

Rhode Island Foie Gras Production & Sales Ban

What is Foie Gras?

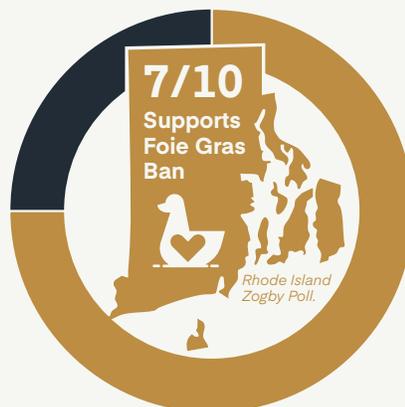
Foie gras, French for “fatty liver,” is a luxury product made by force-feeding ducks or geese until their livers swell up to ten times their normal size. Ducks and geese suffer immense pain as a result of this process. It is cruel and should be banned.

Why Ban Foie Gras?

Birds who are force-fed for foie gras production suffer egregious cruelty. They have difficulty walking and breathing as their enlarged livers press against other internal organs and their health deteriorates. The force-feeding leads to liver disease, which would be fatal if the birds weren’t killed at just three months old. Animal welfare experts, food service companies, and policy makers agree: subjecting animals to such pain to produce a luxury food is unacceptable and unjustifiable.

“The good people of Rhode Island overwhelmingly oppose animal cruelty, and if given a choice, I believe will be in favor of following in the footsteps of California...and the more than a dozen countries that have already banned it.”

- Senator Alana DiMario (D-36)



Food Service Opposition to Foie Gras

- Large food retailers have recognized the unnecessary harm inflicted upon birds in the foie gras industry and have stopped selling foie gras as a result. These brands include:
 - ♦ 1997: Whole Foods
 - ♦ 2007: Giant Eagle
 - ♦ 2008: Target
 - ♦ 2009: Costco
 - ♦ 2010: Aramark
 - ♦ 2016: Eataly
 - ♦ 2018: Postmates
- Top chefs like Charlie Trotter and Wolfgang Puck have publicly denounced foie gras.

State-Wide Consensus

- 7-in-10 Rhode Islanders support a ban on foie gras, according to a recent Zogby poll.
- Legislation that prohibits the production and sale of foie gras has passed the Rhode Island House by wide margins: 49-8 in 2022 and 60-5 in 2023.
- The Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association and other animal welfare experts support this legislation to end the cruelty of foie gras.

Little Local Impact

- Foie gras is not produced in Rhode Island. Banning it will have no impact on the state’s agricultural economy.
- Less than 0.5% of Rhode Island restaurants sell foie gras.

Governments are Ending Foie Gras Cruelty

Foie gras is banned in:

United States: Pittsburgh & California
International: Argentina, Australia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, & the United Kingdom