

OTWARTE KLATKI – Stop economic terrorism!

Fermy Drobiu Woźniak sp. z o.o., expresses its firm opposition to the methods and means of action of the "Otwarte Klatki" (Open Cages) association, which, as part of its activities, has prepared a manipulative and misleading film, during the creation of which animals have suffered.

The 'Otwarte Klatki' association officially aims to promote animal welfare. However, the way in which this organisation operates raises reasonable doubts about its intentions and the level of knowledge of its members in terms of caring for the welfare of farm animals, methods of large-scale farming and hen keeping, egg-laying principles or working on a chicken farm. This is evidenced by a number of behaviours shown in the film prepared by Oksana Osadchuk, Bogna Witowska and Aleksandr Askirka, including, among others, unjustified and incompatible work on a chicken farm, scaring hens by hitting metal elements, which frightens and stresses the hens, pushing hens into places where they could not naturally go, moving eggs to inappropriate places just to make the video image fit a preconceived thesis. Experts (zootechnicians, veterinarians, representatives of the manufacturer of cage and aviary systems) analysing the footage also point out that many of the shots clearly show that the people who took the photos were filming instead of helping the animals and that they did not fulfill their duties or did not perform them in accordance with the internal regulations and legislation in force.

The narration and statements in the material also reveal the lack of elementary knowledge of the authors of the material about the subject they are covering. For example, there are no fleas on the chicken farm in the village. What is visible in the footage are fleas - ectoparasites that occur in large-scale farming. It should be mentioned here that the Ferm Drobiu Woźniak team, together with veterinarians, fights against these parasites and, in the period prior to the publication of the video, the hens were administered appropriate and safe anthelmintics (Exzolt).

The „Otwarte Klatki” Association has significant financial resources. According to the organisation's financial report, their income from grants and donations increased to PLN 10.92 million in 2022 from PLN 4.34 million in 2021. As the Association itself publicly announces, thanks to these funds, "intensive work has begun on investigations that allow us to show the public the truth about what happens behind the high walls of industrial farms". However, in the information about the sources of funding, there is no mention of educational activities that could save the chickens from the farm in Wioska from unnecessary suffering caused by lack of knowledge and negligence on the part of those recording the footage. Moreover, instead of showing the truth about large-scale farming, the association deliberately misleads the public and uses manipulation. In addition, the funds are being used to campaign for the sudden and chaotic abolition of cage farming in Poland, which will result in a drastic increase in the price of eggs and all products for the production of which eggs are essential, as well as the need to import eggs from other countries.

The scandalous way in which the material was edited, including the free mix of shots from different forms of rearing (cage and aviary), the misleading presentation of hens without any information on their age, or the fragmentary and out-of-context use of statements by representatives of the Ferm Drobiu Woźniak, blatantly shows the non-transparent intentions of the authors. The film was edited in such a way that we are not able to confirm whether all the shots come from our farms. The way in which the film was edited and the numerous manipulations contained in the film unfortunately significantly limit the room for substantive discussion on socially important issues. Rather than educating anyone, the material is sensationalist, biased and causes other media who do not specialise in animal husbandry to repeat lies and fail to verify the information provided in the film. We issued an open invitation to the media to visit the farm in the village, but unfortunately only one journalist decided to use it.

The examples given above are the most recent facts that call into question the ways in which the Association and its associates operate.

The publication in gazeta.pl is not the first case in which the actions of "Otwarty Klatek" could prove that their nature is not in line with the statutory goals of the Association. In 2021, Fery Drobiu Woźniak asked 'Otwarte Klatki' for support in social dialogue in the process of transition from cage rearing to free-range farming. This is because some of the local residents are opposed to the changes planned by Fery Drobiu Woźniak and do not want a free range farm to be established in their area. The association has not given our company any support in this regard.

Given the actions of the association, we do not believe that animal welfare is as important to our company as it is to the representatives of "Otwarte Klatki". We observe with indignation how the Association operates. Unfortunately, the result of its actions is not the preservation of the welfare of laying hens from the farm in Wioska, but a kind of eco-terrorism and economic terrorism, the victims of which were innocent animals and an unjustified media attack on a Polish food producer who provides consumers with high quality products in a responsible and lawful manner.

The demand of "Otwarte Klatki" for a quick and complete abandonment of cage farming may result in negative consequences for consumers and the Polish economy. Moreover, this is not a process that should be carried out by revolution, but gradually. A sudden withdrawal from approved and long-established methods of large-scale farming could lead to disruptions in the supply chain, a threat to food security in the country, increased imports of eggs from countries that do not observe such strict animal welfare standards as the European Union and, as a result, higher food prices on shop shelves. The discussion on the different forms of laying hen farming and the multi-faceted effects of any regulation in this area is very important for society as a whole. As noted by the European Commission, work on a ban on caged hens has to be postponed due to concerns about rising food prices. We want to engage in this dialogue in a balanced and substantive way and we fully support any transformative process that improves animal welfare. For years, we have invested significant resources in the development of alternative methods of keeping laying hens. Therefore, we appeal to the "Otwarte Klatki"



Association not to seek sensationalism at the expense of facts not to force socially irresponsible declarations on food producers and to stop actions that directly harm animals. The actions of "Otwarte Klatki" are pure extortion and economic terrorism. The association is no longer a substantive discussion partner for us.

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