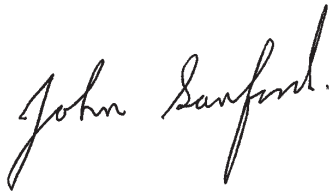


# Chairman's Report

The title of our charity leaves one in no doubt about its objective, and activities of the past year have clearly furthered that aim. Increasing interest in obtaining meat from 'exotic' species, such as ostriches, deer, buffalo and bison, has highlighted the need to establish humane and efficient methods for their slaughter and Guidance Notes on this important topic are in preparation. The HSA is also developing a new series of guidelines on best practice for the slaughter of conventional meat species. The first will deal with sheep, to be followed by others on cattle, pigs and poultry, and it is hoped that these will become accepted standards for the meat industry.

As the work of the charity becomes more widely known, its activities are increasingly extending abroad. This year visits have been made to several European countries and also to New Zealand, to compare systems, to give advice, and to participate in instructional workshops.

Like most charities, the HSA depends on legacies, donations and subscriptions to maintain its activities and we are continually indebted to all the supporters who make our work possible. The marketing and slaughter of food animals does not have a 'glamorous' image but it is nonetheless important that we should strive to apply humane principles and practice to this key process.



Chairman

## Data Protection Act 1998

The HSA is registered under the 1998 Data Protection Act. Members, subscribers, and others on the HSA's regular mailing list are reminded that their names and addresses are held on computer for the production of address labels. Details of subscriptions and donations received are also recorded for audit purposes and, if payments are made by donations qualifying for tax relief, the amounts are listed to support claims for recovery of income tax from the Inland Revenue.

Photographs courtesy of UFAW (front cover) and HSA.

# Editorial

The welfare of food animals at slaughter continues to make headlines with the recent publication of the Farm Animal Welfare Council's (FAWC) *Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Slaughter or Killing Part 1: Red Meat Animals*.

Although no less than 94 recommendations aimed at improving animal welfare were made, one paragraph caught the attention of the press and bounced the report into the media spotlight. This recommendation reads: *Council considers that slaughter without pre-stunning is unacceptable and that the Government should repeal the current exemption*.

Whilst respecting differing religious beliefs, the HSA's position on the pre-slaughter stunning of animals has always been unequivocal: that all animals, without exception, should be effectively stunned prior to being stuck and bled. Recent advances in electrical stunning of cattle now make reversible stunning a practical option for all. This overcomes one of the main obstacles preventing a full uptake of pre-slaughter stunning.

However, a removal of the current exemption without careful thought may well lead to other welfare problems. The danger of an immediate change in the law, preventing religious slaughter without stunning, could result in the illegal, unsupervised slaughter of animals and possibly compromise both animal welfare and public health. Other consequences could include the importation of meat from parts of the world where animal welfare standards are considerably lower than those in the UK. In an effort to avoid this and achieve statutory pre-slaughter stunning for all livestock, the HSA will continue to work with the Jewish and Muslim communities and other interested parties around the world to promote and explain the animal welfare benefits of modern, humane slaughter techniques.

Aside from this issue, the HSA continues to play an important role in a number of key activities focused on improving animal welfare during transport, in markets and at slaughter, through education, training and provision of advice. As will be seen in the following report, the work of the HSA is both varied and expanding; encompassing further species and promoting its objectives throughout the world.

Whilst this work is carried out by a small team of dedicated staff, it is due to the generosity and loyalty of its supporters that we are able to succeed in our field and we most gratefully acknowledge each and everyone's support on behalf of the charity.



