇒ **Pig Tail Docking** – The AVMA provides the inclusive statement that “castration, ear notching, and tail docking of piglets are acceptable management practices when performed in a sanitary manner during the first week of life.”
- ⇒ **Downed Animals** – The AVMA's position on downed animals (i.e., non-ambulatory) is ambiguous with respect to marketing, transporting, and slaughtering downed animals for human consumption. Notably, since the initiation of the current study, the USDA has placed a ban on the slaughter of downed animals for human food.

Survey Methodology

The current study is based on a mailed questionnaire sent to veterinarians located throughout the United States, the addresses for whom were obtained from a mailing list rented by Farm Sanctuary. Surveys were received from veterinarians located in all fifty states in the U.S., as well as Washington, DC. Representation was strong in all four primary geographic regions of the country, including the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast regions (it was not possible to determine the region for sixty of the surveys). In total, the questionnaire was sent to 70,913 veterinarians.

The results and discussion provided in this report are based on 1,245 surveys completed and returned to Farm Sanctuary as of February 6, 2004. Nearly a third of these surveys (N=360) also included open-ended comments provided by respondents, all of which have been coded and many of which are included in the analysis as well as in the appendix. Farm Sanctuary also received 202 entirely blank surveys and four partial surveys that were not included in the analysis. Twenty-two returned responses, nineteen deceased notices, and several other returns were also excluded from the analysis and the calculation of response rate.

The overall minimum response rate for this study is 2.1%, not including partially completed surveys. This response rate is on the low end for mail surveys, but consistent with average direct mail response rates. It should be noted that the questionnaire was sent to named recipients who had had no previous contact with Farm Sanctuary. Moreover, the survey was provided without incentive and without a follow-up reminder. Each of these factors has a negative impact on responses, and therefore the response rate for the current study is not unexpected.

It is likely that respondents who took time to fill out the questionnaire have strong opinions about the farming practices it addressed. For this reason, the opinions of veterinarians provided may be subject to some forms of bias, but it is worth noting that the intensity of feelings that cause this bias would impact opinions in both directions. This is indicated by what appears to be some polarization of opinion among veterinarians responding to the survey. Survey respondents show a strong diversity of opinion in both the closed- and open-ended answers. Furthermore, respondents come from all areas of the U.S. and appear to represent a variety of backgrounds, including a mix of small- and large-animal veterinarians.

Overall, while the individual opinions expressed may be stronger than those held by the veterinarians who did not respond, there remains a clear majority of veterinarians who are opposed to the questionable farming practices addressed in the survey.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Confinement Practices

- ⇒ Veterinarians overwhelmingly object to the confinement practices mentioned in the survey, including the use of crates and tethers for veal calves, battery cages for egg-laying hens, and gestation crates for pregnant sows. Overall, on average more than four out of five veterinarians (82%) object to these confinement practices.
- ⇒ While veterinarians object to veal crates and tethers (82%) and gestation crates (83%) about equally, slightly fewer veterinarians appear to object to the use of battery cages (80%).
- ⇒ Survey questions related to confinement practices received the lowest overall incidence of veterinarians having “no opinion” or “needing more information,” strongly suggesting that veterinarians hold very strong, well-formed opinions regarding these practices.

Feeding Practices

- ⇒ Although their opinions are not as strong as with confinement issues, veterinarians also overwhelmingly object to feeding farmed animals deficient diets or withholding food altogether. On average, nearly four out of five veterinarians (79%) object to these diet restriction practices for veal calves and egg-laying hens.
- ⇒ Overall, veterinarians seem to object in equal numbers to both iron- and fiber- deficient diets for veal calves (80%) and withholding food from hens (78%). However, the question relating to egg-laying hens yielded an incidence of “no opinion / need more information” that was three times higher than the question relating to veal calves (6% compared to 2%). This suggests that veterinarians’ beliefs relating to the practice of withholding food from egg-laying hens are weaker and perhaps not as well-formed.

Tail-Docking of Pigs and Cows

- ⇒ Veterinarians also strongly object to the practice of tail-docking for both pigs and cows without anesthesia, with seven of ten (70% average) veterinarians saying they find it very objectionable or objectionable. However, of all of the practices discussed in the current survey, tail-docking was considered the most *acceptable*, with about one in five veterinarians (19%) responding that the practice is very acceptable or acceptable.
- ⇒ Of all of the practices addressed by the survey, tail-docking also received the highest incidence of “no opinion” or “need more information” (10% for each question). Again, this suggests that veterinarians’ beliefs relating to tail-docking are relatively unformed and weak when compared to the other farming practices addressed by the survey.
- ⇒ Within the tail-docking category, veterinarians object significantly more to the practice when used on cows (75%) and less so when used on pigs (65%). Those veterinarians finding the practice of docking pigs’ tails acceptable represent nearly a fourth (23%) of respondents. In the qualitative part of the survey, a large number of comments suggested that tail-docking pigs is acceptable at a young age because it reduces the possibility of tail-biting and cannibalism later in life.

Downed Animals

- ⇒ A strong majority of veterinarians (73%) believe the practice of transporting, marketing, and slaughtering downed animals for human food is objectionable. On the other hand, almost one in five veterinarians (17%) believes the practice to be acceptable.

- ⇒ The downed animal question also yielded a high incidence of “no opinion” or “need more information” responses (8%) as well as the highest number of blank responses (2%).

Differences of Opinion by Geographic Region

- ⇒ Geographical analysis of the survey results shows significant regional differences for each of the main categories of farming practices under discussion, including confinement, restrictive feeding practices, tail-docking, and downed animals.
- ⇒ Notably, veterinarians living and working in the Northeast and the West believe these controversial farming practices are much more objectionable than their colleagues in the South or Midwest. About nine in ten veterinarians in both the Northeast (90%) and the West (89%) believe all of the practices discussed to be objectionable, with only a small minority saying that the practices are acceptable.
- ⇒ By contrast, veterinarians living and working in the Midwest and the South demonstrate a higher tolerance for these practices, although a clear majority still objects to them. About eight of ten veterinarians in the South (79%) and seven in ten veterinarians in the Midwest (70%) believe all of the practices are objectionable. However, nearly three in ten (28%) veterinarians from the Midwest find all practices acceptable.

Other Practices and the AVMA

- ⇒ Veterinarians responding to the qualitative part of the survey raised many general issues and unsolicited farming practices to which they object. A number of veterinarians also indicated that they object in general to the practice of factory farming.
- ⇒ Veterinarians also brought up a number of specific practices they believe to be objectionable, most frequently mentioning the dehorning and castration of cattle, as well as feedlots. Other frequently mentioned objectionable practices include kosher slaughter, horse slaughter and hormone production, and the conditions of farmed animals during transport or shipping.
- ⇒ A number of qualitative comments made specific reference to the AVMA, a large majority of which expressed disagreement with or criticism of the AVMA's positions regarding animal welfare in general and specific farming practices.

