

FOIE GRAS FACTS

Tireless Chef Didier Durand of Cyrano's Bistrot & Wine Bar, Chicago IL, is leading the education in foie gras farming. As spokesperson for the Illinois Restaurant Association and co-founder of Chicago Chefs for Choice, he may possibly be the only chef in Chicago with actual experience in foie gras production, having worked at it together with his mother, Renée. He has been able to demonstrate what he has been saying all along, that force-feeding ducks is not cruel as it may have been perceived.

Moreover, the American Veterinary Medical Association has now twice rejected resolutions claiming that foie gras production is inhumane. Consequently, together with the Illinois Restaurant Association he brought two experts to the city of Chicago in order for the Aldermen and others to hear the scientific side of this issue and the truth about foie gras;

- Mr. Daniel Guémené, PHD highly regarded as the world's foremost authority on the physiological effects of Foie gras Farming. He serves as director of research and senior scientist at the French National Institute of Agronomic Research.
- Mr. Lawrence Bartholl, DVM, is the immediate past president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. He is the first recipient of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Award and has maintained a large veterinary practice in New York State for 32 years.

These two experts provided a considerable amount of expertise, guidance of research, and scientific responses to the false allegations in the production of foie gras. It saddens Chef Didier that opponents of foie gras shared inadequate videos and photographs depicting foie gras farming. They misrepresent the facts. Singling out foie gras as being inhumane is simply not supported by the facts. Here is their report and foie gras in "Truth"!

More on these experts can be found at www.chicagochefsforschoice.com

A) Clinical experimentation has shown that force-feeding does not induce any significant increase in plasma corticosterone levels in ducks kept a pen. A similar conclusion regarding the absence of stress perception was drawn after recording the heart rate as no acceleration was detected. The researchers have concluded that force-feeding does not lead to stress.

B) Neuroscience provides information about the nervous system that can help us to assess the incidence of pain. Neural activation indicating the presence of pain signals were never detected in the sensory visceral brain centers to force-fed ducks.

C) Aversion to force-feeding and force-feeders has been left too often to anecdote rather than scientific measure. The experts found in conclusion of their experimentation that force-fed ducks do not develop any avoidance behavior towards the force-feeder and the force-feeding content. Additionally, familiarization with the feeder appears to have soothing effects, both on behavioral and physiological responses.

D) Foie gras is not a diseased liver as claimed by animal rights activists. For humans or mammals, this may be the case, but it is not for birds. In fact the steatosis in foie gras is fully reversible. After a three to four day fast, the liver returns to its initial composition. If the liver had any diseases people eating foie gras would get sick. Foie gras has been consumed without any problems since its conception in Egypt 5000 years ago.

E) And finally, foie gras production is considered “natural” as ducks have tendency of migratory needs to over-feed. Through scientific studies, it has been observed that a single duck can ingest without any physical constraint, up to 500 g (over 1 lb.) in a single meal.

So to conclude, it has been demonstrated that foie gras is neither torturous nor inhumane. Alderman Joe Moore **has not been honest** with the City of Chicago Council to present have presented that ordinance in the Omnibus Package (So, all Aldermen did not know they were banning Foie Gras). Chef Didier very much regrets the bad impact it has had on Chicago! Now we need the leadership of Alderman Ed Smith to call for a new vote (As he has been asked!!!) instead of spending \$ 500 000.00 (Half a Million Dollars) of our Tax-Payers’ Money. A law suit is in progress & if the ban does not get repealed soon, \$ 500 000.00 from wonderful Chicagoans will be wasted!!!

Inevitably, the foie gras ban must be lifted as it has neither ground nor even jurisdiction in a court of law. On one hand we are looking to get the 2016 Olympic Games and on the other we are making ourselves and our city look ridiculous.

Also, recently I sat down with my Friend Chef Charlie Trotter & he is very much against the ban (so he wants it repealed too). Now knowing the Facts, he tasted Foie Gras again (In California, as reported in the Sun-times) and as a Gourmet Chef, loves it...Bien Sur! In conclusion, I don’t tell anyone what to eat. You don’t like Foie Gras, don’t eat it, pure & simple. I don’t like broccoli and will never serve it in my restaurant!!

