

The “Five Freedoms”: Humane Treatment for Chickens

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Humane Canada [says](#) that “*The Five Freedoms*” were developed in 1965 by the United Kingdom’s “Farm Animal Welfare Council”. The concept states that an animal’s basic needs can be met so long as the five freedoms are provided. They are:

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.
5. Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

If you suspect chickens are being treated inhumanely contact the Nova Scotia SPCA. The SPCA enforces the Animal Protection Act of Nova Scotia. Do not contact the municipality with animal welfare concerns.

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To report animal cruelty call 1-888-703-7722 or 211

or email animals@spcans.ca