Summary Survey Results

		OBJECTIONABLE		ACCEPTABLE	
		<i>Number</i>	%	<i>Number</i>	%
CONFINEMENT	Veal Crates	1,028	82.3	189	15.1
	Battery Cages	1,004	80.4	200	16.0
	Gestation Crates	1,034	82.8	189	15.1
DIET	Veal Diets	997	79.8	207	16.6
	Forced Molting	977	78.2	179	14.3
TAIL-DOCKING	Cow Tail docking	931	74.5	178	14.3
	Pig tail docking	817	65.4	286	22.9
DOWNED ANIMALS	Downed animals	909	72.8	214	17.1

III. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

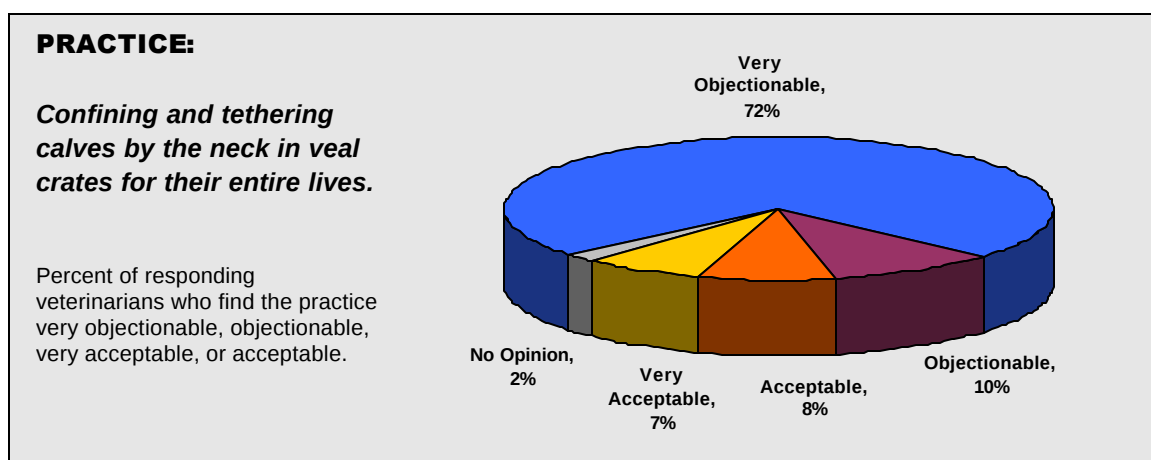
CONFINEMENT PRACTICES

Three of the survey questions addressed farm animal confinement methods, including tethers and crates for veal calves, battery cages for egg-laying hens, and gestation crates for pregnant sows. Of the eight closed-end questions provided in the survey, these three questions received the highest response rates. By the same token, these questions received the lowest incidence of veterinarians having “no opinion / needing more information.” Moreover, many of the open-ended comments also related to confinement issues, demonstrating that veterinarians hold very strong, well-formed opinions regarding the use of veal crates, gestation crates, and battery cages. A summary of veterinarians’ opinions regarding these practices is provided below.

	VERY OBJECTION- ABLE	OBJECTION- ABLE	ACCEPTABLE	VERY ACCEPTABLE	NO OPINION
Veal Crates	72%	10%	8%	7%	2%
Gestation Crates	72%	11%	7%	9%	2%
Battery Cages	65%	16%	8%	8%	3%

It is clear from these results that a majority of veterinarians feel that using veal crates for calves, battery cages for hens, and gestation crates for sows is objectionable. In fact, four of every five veterinarians indicated that the confinement practices mentioned are “objectionable”; in each case, more than two-thirds of veterinarians found the practices “very objectionable.” According to one veterinarian from Unionville, Montana, “I am opposed to close confinement of any animals especially in large numbers. These conditions are bad for the animals and all the people around them.”

Veal Crates and Tethers



More than four in five veterinarians (82%) consider confining and tethering veal calves in crates to be objectionable (72% very objectionable; 10% objectionable). This represents a strong majority, which is further bolstered by the fact that most of the open-ended comments that addressed veal confinement were strongly opposed to the practice. In fact, numerous veterinarians made reference to not eating veal because of these and similar practices, and one respondent simply called the practice “criminal.”

"My interest is centered around the confinement and starvation of calves and others in this group. No veal is offered or purchased by my household at home or when entertaining." – Lake Charles, Louisiana

"I personally have not eaten veal for over 20 years since learning about where it comes from and how it is raised." – Corpus Christi, Texas

"Veal crates are not acceptable!" – Fruita, Colorado

"I don't eat veal because of the raising methods! Veal must be outlawed!" – W.C.H., Ohio

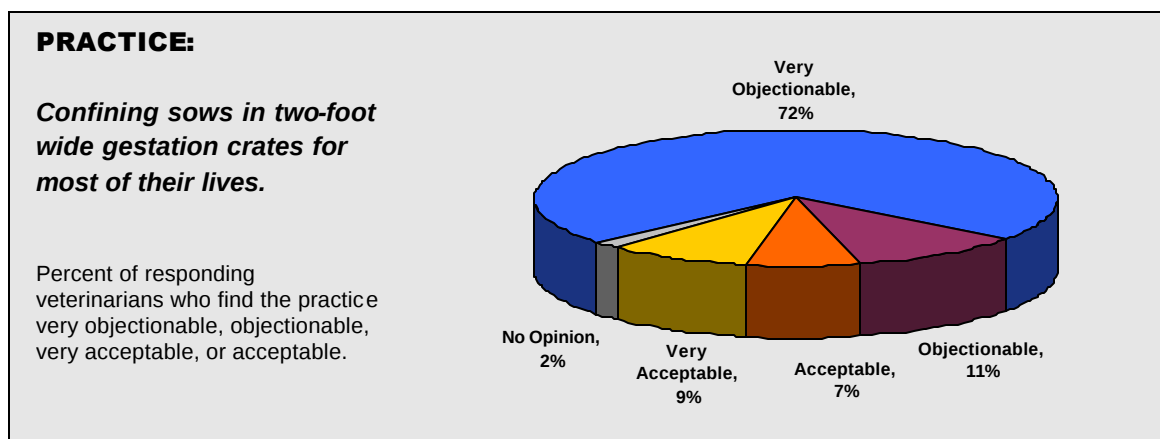
On the other hand, one in seven veterinarians (15%) believes the confinement of veal calves to be acceptable (8% acceptable; 7% very acceptable). Only a small number of comments offered support for the use of this practice, typically justifying intense confinement as a measure of protection for the calves, or pointing out rare instances where the method is not used.

"Veal calves are not always tethered. They also experience less stress when they stay in one stall and always have the same neighbors. Yes they do socialize with each other." – Pennsylvania

"Veal calves are for us to eat - veal farmers are keeping these calves warm, dry, and disease free." – Sturgis, Mississippi

The AVMA's position on this issue recognizes the use of calves in the veal industry, and considers their welfare by encouraging producers to adopt systems that "permit calves to stretch, stand, and lie down comfortably." However, judging by the results of the current study, it would appear that a strong majority of veterinarians oppose veal calf confinement of any sort, and a number of them would rather that the veal industry did not exist at all.

