

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 pipes down the ducks’ throats and pump up to 3 kilograms of food per day into their stomachs, the equivalent of about 7 kilograms of spaghetti in a human being. The force-fed 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.)

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Force-fed to death

Barrels overflow with ducks who died from force-feeding.

Ducks' necks are sometimes punctured by the feeding pipe.



In addition to liver disease, many ducks develop foot infections, kidney necrosis, spleen and kidney damage, ruptured stomachs, bruised and broken bills, and

"This type of tumor-like lumps in their throats.

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

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.

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

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 U.S.' undercover investigation of a foie gras farm, visit GoVeg.com.
- For a free vegetarian starter kit, go to PETAAsiaPacific.org.

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