

DIRECT ACTION *DxE* EVERYWHERE



For immediate release

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Trial Scheduled for Animal Rescuer

Zoe Rosenberg, 22, faces criminal charges for rescuing chickens from Perdue's Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse in Petaluma, CA



Zoe Rosenberg rescues an injured chicken, Petunia, from a Petaluma Poultry factory farm in 2023. (Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)

November 1, 2024, Santa Rosa, CA – On Friday morning, Sonoma County Judge Robert LaForge scheduled a felony trial for Zoe Rosenberg, 22, an animal rescuer with [Direct Action Everywhere](#) (DxE). Her trial will begin May 16, 2025. Ms. Rosenberg is being prosecuted for removing four chickens from Perdue’s Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse in June 2023. She was [arrested](#) in November 2023, while en route to deliver evidence of animal cruelty at Petaluma Poultry to the Sonoma County Sheriff’s office.

“At trial, we will show that Zoe’s actions were akin to rescuing a dog from overheating to death in a hot car. She should be commended, not prosecuted,” said Chris Carraway, Ms. Rosenberg’s lawyer and a staff attorney at the [Animal Activist Legal Defense Project](#), who is also representing activists in Atlanta’s Stop Cop City movement. “My client acted with compassion and integrity, and we look forward to telling her story at trial.”

Ms. Rosenberg faces one felony and four misdemeanors, and more than 5 years in prison. She has been forced to wear a GPS ankle monitor since December 2023.

Petaluma Poultry is a “free range” and partially “organic” subsidiary of Perdue Farms, the fourth largest poultry producer in the United States. It supplies to major grocery chains including Trader Joe’s and Safeway.

For years, Ms. Rosenberg and other activists with [Direct Action Everywhere](#) have reported to authorities unlawful animal cruelty at Petaluma Poultry and other county factory farms—as, indeed, Ms. Rosenberg was doing when she was arrested. While authorities have [aggressively prosecuted animal rights activists](#), they have taken no action to address the extensive documentation of animal cruelty. In response, activists have rescued sick and injured animals themselves, rehabilitating them back to health, and finding them permanent homes at sanctuaries.

“The prosecutors want to make an example out of me to put a stop to animal rescue,” said Zoe Rosenberg. “Unfortunately for them, it just isn’t going to work. We are moved to rescue and advocate for animals by something bigger than ourselves. We are moved to rescue animals by our desire to make the world a better and more just place for all living beings.”

Since 2018, DxE investigators have [documented routine violations](#) of California's animal cruelty laws at several Petaluma Poultry factory farms in Northern California and the company’s slaughterhouse, including birds collapsed on the floor or stuck on their backs and unable to walk to food or water, left to slowly starve to death; birds with splayed legs; birds with open wounds; and infectious diseases that threaten public health. DxE says the findings demonstrate clear violations of [California Penal Code Section 597](#). In particular, birds who are collapsed and unable to walk cannot access food and water, and it is a crime to deprive animals of “necessary sustenance, drink, or shelter.”

Three veterinarians who reviewed DxE's 2023 findings at the Petaluma Poultry [factory farm on Hunter Lane](#) in Santa Rosa and [the slaughterhouse in Petaluma](#) concluded that there is substantial evidence of criminal animal cruelty, including diseased birds left to starve, dehydrate, and ultimately die; mortality rates over double the industry standard; violations of multiple biosecurity standards; and birds scalded alive at the slaughterhouse.

On November 5th, Sonoma County residents will vote on Measure J, a proposed [ban on factory farms](#), formally called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), in the county. Measure J would impact a number of factory farms operated by Perdue’s Petaluma Poultry.

Ms. Rosenberg will appear in Dept. 9 on March 3, 2025 for an arraignment.

Ms. Rosenberg is the founder of [Happy Hen Animal Sanctuary](#), which she founded at age 11. Since 2014, Happy Hen has saved over 1,000 animals from factory farms, slaughterhouses, cockfighting rings, and other abusive situations.

The [Animal Activist Legal Defense Project](#) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law works to empower and defend animal advocates through activist defense, affirmative litigation, and training law students to join and transform the field of Animal Law. Learn more at: [AALDP.com](#) and follow us on Twitter/X at [@AALDP_DU](#).

Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE's investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [WIRED](#), and [Vox](#). DxE activists have been [subjected to FBI raids](#) and [felony prosecutions](#) for their investigative work. In 2022, DxE activists won the first-ever [acquittal](#) in an open rescue case. Visit DxE on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and at [directactioneverywhere.com](#).

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