Gestation Crates



As demonstrated by the high response rate to the gestation crate question and the numerous comments about this practice, it seems that this is an important (and somewhat polarized) issue among veterinarians. The AVMA's formal consideration of gestation crates in 2002 and 2003 may have created increased familiarity and interest about this topic within the veterinary community. Certainly this is a topic of great interest, and the AVMA's position does recognize the welfare of sows while at the same time explicitly allowing "individual gestation stalls."

One respondent from Washington State specifically mentioned gestation crates and the AVMA in writing: “In effect, the AVMA waffled on the issue (gestation crates), as it has done as many times in recent years when it has been asked to address issues involving humane treatment of animals... confinement of domestic animals to afford them protection against periodic extremes in their environment is appropriate and laudable. Total confinement, is, in many livestock production scenarios, totally unacceptable.” Most other comments from the survey seemed to echo this sentiment.

“I worked at a swine research center in school and gestation crates and multi-tiered weaning crates are cruel and should be banned period.” – Jackson, Georgia

“Swine confinement units are a disaster ready to happen.” – Houston, Mississippi

“I do not like ... gestation crates, to me they are inhumane.” – City/state unknown

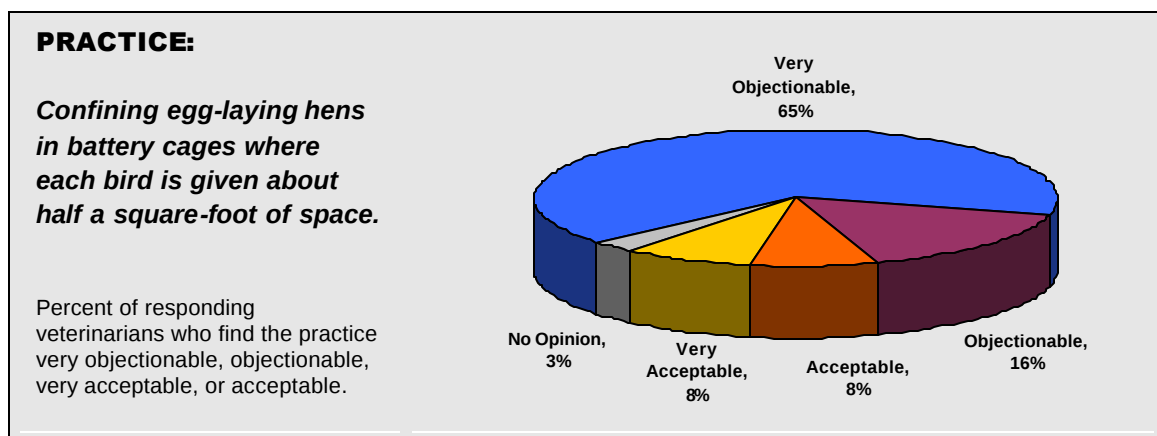
As demonstrated by the nearly identical numbers, veterinarians’ opinions about gestation crates for pregnant sows are very similar to their opinions about veal crates. As with the veal crate practice, more than four out of five veterinarians (83%) find the practice of confining sows to gestation crates objectionable (72% very objectionable; 11% objectionable).

Also similar to the veal crate issue, the number of veterinarians that believe gestation crates are acceptable is about one in seven (16%); 7% of veterinarians believe the practice is acceptable, while another 9% believe it to be very acceptable. The higher number for very acceptable indicates stronger feelings about this issue than with veal crates, which is further demonstrated by a number of open-ended statements that defended the use of gestation crates.

“Gestation crates that allow for a sow to lay down and stand up without discomfort are preferable to the violence associated with group housing. As long as they are observed regularly they are less likely to suffer harm than group housed sows.” – Iowa

“I have worked with these sows in gestation crates ... and am fully aware that they suffer no ill effects from these situations, and, in fact, seem very content in their surroundings.” – Hunnewell, Missouri

Battery Cages



More than four out of five veterinarians (81%) consider confining egg-laying hens in battery cages to be objectionable (65% very objectionable; 16% objectionable). As we have seen with the veal and gestation crate issues, veterinarians strongly object to intense confinement of farmed

animals. This holds true for egg-laying hens as well, although there appears to be slightly less objection to the practice than to the other confinement issues under discussion. Overall, about one in seven veterinarians (16%) find the practice of confining egg-laying hens to battery cages acceptable (8% acceptable; 8% very acceptable).

Qualitative responses addressing the issue of battery cages were few in number and mixed in tone. At least four veterinarians mentioned buying “cage-free” eggs as a response to their own objection to battery cages for egg-laying hens. A veterinarian from Ohio described egg farm conditions by writing “chickens caught in cages dying slowly on disintegrating carcasses.” Another from Waverly, Alabama said, “I object to confined ... layers.” On the other hand, a veterinarian from Maine defended battery cages by saying that they “offer control of the environment and disease and treatment of sick animals.” Another from South Dakota went even further: “Confining hens produces more eggs. They thrive on it.”

The AVMA's position offers some guidance regarding the treatment of caged, egg-laying hens by stating that “cages should be designed and maintained so as to avoid injury to birds,” along with providing other guidelines. However, the AVMA makes no statement as to the humaneness of the use of battery cage housing. Overall, with an average of almost 82% of veterinarians believing that these confinement practices are objectionable, it is clear that the veterinary community overwhelmingly disapproves of veal crates, gestation crates and battery cages.

FEEDING PRACTICES

Two of the survey questions addressed farmed animal feeding practices, including feeding veal calves a diet deficient in iron and fiber, and the practice of withdrawing food from hens for up to fourteen days to induce a new egg-laying cycle (“forced” or “induced” molting). Similar to veterinarians’ opinions about farmed animal confinement practices, a strong majority of veterinarians surveyed believe that these controversial feeding practices are objectionable. Summary results are provided below.

	VERY OBJECTION- ABLE	OBJECTION- ABLE	ACCEPTABLE	VERY ACCEPTABLE	NO OPINION
Veal Diets	60%	20%	10%	7%	3%
Forced Molting	61%	18%	8%	7%	6%

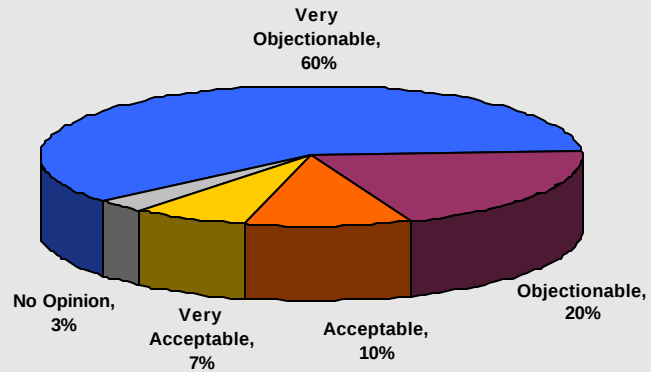
From these numbers, we see that veterinarians’ objections to certain farming practices extend well beyond confinement issues. Similar to the number of veterinarians opposing the confinement practices discussed above, about four of every five veterinarians find the practices of deficient diets for veal calves and forced molting to be objectionable.

