

Pig tales... : not fairy stories but the truth about modern pig farming ... help us end factory farming - before it ends us / Juliet Gellatley.

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Pig Tales...

Not fairy stories but the truth
about modern pig farming

Few people have seen inside a pig farm – but we have. That's why we're campaigning to close them down. We filmed what we saw and it's available on video.

Newspapers have called it a horror video – and they're right.

Help us end factory farming – before it ends us

Dear Friend

Factory farming! It's a term in constant use but cloaked in secrecy. The meat industry is careful never to show pictures or throw open the doors for public viewing. It masks the reality with misleading claims about high welfare standards. **Viva!**, the campaigning animal group, which won the first *Daily Mirror* Linda McCartney Award for Animal Welfare, can now reveal the truth. We've filmed inside 18 intensive farms and are sickened by our discoveries.

"Rotting pig carcasses had been left with live pigs. Pieces of raw meat were left lying about the farm. The sows gave birth among other pigs and grown pigs were eating piglets."

These are not **Viva!**'s words but those of vets describing Burnside Farm, thought to be responsible for the foot and mouth outbreak in Britain. It could have been any one of several farms in our investigation. Just one month before the disease was diagnosed, Burnside Farm was given a clean bill of health by government inspectors. All the farms where we filmed were also approved.



Still trapped! Stalls and tethers have been banned but sows are still held captive in cruel farrowing crates for up to a month at a time. Help **Viva!** get them banned

Viva!
CAMPAIGNS

12 Queen Square, Brighton BN1 3FD. Tel: 01273 777688



These pigs had been left for at least six days in the back of an open trailer



Severe overcrowding – overstocked by 50%



Sores left untreated causing agony for this animal



Crates in intensive units stop the mothers from reaching their piglets



"I am strongly opposed to the factory farming of pigs and wholeheartedly support Viva! in its campaign to bring this to an end."
Sir Paul McCartney



Ruptured stomachs are a common sight in factory farms

Over 95 per cent of Britain's meat pigs are reared in these intensive units. And so are two-thirds of sows – female breeding pigs. Let me describe just one farm.

It looked derelict, with junk and debris surrounding an array of grimy, windowless sheds. An overpowering stench of ammonia and faeces overwhelmed me as I entered the first shed. A *Viva!* colleague with me was overcome with asthma and had to leave. The pigs have no such option.

A cacophony of noise swelled in the darkness. The camera lights revealed baby pigs in barren metal pens and the noise was their feet on the bare metal floors as they scrambled away from us in fear. There was no place to hide.

These barren, sterile conditions are their home for over a month – about one-fifth of their lives. I could see one piglet with a broken leg, others stunted and suffering from fatal scabs and skin lesions. Some were lame, others deformed.

To stop pigs savaging each other because of the inevitable aggression in these unnatural conditions, their teeth and tails are removed – painfully, without anaesthetic.

Outside, I looked inside a rusting agricultural trailer and what I saw typified the general attitude – a pile of rotting corpses, discoloured and bloated from days of decay, half submerged in putrid rainwater.

Life for breeding sows is no better than for meat pigs. The majority also spend their 16½ week pregnancy in concrete pens, being moved to metal-barred farrowing crates to give birth. Here, they can just about stand up and lie down but can never turn around. If free, they would move about restlessly, walking miles in search of leaves and grasses with which to build a huge nest. Denied the ability to fulfil these powerful instincts, the result can be mental collapse – sows repeatedly attempt to build a nest on the bare, metal floor with imaginary materials.

The following description is of mother pig on a Cornish farm.

The dimly-lit farrowing shed, with its rows of captive sows, is filthy – its ceiling festooned with generations of cobwebs. One sow is lying on concrete, trapped between the bars, and breathing heavily. She is full term and about to deliver. Her rear end and the floor around it is thickly covered in excreta. She is helpless and has no option but to deliver her piglets into this filth.

In the crate next to her, a pig has already given birth. She is covered in flies and the blood pouring from her vagina has flooded the gangway. The shed is littered with dead and decaying piglets and congealed afterbirths amidst the new lives.

We find the source of the fly infestation – a large bin filled with dead piglets beneath a sea of writhing maggots. The result of our complaints to the authorities is 'confidential', they said.

It is hard for us to imagine the effects of this imprisonment on pigs – *"Among the most intelligent animals on Earth"*, according to Stanley Curtis, Professor of Animal Sciences at Pennsylvania



"Call ourselves a nation of animal lovers? What a joke! The hypocrisy over the treatment of pigs was highlighted over the blockbuster film, Babe. Heartwarming, tear-jerking stuff? Then don't eat a 'babe' again! From birth to death, in their short lives they suffer, so support Viva!'s Pig in Hell campaign."
Wendy Turner-Webster,
TV presenter, Pet Rescue

State University. They are sensitive, emotional and bright, with long memories. They can be taught to perform tricks quicker than dogs and can even play complex video games.

