



Foie Gras: Cruel to Ducks and Geese



Foie gras—or “fatty liver”—is made from the grotesquely enlarged livers of ducks and geese. Workers shove long inflexible pipes down the ducks’ throats and pump up to 4 pounds of food per day into their stomachs, the equivalent of about 16 pounds of spaghetti in a human being. The forced birds actually become too sick to walk because of a serious liver disease called hepatic lipidosis. (Many health-conscious people refuse to eat foie gras because the liver filters toxins, acting like the body’s sewage treatment plant.)

Force-fed to death

Barrels overflow with ducks who died from force-feeding.

Ducks' necks are sometimes punctured by the feeding pipe.



At a farm that PETA investigated in New York's Hudson Valley, so many ducks died when their organs ruptured from overfeeding that workers who killed fewer

than 50 birds per month were given a bonus. In addition to ruptured stomachs and liver disease, many ducks develop foot infections, kidney necrosis, spleen and kidney damage, bruised and broken bills, and tumor-like lumps in their throats. One duck had a maggot-infested neck wound so severe that water spilled out of it when he drank.

Only male ducks are used for foie gras because they produce larger livers. Female hatchlings are drowned, beaten, or crushed to death.

Foie gras farms are so cruel that they have been banned in the U.K., Switzerland, and Poland. Many restaurants refuse to serve foie gras, including the San Francisco Hilton, Chicago's Pump Room, and San Antonio's La Louisiane. United Airlines, Delta, Holland's KLM, and Scandinavia's SAS have removed foie gras from their in-flight menus.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Never buy pâté de foie gras. Urge restaurant owners, gourmet food shops, and caterers to halt sales and sell vegetarian pâté (such as Bonavita) instead.
- For more information on PETA's undercover investigation of a foie gras farm, contact PETA.
- For our free "Vegetarian Starter Kit," call **1-888-VEG-FOOD**.

"This type of treatment and farming of waterfowl is outside the acceptable norms of agriculture and sane treatment of animals."

—Ward Stone, associate wildlife pathologist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
501 FRONT ST., NORFOLK, VA 23510 • 757-622-PETA
PETA.org