Deficient Veal Calf Diets

PRACTICE:

Feeding veal calves an iron and fiber-deficient diet to produce borderline anemia, which results in pale-colored meat.

Percent of responding veterinarians who find the practice very objectionable, objectionable, very acceptable, or acceptable.



More than four out of five veterinarians (80%) consider feeding veal calves deficient diets to be objectionable (60% very objectionable; 20% objectionable). Similar to the use of battery cages discussed earlier, however, opinions on the issue of veal calf diets appear to be slightly weaker than those related to veal and gestation crates. This is evident from the small number of qualitative responses addressing the issue of veal diets, as well as the question's marginally higher response rate for "don't know / need more information." From the comments, it appears that many of the veterinarians who object to the practice of feeding deficient diets to veal calves seem to hold strong opinions, and as mentioned earlier many have made personal statements that they do not eat veal.

"I have refused to eat veal for the past 25 years in protest of these practices." – Titusville, Florida

"I have not eaten veal for 20 years since I learned how veal calves were raised." – Acton, Massachusetts

"I think production of 'veal' should be eliminated altogether, or be so exorbitantly expensive demand shrinks." – Batesville, Arkansas

Overall, about one in six veterinarians (17%) find the practice of feeding veal calves deficient diets to be acceptable (10% acceptable; 7% very acceptable). Open-ended comments addressing veal calf diets were mixed, but those who found the practice acceptable seemed to be less opinionated than their counterparts who objected to it. Note however that several veterinarians did comment that veal calf diets are naturally low in fiber and iron, suggesting that they believe such diets to be sufficient for veal calves.

"Veal calves are fed a milk diet and starter pellets. Both are adequate in Iron and Vitamin K." – City/state unknown

"Veal diets are controlled very carefully so calves remain vigorous with a good appetite. Clinically anemic calves don't eat or grow well. Veal calves grow much faster than grain and forage fed dairy heifers." – Pennsylvania

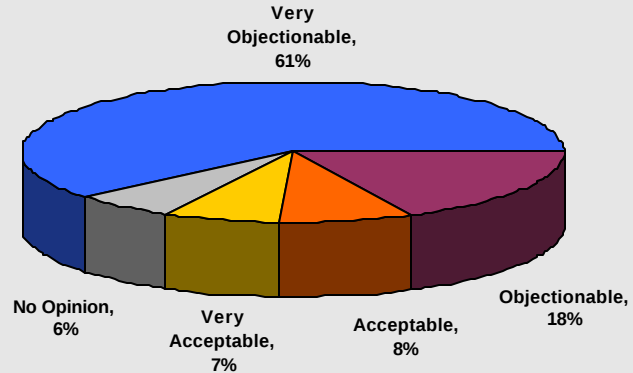
"A diet low in iron and fiber is like the most natural way to raise calves. Milk is very low in iron and fiber." – Arkansas

Forced molting of laying hens

PRACTICE:

Withdrawing food from egg-laying hens for up to 14 days to induce a new egg-laying cycle.

Percent of responding veterinarians who find the practice very objectionable, objectionable, very acceptable, or acceptable.



Demonstrating a strong consistency with opinions about veal calf diets, a large majority of veterinarians (79%) find the practice of withdrawing food from hens to induce new egg-laying cycles to be objectionable (61% very objectionable; 18% objectionable). These numbers are nearly identical to those addressing veal calf tethers and crates, with the exception that twice as many veterinarians chose “no opinion / need more information” for the practice of forced molting. These results imply that veterinarians are more comfortable and certain with their opinions relating to confinement issues and veal diets than they are with forced molting. The lack of clarity among some veterinarians is evident from the comments. One from Minnesota wrote next to the question, “does this really happen?” while another from Montana stated that forced molting is “very objectionable if 24/7, otherwise, need more info.”

Overall, about one in seven veterinarians (15%) find the practice of withdrawing food from hens to induce new egg-laying cycles to be acceptable (8% acceptable; 7% very acceptable). This number is consistent with opinions of the confinement practices under discussion, and slightly lower than veterinarians’ acceptance of deficient veal calf diets. In the qualitative responses, a number of veterinarians simply (and inaccurately) claimed that forced molting is “not done.” Others argued that that it is either preferable to slaughter or natural.

“Regarding chickens -- a hen on a nest of eggs will not eat while they are incubating -- is this different than withdrawing food?” – City/state unknown

“Chickens in the wild go through periods of famine.” – Hampstead, North Carolina

“Forced molting prevents hens from being slaughtered at that time.” – Sturgis, Mississippi

The AVMA does not oppose the practice of forced molting by withdrawing food from egg-laying hens, but the organization does lay out some guidelines for hen welfare in their lengthy position statement on the topic. The association clearly states that “intermittent feeding or diets of low nutrient density are recommended rather than total feed withdrawal” and that “water should not be withdrawn.” The AVMA’s position on the practice of forced molting of egg-laying hens is one of its strongest, but judging from the results of this survey, it does not go far enough to satisfy the beliefs of most veterinarians.

TAIL-DOCKING OF PIGS AND COWS

Two of the survey questions addressed the practice of cutting off all or part of the tails of pigs and cows ("tail-docking") without anesthesia. While a clear majority of veterinarians does object to tail-docking of both cows and pigs (70% average), significantly fewer veterinarians object to tail-docking than to the other farming practices already discussed. Summary results are provided below.

	VERY OBJECTION- ABLE	OBJECTION- ABLE	ACCEPTABLE	VERY ACCEPTABLE	NO OPINION
Pig Tail Docking	47%	18%	13%	10%	10%
Cow Tail Docking	57%	17%	8%	7%	10%

