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Activists Rescue Wounded Chickens from Transport Truck at Perdue's Petaluma Poultry Slaughterhouse, Following Years of Documented Abuse and Disease

The latest rescue comes as another DxE animal rescuer faces over 5 in prison for rescuing chickens from the same Perdue slaughterhouse



DxE activists rescue two wounded chickens from a transport truck delivering thousands of chickens to Perdue's Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse in Petaluma, CA. (Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)

[VIDEO OF THE RESCUE](#)

[Prior Investigation & Rescue Photos, Videos, Related Documents](#)

May 23, 2025, Petaluma, CA - On Friday morning, activists with the grassroots animal rights network [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) rescued two injured chickens from a transport truck carrying thousands of chickens to the Perdue-owned Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse in Petaluma, California. While the truck was stopped, three activists opened one of the many large crates holding chickens on the trailer and identified and removed two chickens with visible wounds. They took the chickens, whom they named Daisy and Fern, to get immediate medical care and [shared footage](#) of the rescue publicly, openly showing their faces.

DxE activists assert that they have a legal right to rescue animals from unlawful abuse. This rescue comes after years of DxE investigators documenting and reporting unlawful animal cruelty at Petaluma Poultry's factory farms and its slaughterhouse to law enforcement—which has taken no action. In 2023, DxE activists rescued four ailing chickens from a transport truck at the Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse, which led to the current felony prosecution of animal rescuer [Zoe Rosenberg](#). Her trial begins September 15th in Santa Rosa.

[Petaluma Poultry](#) is a "free range" and partially "organic" subsidiary of Perdue Farms, the [fourth largest](#) poultry producer in the United States. It sells under the brand names "Rocky the Free Range Chicken" and "Rosie the Organic Chicken" or under various grocery chain's own packaging. For example, Trader Joe's sells Petaluma Poultry chicken (identified by USDA plant code P2882) in its own Trader Joe's-branded packaging.

Since 2018, DxE investigators have [documented routine violations](#) of California's animal cruelty laws at 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."

Multiple 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.

In 2018, Sonoma County's own Animal Services Department [referred](#) the owner of McCoy's Poultry, a factory farm raising birds for Petaluma Poultry, as a suspect for animal cruelty to the Sheriff's Office, after examination of birds removed from the facility revealed numerous wing and joint injuries, open sores, reovirus, and necrotic wounds so deep that muscle and bone were exposed.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office never prosecuted McCoy's Poultry. Their office and the District Attorney's Office have repeatedly ignored reports of documented animal cruelty, including [footage](#) activists recorded earlier this month of feces-covered birds with deep, open wounds packed together on a Petaluma Poultry transport truck.

In addition to animal cruelty, activists are concerned about the public health risks posed by Petaluma Poultry. As [reported](#) by *The Press Democrat*, USDA reports from the Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse show it has four times the national rate of campylobacter and four times the state rate of salmonella, two pathogens that commonly cause illness in humans.

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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](#).