

Hillside Investigations Report...



SUNDAY
Mirror
PEOPLE

FOUL DEAL: Tesco Chickens - Behind the Scenes



TESCO are so proud of their supplier, that they've plastered his picture on posters and put them up in their stores with the slogan, 'Graham Pardon, Norfolk, supplying fresh chicken to Tesco'.



TWO years ago we revealed that the nation's largest chicken producer, Grampian Country Chickens, were rearing birds in squalor, despite boasting they are 'resolutely committed to the highest standards of bird welfare.'



We filmed over 22,000 birds crammed in each shed

We exposed the scandal in conjunction with the Mirror newspaper who ran a full page detailing the suffering of birds on the farm: live, deformed and injured birds were being forced to exist among dying chickens and the decaying bodies of dead birds. Immediately, the supermarkets that Grampian supplies - Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda - claimed they were shocked at our findings



Mutilated - Live chickens are driven over by machines in the catching process

and were going to launch an immediate 'investigation'. But, in September 2002, a Hillside investigation into one of Grampian's other farms in Pulham St Mary, Norfolk, has revealed that NOTHING HAS CHANGED!!



Outside - Piles of maggot-infested decomposing chickens

As a result of our recent investigation, the Sunday Mirror and Sunday People have again printed our findings. At this Grampian farm, which supplies the UK's biggest supermarket chain, Tesco, we secretly filmed appalling conditions. Outside, our horrified investigators found piles of stinking, maggot-infested carcasses. While inside, 22,000 chickens were cramped in each dismal, dimly lit shed. Here they filmed injured and distressed birds, many crippled with severely deformed legs, using their wings to drag their bodies to food and water troughs. These painful deformities are due to the fact that the birds have been genetically selected to grow up to *three times their natural size in just six weeks!* Without properly developed bone structure their legs struggle to support the weight of their over-sized bodies.

All this paints a disturbing picture of cruelty and neglect at Mr Pardon's farm, which produces thousands of chickens each week for Tesco and other supermarkets. Ironically, on the walls of Mr Pardon's farm were various certificates detailing his animal welfare credentials. He also displayed the RSPCA's Freedom Food guidelines, which are: Freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from fear and distress. Our investigators have proof that this was far from the case! However, Tesco are so proud of their supplier, that they've plastered his picture on posters and put them up in their stores with the slogan, 'Graham Pardon, Norfolk, supplying fresh chicken to Tesco'.



The cruel end - Chickens with severe deformities go on to be shackled upside down by painful legs to await slaughter



Inside - Live chickens forced to live among piles of dead birds

But, behind Pardon's friendly smile on these glossy posters, there is a completely different picture. The general public who sit down every week to tuck into their Tesco chicken, would be horrified to see the life of misery and neglect the animals suffered before ending up on their plates. Once again, Tesco have launched an 'investigation' - we wonder what the outcome will be *this time!*

**Please may we ask you to write to Tesco at:
Tesco House, Delamere Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL
...and ask how they can be party to such suffering in the name of profit?**

N.B. The pictures on our investigation pages have been taken from video footage and therefore may not be of the best quality.

Undercover Investigation Video
A video giving an insight into Hillside's undercover investigations is now available **FREE** of charge
Please be aware that the film contains scenes of extreme suffering.
Please order via our website



If you would like to donate towards our **Animal Investigation Appeal** please complete the form on the donation page of our website