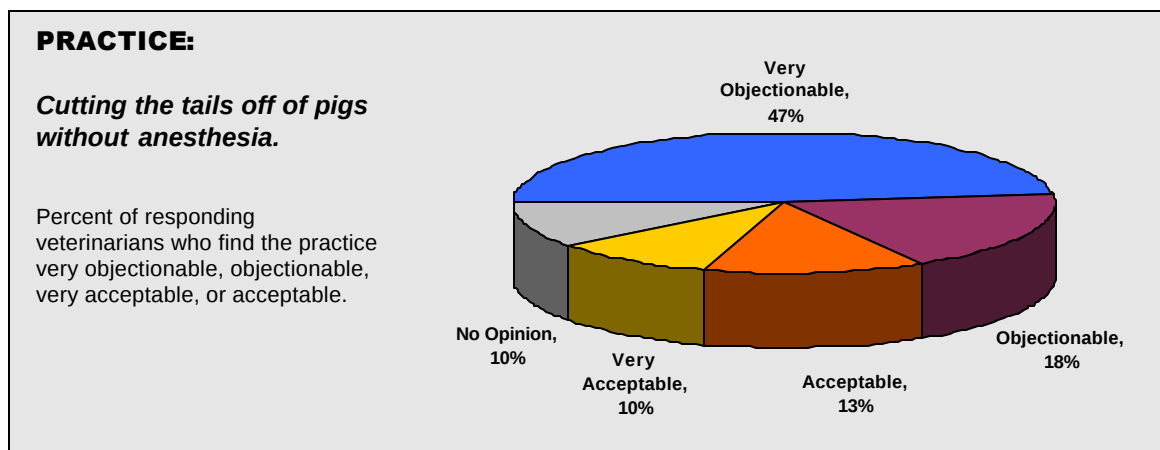
It is evident from these results that veterinarians oppose a broad range of controversial farming practices, including cutting off the tails of cows and pigs without anesthesia. However, veterinarians responding to this survey indicated more acceptance of tail-docking, overall, than both confinement issues and practices involving restricted diets or withheld food. Furthermore, tail-docking issues received the highest incidence of responses for "no opinion / need more information" (about 10% for each question), indicating that veterinarians are either unaware of these practices or may have not made up their minds regarding their acceptability.

"I object to confined pig and layers...but do not object to tail cutting of cows or pigs." – Waverly, Alabama

"I've been a veterinarian for 60 years and haven't run into these practices in this area. Most don't make any sense, especially cutting off tails." – Saukville, Wisconsin

"I thought I was aware of most farm practices, but tail docking pigs and cows is new to me. I have never heard of the practice - what is its purpose?" – Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Pig Tail Docking



Two out of three veterinarians (65%) consider cutting off the tails of pigs without anesthesia to be objectionable (47% very objectionable; 18% objectionable). While this response indicates a fairly strong majority opinion, it should be noted that tail-docking of pigs also received the highest *acceptability* rating of all of the farming practices discussed in the survey. Nearly a fourth (23%) of veterinarians considers pig tail-docking to be acceptable (13% acceptable; 10% very

acceptable). From these results, it is clear that a significant number of veterinarians who find the other controversial farming practices in the survey objectionable believe tail-docking of pigs to be acceptable. The issue elicited many open-ended responses to the survey, including opinions of veterinarians who objected to the practice of tail-docking pigs.

"I would also prefer animals tails to be left alone - research should support or refute this."
– Massachusetts

"The tail docking is objectionable but we must look at what we do to 4-5 day old puppies - we remove tails and declaw without anesthesia at that age. Is this any worse than circumcision to human males? Or is it worse?" – Chesapeake, Virginia

Overall, however, the preponderance of *qualitative* statements addressing the issue of pig tail-docking was supportive of the practice. Veterinarians offered a number of justifications and rationalizations, and many of the responses indicated that acceptability "depends on age" or that tail-docking of pigs is "okay as long as it's done in the first few days." Some veterinarians explained that the practice helps to mitigate cannibalism among pigs as they grow older. Other respondents offered additional thoughts about tail-docking of pigs without anesthesia, and some compared the cutting off of animals' tails to circumcision of human boys.

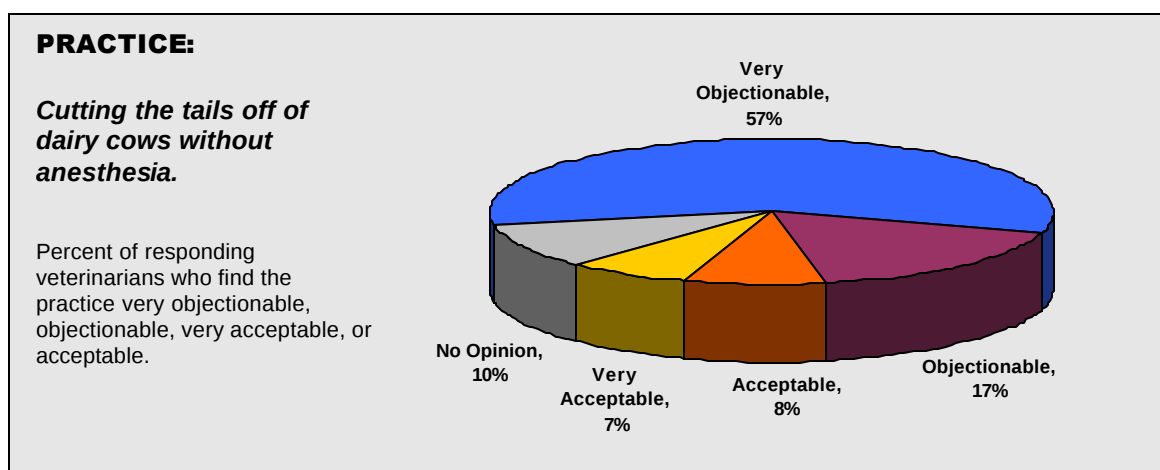
"Tail docking in swine is done at such an early age, it is the equivalent of circumcising that of an infant human. I will leave it to others to debate the ethics of that." Avon, New York

"Tail docking - if done as a neonate is acceptable - no different than circumcision of a child - but at an older age is reprehensible." – Corpus Christi, Texas

"Cutting off pigs tails - done to prevent tail biting among feeder pigs - tail biting leads to cannibalism among pigs." – Hempstead, Texas

"Cutting pig tails (when several days old) doesn't change the pigs apparent discomfort, they keep on nursing. It prevents cannibalism later." – South Dakota

Cow Tail Docking



More veterinarians object to the practice of docking the tails of dairy cows than object to docking the tails of pigs (74% vs. 64%). Similarly, a greater percentage of veterinarians believe that docking pigs' tails is *acceptable* when compared to docking cows' tails (23% vs. 15%).

Consistent with the practice as it relates to pigs, tail-docking of cows also elicited a higher incidence of “no opinion / need more information” responses (10%). There seems to be an overall lack of knowledge or opinion about tail-docking, specifically as it relates to dairy cows.

Regarding cow tail-docking, three out of four veterinarians responding to the survey (74%) object to the practice (57% very objectionable; 17% objectionable). On the other hand, 15% of veterinarians consider cow tail-docking to be acceptable (8% acceptable; 7% very acceptable). The practice of docking cows' tails prompted fewer qualitative comments than pig tail-docking, but many of the same justifications were represented.