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Annual Report 02-03

## HSA Objectives:

- Promote Humane Methods of Slaughter
- Introduce Reforms in Livestock Markets
- Improve Transport Facilities

# Technical

## Burial Ban

On 1 May 2003 *The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003* came into force. This legislation controls the disposal of animal carcasses and parts of the animal (including blood) which are not intended for human consumption. It has serious implications for livestock producers as it prohibits the burial, open burning, composting and biodigestion of fallen stock. This only leaves incineration and rendering as available disposal routes for such material, both of which may incur additional costs to producers. The HSA's main concern, however, is that the change could have a negative effect on animal welfare. Over recent years a large number of knacker businesses have closed, resulting in many farmers having to take on the task of humanely killing injured and diseased animals themselves. The danger is that, where there is no collection and disposal service in place, some farmers may delay the humane destruction of sick or injured animals until a time can be arranged for collection or delivery to an incinerator. Inevitably this would cause avoidable pain and distress (an offence under *The Protection of Animals Act 1911*). In March the HSA wrote to DEFRA suggesting that the full implementation of this regulation should be delayed until suitable and effective collection schemes are established. A formal response is still awaited.

## Slaughter Standards

Following an industry-wide consultation on the first of the new HSA series Best Practice Guidelines, the booklet *Welfare of Sheep and Goats in Abattoirs* is now nearing completion.

Industry comments have been supportive and only a few amendments have been suggested. When the sheep guidelines are complete, work will start on similar publications for cattle and pigs.

The HSA aims to have all three booklets published by the end of the year.

## Slaughter and Killing of Exotic Species

Over the last ten years, some livestock producers in the UK have extended their farming interests to species indigenous to other parts of the world.

These 'exotic' species include ostriches, European wild boar, Asian water buffalo and North American bison. Slaughter of these animals, whether it be for human consumption or because their productive life is at an end, can present a challenge. Due to their size and temperament such animals, often do not lend themselves to traditional handling and stunning systems. This may cause welfare problems, such as difficulties in the application of stunning techniques. Some animals may even have physical characteristics which preclude the use of conventional slaughter or killing methods.

Following a number of enquiries from producers and processors, the HSA is now preparing guidance on the most appropriate methods of handling, slaughter and killing of these 'exotic' species. This guidance will initially be in the form of Technical Notes, and will also be included in a new edition of *Guidance Notes 3 Humane Killing of Livestock using Firearms*, due to be published next year.



Wild boar

### Disposal of Spent Hens

November 2002 saw a mini crisis in the poultry industry. A number of economic factors, mainly the importation of cheap breast meat and a decline in the export market for UK hen meat, resulted in some egg producers having no outlets for their end-of-lay hens. This led to a large number of enquiries, to both the HSA and the RSPCA, from producers wanting to know the options for on-farm killing of end-of-lay hens. Following reports that some flocks were being dispatched using methods not recommended by the HSA, a workshop was organised in early February by the HSA for representatives of major interested parties. These discussions were followed up in April by a seminar jointly organised by the RSPCA and the Farm Animal Initiative (FAI). Combining the outcomes of the workshop with first-hand experience, the HSA's Technical Director, Charles Mason, presented a paper on the practical aspects of killing large numbers of hens on-farm. The main findings of these two meetings were that:

- the only currently available humane methods of killing large numbers of birds on-farm are labour-intensive, time consuming and carry the risk of repetitive strain injury to the operator
- there is a need for development of portable/mobile, automatic humane slaughter systems for poultry which employ electricity or humane gas mixtures
- when developing such systems, the requirements for killing on-farm for disease control and slaughter for consumption should also be kept in mind

### Technical Notes

Two more Technical Notes are to be published shortly:

- *Waterbath Stunning of Poultry*
- *Design Specifications for Handling Systems for Cattle, Sheep and Pigs*

In the UK, the majority of birds are stunned using electrical waterbaths. The first new Technical Note describes the different types of electrical waterbath commonly used and details: the principles of electrical stunning, variations in frequency used, the signs of effective and ineffective stunning, staff training, and cleaning and maintenance.

The second new Technical Note, *Design Specifications for Handling Systems for Cattle, Sheep and Pigs*, lists a number of considerations that need to be taken into account when designing or changing an existing handling system for red meat animals. Reference is made to a number of factors including: conformity, flexibility, animal factors, environmental factors, usability/reliability, operator factors, costs/benefits and future implications.

Both Technical Notes aim to provide constructive, practical advice to maximise animal welfare at the abattoir.