Five months old and a junky...

Although these stinking units don't create foot and mouth disease, they provide the perfect conditions for its spread.

Pigs killed for ham, bacon and pork live only five or six months but it takes a battery of drugs to keep them alive and force fast growth. From birth until death they are given powerful antibiotics – drugs which create superbugs that can kill us – in a desperate attempt to control a gamut of diseases. Meningitis, pneumonia, dysentery, wasting syndrome, *E.coli* and severe diarrhoea are just a handful of the diseases running rife in factory farms.

This is the reality of modern farming and all the crocodile tears in the world about foot and mouth cannot alter it. The only thing that can is public pressure. Our video footage has been sent around the world by CNN International, reported in newspapers across Europe and has gained us a platform on British TV and radio. But this is only the beginning.

Our 74-page report needs to be distribute widely. We need to produce millions of campaign leaflets, organise events and photocalls all over Britain and distribute our *Pig in Hell* video to more media, politicians and the public. We want to distribute posters, continue our monitoring of farms and produce more footage.

If you want to help us end the factory farming of pigs, send a donation to *Viva!* today. We will make real use of it for the animals – up to eight million of which are enduring these awful conditions right now. Please be as generous as you can and strike a blow for compassion and humanity.

Thank you for helping.

Yours for the animals

Juliet Gellatley
Founder & Director, *Viva!*



Drugs strewn around the squalor of a Cornish farm

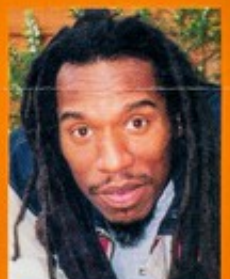


Ill piglets – denied even straw



Her face says it all. Breeding sow in filthy concrete cell at a pig unit in Cornwall

"When I see the way pigs are treated on farms, I am horrified. No wonder people have to go undercover to show us what is really happening. It is shameful. I'm with Viva! all the way."
Benjamin Zephaniah,
poet and musician



A paralysed pig in cramped, squalid conditions



Piglets rotting in a sea of maggots



A sick and dejected pig



Mother sow in crate – covered in flies and bleeding badly



Yes! I want to help end the factory farming of pigs

Title: First Name:

Surname:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Free Don't Mess with the Animals car sticker when you donate!

I enclose a donation of: £10 £15 £20 £30
£50 £100 £250 other £

(please make cheque/PO payable to Viva! Campaigns)

OR please debit my Visa/MasterCard/Switch/Delta card no. (delete as appropriate)

Expires: Switch Issue no:

Cardholder's Signature:

Donate by phone on 01273 777688

Standing Order

You can also give by regular standing order. Giving just a small amount each month has a great impact on Viva!'s work. For example, a £3 or £5 monthly donation enables us to plan ahead how best to save animals.

I wish to give Viva! a monthly gift of: £3 £5 £10 Other amount £.....

Your bank's name
and address
(inc. postcode)

Bank Instructions: Please pay the above amount on the same day every month starting on until further notice.

Bank Sort Code (six digit number at the top right of your cheque)

Account Holder's Name

Account Number

Signature

Bank: please quote the following reference: (Viva! use only)

Date

Please tick here if you would prefer not to have your details passed on to like-minded organisations

To the Co-operative Bank
(08-92-99) for the credit of Viva!
Campaigns Ltd account 65052996.

"Most people – are unaware of how factory farmed pigs are treated. I believe when they are shown the truth, they will find it as abhorrent as I do. Thank goodness for Viva!"



Twigg Lawson, actress and model



"Pigs are intelligent animals and nothing can excuse the way they are treated. I'm 100 per cent behind Viva!"

Pam Ferris, actress, Where the Heart Is, Matilda, Darling Buds of May

"The systematic brutality to animals has to be challenged. I congratulate Viva! on their work."



Rt. Hon. Tony Benn MP



"Eating pork is obviously fatal – for the pigs – need it be torture as well?"

Joanna Lumley, actress

"The meat business is one of unprecedented brutality, where the compassion and health considerations are abandoned in favour of greed and profit.



And I should know – my family built their fortunes on it. I am now vegetarian."

Julia Stephenson, author and heiress to the Dewhurst Butcher chain

Please return this entire side (so that your name and address is included) to:

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Viva!

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