“(Docking) tails on calves depends on age and how it's done.” – Oxford, Michigan

“Amputating (cows') tails with elastrators at a very young age is not anything terribly painful.” – Waverly, Alabama

“Studies have shown that docking dairy cows' tails causes NO measurable signs of stress.” – Scotts, Michigan

“The reason for docked tails is so long tails don't lay in feces and proceed to fling feces, by a swishing tail, over other animals and places - including mangers or feed bins. Docked tails provide cleaner animals and therefore a cleaner food source, with less need for antibiotics and other drugs.” – City/state unknown

The significant difference in veterinarians' opinions regarding cutting off the tails of pigs versus cows is reflective of current industry practices. Virtually all commercially raised pigs have their tails cut off without anesthesia at a very young age, a procedure that has been utilized by the industry for many years. By comparison, less than half of the dairy cows in the United States have their tails cut off, and this procedure is a relatively new practice on American dairies. Moreover, the AVMA has adopted a position statement on tail-docking for pigs, stating that “castration, ear notching, and tail docking of piglets are acceptable management practices when performed in a sanitary manner during the first week of life.” The AVMA had not addressed the tail-docking of cattle until just prior to the release of this report when it adopted a position against the practice. This action was taken in the midst of an animal advocacy organization's effort to pass an AVMA resolution against the tail docking of cattle, which would have come up for a vote at the AVMA's annual convention in summer 2004.

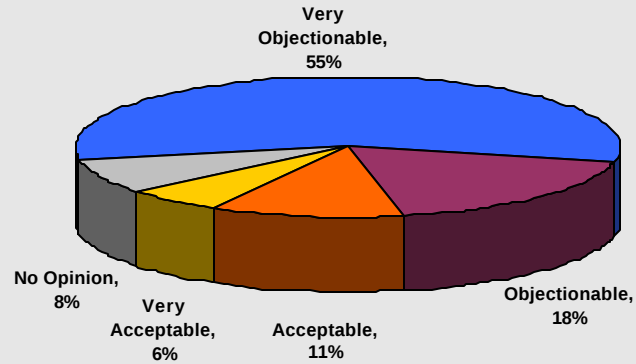
TRANSPORT AND SLAUGHTER OF DOWNED ANIMALS

A single survey question dealt with the issue of marketing, transporting, and slaughtering downed animals for human consumption. A summary chart of veterinarians' opinions is provided below.

PRACTICE:

Marketing, transporting and slaughtering downed animals (i.e., animals too sick to stand) for human food.

Percent of responding veterinarians who find the practice very objectionable, objectionable, very acceptable, or acceptable.



Nearly three out of four veterinarians (73%) found the practice objectionable (55% very objectionable; 18% objectionable). By contrast, 17% of veterinarians find the practices relating to downed animals acceptable (6% very acceptable; 11% acceptable). Similar to results from the tail-docking questions, a large number (8%) of veterinarians said that they have “no opinion” or “need more information.” Once again, this indicates that veterinarians may be less familiar with issues relating to downer cows (and tail-docking) than they are with confinement- and diet-related issues. It is also worth noting that the question regarding downed animals yielded the highest incidence of non-response; 2% of respondents left this question blank.

Qualitative responses to the question of marketing, transporting, and slaughtering downed animals yielded strong responses opposing the practice.

“I find transporting to slaughter a downed animal for any purpose objectionable. They need to be euthanized where they lay.” – Newell, West Virginia

“Transporting, marketing and slaughtering down animals for human food is inhumane and very objectionable.” – Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

“I feel that downer cows are treated inhumanely - dragged, prodded with cattle prods, etc.” – Minden, Louisiana

However, a number of veterinarians also provided comments in support of using downed animals for human food. These responses typically addressed the health concerns with using downed animals, as well as the perceived “wastefulness” of *not* using them for consumption, rather than the humaneness of the practice.

“Certainly downed animals that are truly ill could not be considered edible; animals unable to stand due to skeletal fractures are totally okay to slaughter - hopefully that can occur without transport.” – Pineville, Oregon

“It would be wasteful to not use downer animals when there are so many people to feed. The meat is fine for human consumption.” – Mt. Sterling, Kentucky

“Downed animals - acceptable as long as they go to an inspection slaughter facility.” – Waynesville, North Carolina

“Downed Animals - not all are too sick to stand. Often they have been injured. They may have a displaced hip making them unable to stand. Others have had milk fever and have not responded to treatment. Meat is inspected and if unfit for human consumption then it is not used as such.” – City/state unknown

An important development regarding downed animals in the United States occurred while the survey was being fielded, but after the large majority of survey responses had been received. In December 2003, mad cow disease or BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) was discovered in the United States upon testing of a downed dairy cow slaughtered for human food in Washington State. Subsequent to this discovery, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it would prohibit downed cattle from being slaughtered for human consumption.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

Results from the current study highlight some significant differences of opinion among veterinarians living and working in different regions of the United States. The four primary regions defined by the U.S. Census Bureau include the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast. A high number of survey responses were received from veterinarians in each region; in fact, each region accounts for approximately a fourth of all responses, with slightly more responses in the South (28%) and fewer responses in the West (22%). About 26% of surveys came from veterinarians located in the Midwest, while the remaining 24% were from the Northeast. Sixty of the surveys did not have discernible city or state information from which to determine the survey's origin. A summary geographical table is provided below, including *average* responses by region for all practices and by category.

		OBJECTIONABLE (CATEGORY AVERAGE)	ACCEPTABLE (CATEGORY AVERAGE)
ALL PRACTICES	West	88.5%	10.1%
	Midwest	70.2%	28.4%
	South	79.4%	19.8%
	Northeast	89.6%	9.5%
CONFINEMENT	West	92.0%	7.7%
	Midwest	71.1%	28.5%
	South	81.3%	18.1%
	Northeast	92.7%	6.8%
DIET	West	89.5%	9.2%
	Midwest	73.9%	24.8%
	South	80.7%	18.9%
	Northeast	89.6%	10.2%
TAIL-DOCKING	West	82.7%	14.1%
	Midwest	64.5%	33.6%
	South	76.3%	23.0%
	Northeast	88.0%	10.2%
DOWNED ANIMALS	West	87.7%	11.1%
	Midwest	71.3%	25.2%
	South	77.5%	20.5%
	Northeast	83.3%	14.4%

These results show significant regional differences for each of the categories of farming practices under discussion, including confinement, restrictive feeding practices, tail-docking, and the use of downed animals for human food. Notably, veterinarians living and working in the Northeast and the West demonstrate a much lower tolerance for these controversial farming practices. About nine in

ten veterinarians in both the Northeast (90%) and the West (89%) believe all of the practices discussed are objectionable, with only a small minority saying that the practices are acceptable. By contrast, veterinarians living and working in the Midwest and the South demonstrate a higher tolerance for these practices, although a clear majority still objects to them. About seven in ten veterinarians in the Midwest (70%) and eight in ten veterinarians in the South (79%) find all of the practices objectionable. However, nearly three in ten (28%) veterinarians from the South find all practices acceptable.

On an issue-by-issue basis, the biggest difference of opinion among veterinarians relates to the confinement of farmed animals. While responses from the Midwest and the South for this category were consistent with other types of practices, veterinarians in the Northeast and West feel very strongly that these confinement practices are objectionable. In each case the total “objectionable” response was 92% or more. The practice of tail-docking also yielded significant differences of opinion by region, following a pattern similar to what is observed with confinement issues. A strong majority of veterinarians in all regions find tail-docking objectionable, but again those in the Midwest felt differently, with less than two-thirds (65%) of veterinarians from the region saying they find tail-docking objectionable. A full third (34%) of Midwest veterinarians believe tail-docking is acceptable, the highest regional acceptability rating for any category.

