



Rescue report of Anna



Anna was rescued from the Crystal Farms facility on June 24th, 2000. She had suffered a broken leg and could not move from a sitting position on the floor of her cage. The following testimony was written by Sarah, a member of the rescue team.

When I found Anna, she was sitting silently on the **bare**¹ **wire**² floor of her cage. She did not move even though the other chickens were stepping all over her, their nails raking against her skin. Anna was so small and quiet, hardly there at all. I knew she had been unable to reach food or water for many days. I felt I simply could not leave her there to **starve**³ to death, to become another of the desiccated corpses we find so many of each investigation, rotten bodies imbedded into the wire and trapped there even after the pain and misery that has been their lives is over.

When I lifted Anna out of the cage, I was heartbroken by how light she was. She weighed just over two pounds. She was a full-grown **hen**⁴, but the sickness and deterioration of her body made her feel like a small bird, like a pigeon, as I gently held her in my arms. We were rescuing another hen that night, Catherine, and we left once she was removed from the cage. I carried Anna out of the **shed**⁵ and began to cross the dark and quiet cornfields that surround the factory. It is strange because the night time is so peaceful there, outside ; the stars are visible and the sound of wind against the topography of vast crop fields is almost oceanic. You step out of a horrible place that is all about money and **greed**⁶ and exploitation, and the eternal world is there telling you that every life form upon its surface has the right to a peaceful existence. Warm clouds were moving across the night sky. I held Anna against me and stepped into the pasture.

It was a long walk back to the road where the car was. I held Anna safely in my arms, but I was really worried that she would not survive the night. She was so weak. She seemed nearly catatonic, and did not move or speak at all the entire time. The only indication that she was even alive was the warmth coming from her, through the brittle yellow feathers that covered parts of her body.



When we got back home, I sat alone in the car with Anna and offered her a drink of water from a plastic syringe. At first she was unresponsive, sitting silently in a box of straw with the same **glazed**⁷ expression she had worn at the factory. I knew how dehydrated she must've been, so I encouraged her to drink by dribbling a few drops of water onto her beak. Finally her mouth began to move, and she drank a full syringe of delicious water. I was flooded with relief. I **stroked**⁸ her dry feathers, smelled the **stench**⁹ of death and disease that clung to her. It felt entirely magical that someone so close to death was going to live.

Because of her broken leg, Anna had to wear a splint and toddle around for a while. But now she is fully recovered and lives on an animal sanctuary with other rescued hens.

Author : Sarah

Date : June 2000

Source : Compassionate Action for Animals website (<http://www.exploreveg.org/>)

Direct link : <http://www.ca4a.org/bbc/research/anna.html>



VOCABULARY

1. **bare** : a bare surface is not covered or decorated with anything.
2. **wire cage** : cage surrounded by an electrified fence used for a particular purpose.
3. **to starve** : to suffer greatly from lack of food which sometimes leads to death.
4. **a hen** : a female chicken. But the female of any bird can be referred to as a hen.
5. **a shed** : large building used for storing things.
6. **greed** : the desire to have more of something (such as food or money) than is necessary or fair.
7. **glazed** : dull or dreamy expression,, usually because the person is tired or has difficulty concentrating on something.
8. **to stroke** : you move your hand slowly and gently over someone or something.
9. **a stench** : strong and very unpleasant smell.

QUOTATIONS FOR FURTHER DEBATE

« **Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight.** »

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), German theologian, musician, philosopher, and physician. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

« **The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men.** »

Alice Walker (1944-), African American author and feminist whose most famous novel, *The Color Purple*, won both the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award.

« **When it comes to having a central nervous system, and the ability to feel pain, hunger, and thirst, a rat is a pig is a dog is a boy.** »

Ingrid Newkirk, President & Founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

« **The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity.** »

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), was an Irish playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925. After those of William Shakespeare, Shaw's plays are some of the most widely produced in English language theatre.