

A photograph of a pig in a metal cage. The pig is looking towards the right, with its head pressed against the bars. The cage is made of dark metal bars. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor farm setting. The pig has a yellow collar around its neck and a blue tag on its ear. The overall tone is somber and highlights the confinement of the animal.

Viva!

Imprisoned

for being a mother

Imagine being imprisoned in a cage so small you can never turn around or take a single step. Now imagine having to give birth in that cage. That's what happens to nearly 80 per cent of Britain's breeding pigs.

These pictures show the farrowing crate, one of factory farming's most shocking secrets. Hundreds of thousands of pregnant pigs - breeding sows - are locked into these tiny cages a week before they give birth and remain imprisoned there for thirty-five long days, every five months for their whole life.

They struggle to stand up and lie down and can do nothing but stare at a blank wall and suckle their hungry piglets. Their limbs ache from inactivity, their skin is often rubbed raw by the metal bars and their maternal instincts are utterly frustrated. Space is so tight that



piglets may be born directly into their mother's excrement. These conditions cause so much stress that sows frequently go mad.

Given the opportunity, they are restless and active just before giving birth, often roaming many miles to find materials to build a nest for their piglets. The farrowing crate imprisons them in a stinking shed with a hard concrete floor. Some are so disturbed by these conditions that they savage their own piglets to death. This never happens in the wild.

When her confinement and misery finally comes to an end, the sow is released and her piglets are taken away to be fattened for slaughter. Weaned months too early, the piglets are unused to solid food and suffer from scours - pitiful wasting diarrhoea. They are given a cocktail of drugs on a daily basis throughout their six-month lives in an attempt to keep rampant diseases at bay.



And their mother? She is returned to a dirty concrete cell and just a few days later is reimpregnated - starting the whole 160-day cycle once again.

That is the callous, cynical attitude that underlies all factory farming. **Viva!** fights factory farming in all its forms - by exposing its hidden horrors and by helping people to turn vegetarian.

Stop the suffering.

Go veggie.

- Please send me a FREE Farrowing Crate pack
- Please send me a FREE Go Veggie pack

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