Opinions of diet-related practices and downed animals also differed by region, but less so than the other categories. Veterinarians from the Northeast and the West strongly object to the practices involving restrictive diets for veal calves and egg-laying hens, with nearly 90% of respondents in each region saying they object. Veterinarians in the West have the strongest objection to marketing, transporting, and slaughtering downed animals for human food, with 88% of veterinarians in the region objecting to the practice. 83% veterinarians in the Northeast object to the practice. Consistent with the overall findings, veterinarians in the Midwest and the South demonstrate significantly more acceptance of both diet restriction practices and the use of downed animals for human food. In all cases, however, at least two thirds of veterinarians in every region object to the practices mentioned.

VETERINARIANS’ OBJECTIONS TO OTHER PRACTICES AND THE AVMA

A number of veterinarians offered unsolicited feedback about factory farming in general, with some even expressing their personal decision to not consume meat products. One veterinarian from East Marion, New York wrote that “both as a veterinarian and as a vegetarian I am strongly opposed to the factory farming practiced in this country.” Another from West Virginia wrote that “after being a vet in farm animal medicine for almost 20 years – I cannot eat meat – the care of these animals is without conscience.” In total, a large number of qualitative statements criticized the factory farming industry and its practices. When combined with the quantitative results, it is clear that veterinarians in the country object to many controversial, but currently practiced animal farming methods.

Many of the open-ended comments provided in response to the survey included farming practices that veterinarians find objectionable, but that were unsolicited by the survey itself. These additional, unaided issues include a wide range of current farming practices involving animals of all types. The following represent the farming practices most frequently mentioned and objected to by veterinarians, not including the eight practices addressed by the survey.

Castration and Dehorning of Cows

The issue most frequently raised by veterinarians in the open-ended comments involved protesting the castration and dehorning of calves and cattle without anesthesia. A sample of comments related to castration and dehorning is provided below.

“Castrating and dehorning cattle without anesthesia is also very objectionable.” – Rockland, Maine

“How about castration without anesthesia!” – Buffalo, New York

“Don't forget that many castrations and dehornings are also done without any form of anesthesia.” – Annapolis, Maryland

“Dehorning calves without anesthesia is objectionable.” – North Barrington, Illinois

“As a former practicing large animal vet, I felt great horror over the practice of dehorning and castrating calves without anesthesia.” – Denver, Colorado

Cattle Feedlots

Feedlots are another general farming practice that veterinarians appear to object to in large numbers. More than a half-dozen qualitative comments criticized feedlots, calling them “offensive” and “inhumane.” Additional comments are provided below.

“Feedlots are inhumane and produce beef that endangers people's health.” – Telluride, Colorado

“I think the feedlot industry is being overlooked. Inhumane treatment is a routine daily act in meat feedlot operations.” – Great Bend, Kansas

“Confining cattle in feedlots deep in manure and mud without access to cleaner environment is not humane.” – Harrisonville, Missouri

Other Issues

Veterinarians responding to the survey also raised a number of other issues they found to be objectionable, most notably kosher slaughter, horse slaughter and hormone production, and the conditions of farmed animals during transport or shipping. A sample of comments relating to these issues is provided below.

“How about kosher kill? How would you like to be hanged by one leg and someone cut your face?” – Columbia, SC

“Also humane slaughter - especially kosher slaughter - how to make it more humane?” – Scottsdale, Arizona

“In veterinary school, I saw a video about poultry production. It showed 1-day-old chicks being ground up in an auger because they were not needed for egg production. That was a very powerful video.” – Yorba Linda, CA

“Humane slaughter of horses. (I would prefer is no horses ended up in slaughter houses!)” – Charlotte, Michigan

“The level of confinement that the horses whose urine is collected for PMSG is very objectionable.” – Westerville, Ohio

“Debeaking laying hens is also a cruel practice and is done only to promote efficiency in over crowding.” — Fernley, NV

“Overcrowding of fowl and cattle during shipping, with ensuing disease in many cases, is very objectionable.” – Arlington, Virginia

“I am concerned about the way chickens and turkeys are hauled from the farm to the slaughter plant - stacked on piles on open trucks - no ventilation in summer and in winter the outside ones are frozen plus some fall off trucks!” – Timberville, Virginia

“How about breaking the snouts of boars prior to shipping to slaughter? How about spaying heifers, standing in chutes with only L block anesthesia and then releasing... minimal antiseptic. All very objectionable.” — Oak Park, IL

Comments about the AVMA

Although the survey did not explicitly ask for veterinarians' opinions about the AVMA, a number of open-ended comments made reference to the organization. One or two comments were offered in support of the AVMA and its positions, but the majority centered around disagreement with or criticism of the AVMA for its stance on animal welfare issues.

“I find these practices to be abhorrent. The AVMA should step up to the plate and condemn and work to ban them.” – Granite Bay, California

“You have my full support in battling these issues and the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association). Although I belong to the AVMA, I don't agree with their stance on these issues.” – Carbondale, Illinois

“I am a vegetarian veterinarian and I am disgusted with the AVMA's weakness in failing to implement policies to alleviate farm animal suffering.” – Rochester, New Hampshire

“I have been very disappointed with the AVMA over the years. They consistently back inhumane practices because it is good for the agricultural/farming industries instead of looking out for the best interest of animals!” – East Northport, New York

PUTTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE ON THE CONSUMER

A significant number of veterinarians replying to the open-ended comment section of the survey indicated that, although they object to some of the farming practices being considered, the blame for current conditions and the welfare of farmed animals falls on the consumer. Other veterinarians offered similar, but weaker arguments that consumers need to be educated in order to help end or mitigate the use of these practices.

“The consumer is part of the problem wanting low cost and high volume food without thinking of the origin of the products.” – Florida

“The American consumer wants to eat eggs, chickens, pork, veal, and other products of confined livestock. And they want it cheap.” – David City, Nebraska

“All of the above practices are objectionable but unfortunately due to consumer demand of low cost food as well as maintaining large output of affordable meat/eggs in a cooperative market.” – Hawaii

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Results from the current study clearly demonstrate that veterinarians in the United States care a great deal about farmed animal welfare. In addition to general comments underscoring the need for improved welfare of farmed animals, veterinarians object to many of the farming practices commonly used by the animal agriculture industry. The continued usage of these controversial farming practices – and the endorsement of those practices by organizations such as the AVMA – appears to be a growing concern with both veterinarians and the general public.

⇒ **A majority of veterinarians believe many common animal farming practices are very objectionable or objectionable.**

A strong majority of respondents believe the common animal farming practices addressed in the survey to be either very objectionable or objectionable. Four out of five veterinarians responding to the survey object to all of the practices relating to confinement (veal crates, gestation crates, battery cages) and reduced or withheld diets (deficient veal calf diets, forced molting of hens). Three out of four veterinarians object to tail-docking of cows and the use of downed cattle for human food. Two-thirds of veterinarians object to tail-docking of pigs.