### HSA Visits

During the year HSA staff visited a number of abattoirs, hatcheries and fish farms within the UK to provide information and advice. Increasingly these visits are at the request of the management to trouble-shoot and help solve problems in the lairage and stunning areas. A number of abattoirs now regularly request the HSA to visit their premises to help maintain and improve current standards.

The fish industry has been equally keen to seek HSA involvement. So far this year, visits have been made to several salmon, turbot and trout farms, all of which are making a determined effort to improve their current methods of slaughter.

Despite recent adverse publicity about the salmon industry, many farms already use humane methods of stunning in the form of the RSPCA award winning MT4 machine. This machine automatically applies a blow to the head, stunning the animal immediately and removing any chance of operator error. A new stunner, loosely based on the MT4, is currently being developed into a more automated system, taking advantage of the fishes' natural behaviour and removing the need for individual handling.

Technical

# Technical

## Advice and Guidance

The HSA continues to play an active role in providing advice and guidance to a variety of bodies involved with the marketing, transport and slaughter of farmed food animals. In the last 12 months we have responded to 32 government consultations, including:

- proposals to introduce various biosecurity measures into the livestock industry
- the welfare of red meat animals at slaughter - draft code of practice
- application of the EU animal by-products regulation
- Council of Europe recommendation concerning farmed fish (draft)
- code of practice on the welfare of poultry at slaughter
- New Zealand code of practice for slaughter animals

In all consultations the HSA takes an independent view based on animal welfare issues and makes practical and realistic suggestions for today's industry.

Members of the HSA technical staff have also been invited to contribute at meetings of FAWC, the Soil Association Abattoir Working Group, Silsoe Livestock Haulage Working Group, and the European 'Safestun' workshop in Barcelona. In addition, the HSA's expertise has recently been sought by the legal profession.

## Changes in Legislation

On 1 May 2003 several amendments were made to the law protecting livestock at slaughter, *The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995*.

Two of the amendments supported by the HSA are the:

- use of the 'Cash' poultry killer as a killing instrument under disease control circumstances
- allowance of con-specifics to be bled in front of one another (excluding horses)

The 'Cash' poultry killer was designed to humanely kill poultry. Unfortunately, the practical use of this instrument on-farm has been hindered because of a legal requirement for subsequent neck dislocation or bleeding. The change in law now means that it is a permitted method of killing for disease control purposes. It is, however, still illegal to use the instrument for routine culling (eg end-of-lay hens) without following up with a permitted killing method.

Legislation previously stated that animals in England and Wales were not allowed to be bled in front of others. This often led to a time delay between stunning and sticking and the risk of animals not being bled within the recommended 15 seconds. Following scientific and practical advice, this ban has now been removed to allow bleeding to take place quickly. This reduces the risk of animals partially recovering from the stun whilst being bled.



McIntyre Meats lairage pens

## Award for High Standards of Lairage

This year the HSA received a grant application from a company which has recently completed the building of a new abattoir. The abattoir, which is situated in the Yorkshire Dales, has been built from scratch and to a very high standard, both in terms of animal welfare and the local environment. Animals are handled in small groups by experienced staff and treated as individuals. Following a visit by HSA technical staff, a grant was awarded in recognition of the high standards to which the lairage has been designed and built. This includes features such as each pen having a separate entrance and exit, allowing easy stock flow without staff moving through the groups of animals; and hinges that are fitted flush with walls, eliminating the risk of legs being trapped.

### Casualty Slaughter Video

The long-awaited HSA video training package on casualty and emergency slaughter for livestock producers is now in its final edit. The 30 minute video, which is scheduled for release in the autumn, includes detailed instruction on the humane killing of poultry, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. The routine cleaning and maintenance of stunning equipment is also included, with strong emphasis on the importance of keeping all stunning instruments in optimum working order.

### Slaughter Video to CD-ROM

Following the successful transfer of *The Road Ahead - Livestock Welfare in Transit* to CD-ROM format, the HSA plans to make the video *Humane Slaughter - Taking Responsibility* available in this medium also. CD-ROM is particularly useful to trainers and trainees alike, as sections can be selected for viewing at the touch of a button, rather than fast forwarding and rewinding a videotape. The HSA is taking this opportunity to update parts of the package and increase the flexibility of the training material by adding interactive sections. These will include case studies and questions and answers relevant to each section. We hope that the CD-ROM will be available in mid 2004.

