

UNITED KINGDOM

VOICELESS ANIMAL CRUELTY INDEX 2017

Overall Rank 20

United Kingdom was a *marginally adequate* performer under the Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI) 2017 (on par with China).

Producing Cruelty

Rank 20

The United Kingdom kills 15.6 animals per person / year compared with a global average of 10.6. This is lower than France (16.8) but higher than Germany (10.1). Sow stalls have been banned in the UK since 1999 [<https://www.ciwf.org.uk/our-campaigns/pigs/>]. In common with other EC countries, barren battery cages are illegal, but furnished cages are allowed. Layer hens, broilers and pigs [<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/24/real-cost-of-roast-chicken-animal-welfare-farms>] are mostly produced in factory farms.

Consuming Cruelty

Rank 41

Land animal protein in the diet is close to 54%. This is much higher than the world average (35%) but lower than most of the EU members surveyed. In 2014 the UK also had the most vegetarians in Europe, with 12% of the population, according to a survey [<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/517246/Vegetarians-are-on-the-increase-in-Britain>]. This represents a major increase that coincides with a proliferation in the types and quantity of vegetarian and vegan food available [<https://www.mintel.com/press-centre/food-and-drink/number-of-global-vegetarian-food-and-drink-product-launches-doubles-between-2009-and-2013>]. According to the 2011-12 National Diet and Nutrition Survey [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/310995/NDNS_Y1_to_4_UK_report.pdf] only 2% of the population were vegetarian at that date.

Sanctioning Cruelty

Rank 8

The United Kingdom was close to best practice with respect to the quality of its animal welfare legislation, and was given an “A” under the Animal Protection Index (API) 2014. It was the first country in the world to implement animal welfare legislation. Learn more about the quality of the United Kingdom’s regulatory frameworks on the API here [<http://api.worldanimalprotection.org/country/united-kingdom>].



Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index

This country profile is from the 2017 Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI). The VACI tracks the animal welfare performance of 50 countries selected among the largest producers of farmed animal products in the world. The VACI was first published in 2017, and updated in 2020. Please read the VACI Terms of Use (<https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/terms-of-use/>) and Voiceless Website Terms of Use ([Website Terms and Conditions | Voiceless](#)) for further information. Voiceless does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or currency of the information. Questions about the VACI can be directed to: info@voiceless.org.au

The 2020 VACI can be accessed here: <https://vaci.voiceless.org.au/>