⇒ **Veterinarians' objections include farming practices endorsed or supported by the AVMA.**

Despite the evidence that veterinarians overwhelmingly object to these common farming practices, the AVMA continues to explicitly endorse or tacitly support nearly all of the practices addressed in the survey. The AVMA, the primary organization representing the U.S. veterinary community, has adopted position statements on a wide range of issues relating to farmed animals. The AVMA's positions include endorsements of gestation crates for pregnant sows, battery cages for hens, tail-docking of pigs, and "induced" molting of egg-laying hens. The organization also outlines positions that allow the use of tethers and crates for veal calves, as well as the practice of feeding calves diets deficient in iron and fiber. The AVMA's positions do not directly address the use of downed animals for human food, and the AVMA did not have an official position about the tail docking of cattle until just prior to the release of this report in April 2004 when the AVMA adopted a position statement against the practice.

⇒ **There is a strong disconnect between the opinions of veterinarians regarding common animal farming practices and positions taken by the AVMA.**

The AVMA claims to represent more than 69,000 members of the U.S. veterinary community. However, while a strong majority of veterinarians clearly object to many common animal farming practices, the AVMA has persistently adopted positions on those practices that represent the interests of the animal farming industry rather than the interests of the animals themselves. Results from the current study strongly suggest that the AVMA is not effectively representing the views of its members or the veterinary community. The AVMA would be well-advised to revisit its positions on various farming practices and address the concerns of veterinarians and the general public. Unlike other AVMA position statements, the recent adoption of a policy against tail docking cattle is consistent with the opinions of most veterinarians.

V. APPENDICES

SELECT VERBATIM COMMENTS

The following represent selected verbatim comments not appearing in the body of the report that are illustrative of veterinarians' opinions. Comments reflect only those that address general issues and not those relating to specific farming practices. For qualitative responses to those practices, please refer to the "Discussion of Results" section in the report.

Factory Farming

"I am currently employed by USDA-APHIS animal care. Current factory farming standards in the U.S. are barbaric. More veterinarians need to take a stand against the current status quo in these industry settings." – South Dakota

"I have always been opposed to 'factory farming' and have become a vegetarian as a result." – Georgia

"I believe things need to be improved for farm animals (I no longer practice large Animal medicine in large part because of this)." – Walterboro, SC

"I was a large animal practitioner for many years and still love working with dairy cattle. However, American Farming practices helped me make the decision to leave practice 10 years ago. I am in a quandary over how America is supposed to produce enough food and not factory farm - I do not have good answers. However, I also do not think food demand should drive and/or dictate factory farming activities. The mega-corporations who control most of US food production need to take an active interest or be attacked for their treatment of farmers and farm animals." – North Aurora, IL

"'Farm animal welfare' is an oxymoron in this country--it should be called 'farm animal poorfare'." – Durham, North Carolina

"Having graduated from Veterinary College in 1952 when none of the above practices were being used, I find it very difficult to believe that animal husbandry has regressed to such a low state of care. The greed of commercial farm owners is the only reason it could have happened." – Sarbis, Ohio

Opinions about the AVMA and the Veterinary Profession

"We as veterinarians should be in the forefront leading the crusade against animal cruelty in any form – including factory farming... there should be veterinarians joining/leading the discussion against factory farming and of course the AVMA should be supportive. Unfortunately this has not been the case in the past. I no longer work with food animal species." – Philadelphia, PA

"I struggled 20 years ago in veterinary school over some of these issues. I believe our mission as veterinarians is to relieve pain and suffering." – Pompano Beach, Florida

"I would like to assist in bringing about legislation and AVMA support to ban these abusive practices. The Florida ballot measure was encouraging." – Fernley, Nevada

"Sometimes I'm ashamed of my profession." – Logan, WV

"My old profession (veterinary) buys into this behavior because it's about "production Units" not animal existence. If you stand up against such "past practices" you're less-of-a-vet, or incompetent or a rabble-rouser..." – Oak Park, Illinois

Opinions about Animal Advocates

"Too many 'animal rights extremists' spoil the progression toward more humane practices - they cause mainstream people to write off all animal welfare people as a bunch of 'wacko's' i.e. PETA is considered wacko for many of their ideas in rural America - e.g. cutting fences etc. to free animals, to get run over on highways. How smart?" – Minnesota

"I believe strongly in responsible and humane treatment of all animals including those raised for agricultural purposes. I do not however support the radical premises and practices of such animal rights groups as PETA." – Medfield, Massachusetts

Consumer Responsibility

"I am concerned that our society is driving farmers to these practices. We are very demanding and don't want to pay the increase cost for the meat and eggs that eliminating these practices would probably cause. Farmers work very hard and get little back for their efforts." – Grants Pass, Oregon

"I do feel badly for these mistreated animals but I feel helpless when I look at consumer demand that forces these practices." – Washburn, Missouri

"You are wrong to tilt all the shame and guilt onto the poor farmer and veterinarian. It is us the USA consumers who are in the wrong and in the dark and responsible for this. Someone has to teach us to be more compassionate consumers." – City/state unknown

"These are practices dictated by economics and consumer demand. Educate the consumer to demand and pay more for product produced in better conditions and the problem as you see it will go away, until then these are healthy animals and they are managed humanely." – Stockton, Illinois

"All of these practices are inhumane - I'm glad to see people getting involved. Possibly if consumers were more aware they could help apply pressure to get these practices changed." – City/state unknown

Confinement Practices

"These confinement practices necessitate feeding high levels of antibiotics to these animals. This leads to the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria, many of which can infect man & animal. The confinement practices are all about money!" – Balsam Lake, Wisconsin

"No animal should be confined in any manner that a human would find objectionable to submit to!" – St. Michaels, Maryland

"I am against confinement practices and confinement farming." – Pembroke, Massachusetts

Veterinarian Form

As a veterinarian, I believe farm animals should be treated humanely. Please send me additional information.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Optional survey:

Do you feel the following practices are very objectionable, objectionable, acceptable, very acceptable, or do you have no opinion or require more information before commenting? (Please underline or circle the response that best fits your opinion):

Confining and tethering calves by the neck in veal crates for their entire lives.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Feeding veal calves an iron and fiber-deficient diet to produce borderline anemia, which results in pale-colored meat.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Confining sows in two-foot wide gestation crates for most of their lives.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Confining egg-laying hens in battery cages where each bird is given about half a square-foot of space.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Withdrawing food from egg-laying hens for up to 14 days to induce a new egg-laying cycle.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Marketing, transporting and slaughtering downed animals (i.e., animals too sick to stand) for human food.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Cutting the tails off of dairy cows without anesthesia.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Cutting the tails off of pigs without anesthesia.

very objectionable objectionable acceptable very acceptable no opinion/need more information

Please let us know if you have particular interests, comments or concerns about farm animal welfare (feel free to write on back of page if more space is needed):



This report was produced by Farm Sanctuary with
the generous support of the Animal Welfare Trust.