### DEFRA Field Slaughter Video

In March 2003 DEFRA announced the launch of its video *Getting it Right...First Time, Every Time*, which was made in collaboration with the HSA. This training package provides practical guidance on the management and operation of large-scale humane killing of livestock during emergencies. The package comprises a video, an interactive CD-ROM, which includes a case study, and a training manual.

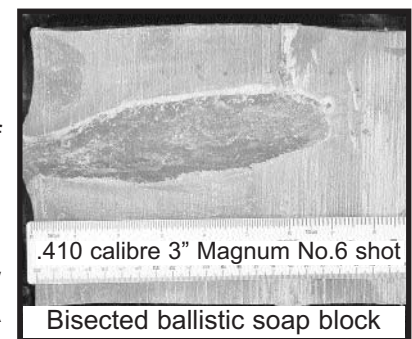
It is priced at £25 plus £2 p&p and is available from DEFRA, tel: 08459 556000 (quote ref PB8131).

It is **not** available from the HSA office.

### Firearms Training

The HSA's expertise in firearms for the humane killing of animals continued to be in high demand last year, with 14 courses delivered to a variety of clients. Amongst these was a course for the Ministry of Defence on the use of captive-bolt stunners in the field. Members of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps received comprehensive training, shortly after which some of the personnel who attended were carrying out duties in Iraq.

The HSA has also recently produced some useful photographs of bisected ballistic soap to illustrate the devastating effect of shotgun blasts at close range. These have proved an invaluable teaching aid and have added a new dimension to the HSA firearms training course.



### Animal Welfare Officer Refresher

This year the AWO Refresher Course will have a new format. The talks will be presented by the training staff who present the original AWO course. This change is an attempt to provide pure refresher training and update previous delegates on new material now included in the AWO course. The course, arranged and significantly subsidised by the HSA, will be held on 17-18 November 2003, at the East Midlands Thistle Hotel. The discounted cost of this refresher is £150 including an evening meal, accommodation and a certificate of attendance. To book, or for further information on this course, please contact the HSA office.

The HSA still values the format of previous refresher courses, in which a wider range of speakers join with industry members to discuss recent research work, developments and the practical implementation of these. The HSA plans to hold annual forums in the latter format, details of which will be provided in the HSA Spring Newsletter.

Training

# New Zealand

During June and July 2003 HSA Technical Officer, Tess Benson, travelled around New Zealand to see a variety of fish handling and harvesting procedures and to visit a range of red meat abattoirs.

## **AQUI-S**

The main purpose of the visit was to assess the effectiveness and efficacy of the anaesthetic AQUI-S under practical conditions and to discuss its development, practical use and the legal perspective. Visits were made to a range of processing plants and farms, the Crop and Food Research Institute, and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. AQUI-S was developed in New Zealand as an aquatic anaesthetic which allows fish to be sedated humanely before killing. Currently AQUI-S is not approved for use in the EU, but the company is now looking to extend the market.

Until recently, exposing fish to carbon dioxide saturated water before bleeding was common practice around the world. However, due to its aversive nature its use is now in decline, but alternatives that sedate/anaesthetise fish prior to slaughter are yet to be licensed for use in Europe.

Observations during the visit were made of an AQUI-S harvest followed by carbon dioxide, compared to a carbon dioxide only operation. This comparison showed noticeable changes in the fishes' behaviour, suggesting significant improvements in fish welfare with the use of AQUI-S. Some anaesthetics can cause irritation to the fish when they are first exposed to the solutions, but this was not the case with AQUI-S.

When fish were introduced to carbon dioxide following exposure to AQUI-S, they showed no aversive behaviour. In contrast, the use of carbon dioxide without prior sedation resulted in severe aversive reactions by the fish. This behaviour continued for at least 25 minutes, at which point the fish became exhausted rather than sedated or anaesthetised.

From the observations made during the visit, there is a strong indication that harvesting farmed fish with AQUI-S can improve welfare standards at slaughter.

