

MEAT

ANIMALS ARE NOT COMMODITIES, NOT FOOD, AND NOT „LIVESTOCK.“

REASONS AND CAUSES

Many people believe that humans have „always“ eaten meat. And since that’s supposedly always been the case, it must be „natural.“ This argument is both incorrect and misleading. Historically, people have consumed much less meat — and significantly more plant-based food — than they do today. Eating meat used to be a rare exception for most people, but even if it always had been common: being “natural” is not a valid justification. What counts are ethical standards, not tradition.

THE PRICE OF MEAT

For meat to be sold so cheaply today, and for meat products to be constantly available in large quantities in supermarkets, factory farming is indispensable to the industry. It is only under such industrialized, profit-oriented conditions that animal products — sausages, salami, schnitzel, and cheese — can be produced cheaply and in large quantities. All under the label of “efficiency.” This means: minimal space per animal, as fast and high weight gain as possible, high growth performance, feed conversion ratio, and slaughter yield. Animals are bred and genetically manipulated to serve human consumption desires. These animals, the environment and workers in the global south pay a heavy price for it. They suffer under this exploitative system, only to increase the profit of large corporations. The consequences are cruel: pigs and chickens are kept in dark, overcrowded halls; male chicks are shredded or gassed; cows are forcibly inseminated and then their calves are taken away from them; ducks are kept in stalls, although they are waterfowl. Their suffering is immense — and completely unnecessary.

CONSEQUENCES FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to massive animal suffering, industrial meat production causes serious harm to people and the environment. Huge amounts of grain, soy, and corn are needed to feed the animals. Rainforests are cleared to make room for the cultivation of these feed crops. In countries in the Global South, people are displaced from their land so that feed for animals in the Global North can be grown. Slurry from animal husbandry pollutes air, soil, and groundwater. The working conditions in slaughterhouses are catastrophic. Many people are sickened by the consumption of animal products. And zoonotic diseases — such as bird flu, swine flu, and the coronavirus — originate primarily from the keeping and killing of animals. The climate crisis is also significantly driven by animal husbandry. The conclusion is clear: our diet must change!

ORGANIC MAKES NO DIFFERENCE ...

... for the animals. Organic is often touted as “the solution.” But “organic” only regulates the way animals are exploited — not whether it happens at all. “Organic” also means: forced breeding, fattening, separation from their mothers, transport, and slaughter. The conditions are only slightly better than in factory farms. For the animals, the situation remains unbearable. “Species-appropriate” is a euphemism for imprisonment, mutilation, and killing. And this applies to all animals, not just farmed animals. Fish also suffer: in aquaculture and when caught. They are pulled out of the water and suffocate or are gutted alive. The life of a fish, a cow, or a pig is just as valuable as that of a dog or cat. There is no justification for killing any of them. Our eating habits must change — towards a plant-based lifestyle where animals are not exploited and killed. Because every life matters.

MEAT IS NOT FOOD

Animals are turned into “products” because their bodies and functions can be exploited for human interests. This means: they are bred and born, raised, held captive, and ultimately killed — not to satisfy a need, but a desire. Even today, people in industrialized countries can live healthily without eating animals.

Animal products are not necessary for a healthy diet — on the contrary, their consumption often leads to lifestyle diseases. Meat contains high amounts of cholesterol, saturated fats, uric acid, and hormones. All animal products are associated with cruelty and suffering — from egg production to milk.

The meat industry is exploitative and violent, and only exists because animals are legally regarded as things and property, and their interests and needs are ignored. They are mutilated without anesthesia, imprisoned, forcibly impregnated, and ultimately slaughtered. Their bodies are dismembered, packaged, and sold as „products“. All of this happens for taste, habit, tradition — and profit.

Meat is violence, exploitation, oppression, and death. In every form. For every animal. Every time.

THE ALTERNATIVES

There are plenty of alternatives to animal-based nutrition today: from plant-based milk and sausage products to ready-made meals and recipe ideas. These are often available in organic shops, health food stores, and increasingly in conventional supermarkets. The range is constantly growing and getting better.

A balanced plant-based diet is not only possible, it is also healthy and sustainable. No one has to live at the expense of others.

Everyone has a choice — every day. By eating vegan food, we avoid violence, protect the environment and the climate, and promote justice. For the animals, for the earth, and for all humans.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Learn more about veganism vs. animal husbandry and exploitation. Talk to others about it — many people know little or nothing about these issues. Maybe you're the first person to make them aware of it.

Get active for animal rights. The association die tierbefreier*innen e.V. works against all forms of animal exploitation — in public relations, education, political work, and direct animal liberation. The goal: animal liberation and the end of all domination.



www.animal-liberators-frankfurt.de

