

### The final report

When the project is complete, applicants are required to submit to the HSA an original hard copy and an electronic copy of the full report, including an abstract, by 1st November in the year the award is granted. Reports should include photographs, diagrams and graphs as appropriate. The report is confidential to the HSA and the HSA reserves the right to publish a brief synopsis in its Annual Report and Newsletters without prior reference to the author. However by prior mutual agreement, the author may publish the report or offer it in part or in its entirety for publication in scientific or technical journals and the HSA encourages scholars to aim to publish this work.

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### What does the HSA do?

The HSA is the only registered charity which specialises in the welfare of animals in markets, during transport and at the point of slaughter. It takes a realistic and constructive approach, making practical, long-term improvements to the welfare of food animals. In addition to providing the annual Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships, the HSA achieves its aims by:

- producing educational publications and videos on all aspects of animal handling and slaughter
- arranging practical demonstrations and training courses in the UK and overseas
- visiting markets and slaughterhouses and recommending and advising on improvements where necessary
- funding essential research projects through grants and awards
- providing grants towards the improvement of animal handling facilities in markets and slaughterhouses
- organising workshops and symposia
- giving advice to government, welfare organisations and the industry
- helping and advising all those directly involved in farm animal handling, transport and slaughter.

### How can you help the HSA?

The HSA depends entirely on voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacies for its income. Support is needed from both individuals and corporate groups in order that the HSA may continue to play an effective role in improving the welfare of food animals. The annual membership subscription for individuals is £15, for full-time students £5 and for societies and corporate groups £50. Further details may be obtained from the HSA office.



# Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships 2012

## Information leaflet



*Humane Slaughter Association*

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## Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships

An annual award scheme was established in 1986 as a memorial to the late Miss Dorothy Sidley MBE, who was General Secretary of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) for 48 years. The scholarship is designed to encourage more young people to take an interest in the welfare of food animals. A limited number of awards are made available each year for successful applicants to carry out research projects that have a **clear relevance to improving the well-being of food animals in markets, during transit or at the time of slaughter or killing.**

Undergraduate and postgraduate students in agricultural, veterinary or meat sciences, or trainees in the livestock, meat and fish industries in the UK, are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Applications are also invited from students registered at universities outside the UK which have a UFAW/HSA University 'LINK' person (see [www.ufaw.org.uk/links-news-events.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/links-news-events.php)). Project proposals should be prepared under the student or trainee's own initiative but guidance should be sought from tutors or heads of department to ensure that the necessary facilities and animals are available, that the work is well designed and that it will be properly supervised. Alternatively, heads of department or supervisors who may be able to find suitable candidates can also apply, although preference is usually given to applications initiated by students/trainees.

Projects may be used as part of a student's assessed coursework. It is the applicant's responsibility to abide by all laws and codes and to obtain any necessary permissions and licences.

## Applications

Application forms are available from the HSA website or the HSA Office (telephone +44(0)1582 831919). A concise outline of the proposed study is required. Where applicable it should contain reference to scientific papers or other work relevant to the investigation. The proposal should include details on the number of animals to be studied and the methods. A full breakdown of costs and expenditure will also be required. The scholarship should be used by the student or trainee to fund their project costs and associated subsistence. Applications should include a reference from the supervisor, which should also be endorsed by the head of department. **Completed application forms and a CV should reach the HSA by 28th February 2012;** those received after this date will not be considered. All applications will be acknowledged and the successful scholar(s) will be notified by the end of April 2012.



## Details of the awards

Each scholarship is for up to £2,000.

## Suggested topics

The following topics have come to the attention of the HSA and students or trainees may be interested in investigating these subjects:

- By law, stunning must cause an immediate loss of consciousness. In the UK there is no legal requirement for stunning equipment to be formally tested for animal welfare. **A study is required to assess the benefits for poultry welfare of the different small-scale electrical stunners used on-farm.** Which design of electrodes produces the most effective stun? Are some electrode positions better at inducing an effective stun compared to others and does this depend on the magnitude of the voltage or current?
- Some farmed fish are transported prior to slaughter. Very little scientific information exists on the welfare of fish during transport. **What associations are there between transport variables and fish welfare?** Is there merit in a recommendation to slaughter fish on-farm and only transport their carcasses? Does flesh quality confirm this?
- Currently, not all countries have legislation to protect the welfare of livestock at slaughter. Similarly, not all countries require the use of modern methods to stun livestock prior to their slaughter. **What are the constraints to the adoption of these modern methods of stunning?** Can recommendations be made for overcoming these constraints and applying higher welfare methods at slaughter or killing across the world?

## Previous scholars and their projects

In the past, funding has been awarded for a diverse range of projects including:

- *Relative efficacy of AC and DC waterbath stunning of poultry.* Barbora Stanikova, Royal Veterinary College.
- *Can animals have a preference not to be killed?* Marc Bracke, University of Edinburgh.
- *An evaluation of the welfare of llamas and sheep before and during slaughtering in the community of Puxara, Bolivia.* Georgina Limon Vega, Royal Veterinary College.
- *The assessment of meat quality and other parameters associated with pre-slaughter stress in horses and ponies.* Lorna Buckley, Hartpury College.
- *Behavioural responses of broiler chickens to thermal and vibrational stressors.* Jenifer MacCallum, University of Edinburgh.

