



17th November 2020

Public Statement Regarding Animal Aid's Recent Investigation at Fridays Ltd. Combwell Farm

Animal Aid have recently released details of their investigation of conditions at Combwell free-range egg farm near Goudhurst. This farm is owned by Fridays Ltd. and produces around a million eggs per week. Following the release of the shocking footage, a number of allegations have been made against Animal Aid by Fridays Ltd., and published on the Kent Online website. This statement should clarify the facts around this investigation, and refute those false allegations.

Allegations of how Animal Aid accessed the farm

- While Animal Aid investigators obtain access to sites such as this covertly, they do not enter by force or cause any damage to property while entering sites. We also seek to ensure that no additional stress is caused to the animals at locations visited.

Allegations of breach of biosecurity measures, and potentially exposing hens to avian influenza

- This Animal Aid investigation occurred on the 1st and 2nd of November 2020, outside of any restricted zones and prior to the increased official risk level for avian influenza incursion on 6th November. Animal Aid policy is to suspend any visits to sites with susceptible animals during times of disease outbreak.
- Animal Aid investigators employ strict biosecurity measures during all investigations, defined in consultation with a senior trading standards officer.
This includes:
 - Showering before and after visits to each premises
 - Wearing unused protective overalls, unused boot covers and unused gloves when visiting each premises
 - Cleaning down equipment before and after visiting each premises
 - Disinfecting boots before and after visiting each premises
- Animal Aid investigators will never knowingly put any of the animals at further risk in the carrying out of an investigation.

We feel that the clear and present danger to biosecurity was the farm leaving dead and decomposing birds inside and outside their farm buildings. It is vital that the public are able to see for themselves the reality for animals in systems used to produce animal products. Animal Aid will continue to expose this suffering in a responsible and conscientious manner.

For more information, please contact Animal Aid here:
<https://www.animalaid.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>