Enough said! Case closed & Bon Appetit!!!

Dr. Daniel Guémené, Ph.D.

Dr. Daniel Guémené is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on the physiological effects of foie gras farming methods on geese and ducks. He serves as Director of Research and Senior Scientist at the National Institute of Agronomic Research in Nouzilly, France.

Dr. Guémené has been actively involved in poultry research at the National Institute of Agronomic Research since 1983. Additionally, he held a one-year position with the National Agency for the Valorisation of Research (ANVAR Bretagne) and spent a two conducting research at the University of Guelph in Canada. He has served as the head of the "Behavioural Biology and Adaptation in Domestic Birds" research group at the Poultry Research Unit for a four year term (2001-2005) and as assistant to the Head of Research in the Animal Husbandry and Nutrition Department, which includes over 700 people and 120 scientists (2002-2004).

He received his undergraduate degree in agronomic engineering from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie de Rennes (ENSA de Rennes - National Superior School of Agronomic Sciences of Rennes). In 1988, he received his Ph.D. in the same field from the ENSA de Rennes and the University of Rennes.

Dr. Guémené's areas of research have included studies of the physiology of domestic birds with specific emphasis on the endocrinological regulation of female reproduction and the expression of incubation behaviour in various species (turkey hens, domestic hens, pheasant hens, geese) and more recently on domestic bird rearing conditions, stress and welfare (mule ducks, geese, laying hens, broilers). This research work has been appeared in over 300 scientific journals, technical papers or symposia.

Dr. Guémené has served as an expert consultant for, among others, the European Council and is currently member of the European Food Safety Authority's panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (EFSA-AHAW). Additionally, he is a member of the British Poultry Science Executive Council, the International Society of Avian Endocrinology Scientific Committee, and the International Society of Applied Ethology. He also serves as the French Representative to the Welfare and Management Group of the World Poultry Science Association's European Branch.

Dr. Lawrence W. Bartholf, DVM

Lawrence W. Bartholf, DVM, is a 1965 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Following graduation, he worked in small and large animal practices and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corp with service in Vietnam. Dr. Bartholf has been a self-employed large animal practitioner in Greenfield Park, NY, since 1974.

Dr. Bartholf is an active member of the Hudson Valley Veterinary Medical Society and served as president and chairman of several committees. He was elected by his regional to serve as their representative to the New York State Veterinary Medical Society executive board in 1997 and was reelected to a second four-year term. He served as general chairman of the NYSVMS annual meeting in 2001. In 2004 Larry was elected NYSVMS president-elect and served as president in 2005.

Active in his community, Dr. Bartholf volunteers for Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Ellenville Public Library and Museum Board of Trustees, and the SPCAs in Sullivan and Ulster counties.

Larry has been a volunteer veterinarian for the Ulster County SPCA since 1987. In this role, he was instrumental in the rescue and rehabilitation of more than 1,600 animals in one of the nation's largest animal cruelty cases, the Animals Farm Home in Ellenville, NY. In recognition of his outstanding work and tenacity, Dr. Bartholf was selected the first recipient of the AVMA Animal Welfare Award in 1990. He was named Ulster County SPCA Citizen of the year in 1989, and honored with the Human Society of the United States' Award of Appreciation.

In 1995 Dr. Bartholf worked with the New York State Humane Association as it prepared its manual, "How to Investigate Animal Cruelty in New York State." His review and input into the section, "Animal Care Standards for Some Common Animals," provided law enforcement officers with sufficient information to investigate animal cruelty complaints.

Dr. Larry Bartholf continues his work to educate the public about responsible and humane treatment of animals through his volunteer roles, appearances on radio, contributions to the news media, and speaking engagements at livestock and 4-H meetings, science symposiums, and county programs teaching agriculture to school students.

As the first recipient of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Award, Dr. Larry Bartholf understands the importance of applying consistent animal welfare principles based on scientific and proven data.