## **Crop and Food Research Centre**

A visit was made to the Crop and Food Research Centre where AQUI-S was developed. The purpose was to meet the people who developed the product and discuss the implications of AQUI-S being licensed in the UK and the rest of Europe. During the visit a number of Red Snapper were exposed to AQUI-S and allowed to recover, to demonstrate that fish can fully recover from the anaesthetic and that there are no aversive affects exhibited by these animals. The implications of this for the fish industry are that, should a harvest run into difficulties whilst fish are sedated, they could be allowed to recover and returned to their pens until the problem has been rectified.

## **Red Meat Industry**

Five different abattoirs were visited in New Zealand and each provided a good indication of current industry practice for a number of different species and different methods of killing.

The majority, if not all, of the meat exported is classified Halal. However, all animals are stunned before being bled and therefore conform to the HSA's ideals.

The industry satisfies both the domestic and export markets in cattle and sheep by the use of electrical stunning systems. For the domestic market these systems kill the animals by first rendering the animal insensible and then stopping the heart. For the Halal market, the systems use the first part of the cycle only, after which the animal is released unconscious, but still alive. It is then bled in accordance with the Islamic religion.

During the visits, cattle, sheep and deer were observed being handled and slaughtered under different circumstances: in large and small plants for both Halal and domestic consumption. Both the handling and slaughter practices met with the HSA's expectations for good animal welfare.



### France

At the request of the manufacturers, HSA staff visited a processing plant in France to assess its poultry-handling system. The Stork PMT 'GP live bird supply system for broilers' is widely used on the continent, but not currently used in Great Britain.

The plant visited processes around 8,000 birds per hour and uses the handling system with a Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) machine. The system differs from others in that specially designed modules are mechanically lifted and tipped, allowing birds to slide out of the modules onto a conveyor system. They are then transported through into the processing plant. As with some designs used in the UK, the advantage of this system is that live birds do not have to be handled once they have reached the processing plant. On the day of the visit the HSA was impressed by the system and could clearly see the welfare benefits as live birds are not manually handled at the processing plant.

### Portugal

In April 2003 the HSA's Chief Executive, James Kirkwood, presented a lecture on humane slaughter at a course on animal welfare held at the British Council in Lisbon. He also introduced the subject of animal welfare at the symposium 'Nós e os outros animais' in Porto.

### Spain

James Kirkwood chaired the recent 'Safestun' workshop held in Barcelona in May, which was also attended by Charles Mason. The aim of this workshop, organised by Dr Haluk Anil and funded by the European Commission, was to discuss stunning methods in relation to minimising the risk of contamination of carcasses with brain tissue. This is in order to avoid the possibility of BSE transmission. The meeting was attended by scientists, veterinarians and others interested in the humane slaughter of livestock. Delegates attended from New Zealand, Australia, the UK and several other European countries.

### Slovenia

In response to a request for the Slovenian translation of the transport video *The Road Ahead* the HSA donated five copies of the video and 100 copies of the accompanying booklet, also translated, for use in training and education in humane livestock transport.

### Turkey

In June 2003 Charles Mason was in Turkey with Dr Haluk Anil of the University of Bristol completing research, started last year, into bleed-out rates. As before, the work was organised by Professor Tahsin Ysledere, without whose hard work and assistance this project would not have been possible.

This final part of the project involved a comparison of bleed-out rates in cattle stunned with a captive-bolt instrument, with those in cattle slaughtered by the traditional method. The results of this work, combined with the previous work on sheep, will be published in a paper in the autumn. This project is thought to be the only recent work of its kind and will be an invaluable reference for all those involved with animal welfare, veterinary science and meat hygiene.

The HSA would like to thank Professor Ysledere for all his help with this project.

OvenMedia

# Research

## Research for Improved Livestock Welfare

Since 1911 the HSA has helped in the development of humane systems for slaughter, transport and handling of animals at market. This has been through supporting research into new methods and technologies in these areas. Since 1981, studies have included investigations into welfare in the lairage, development and improvements in slaughter technology and methods, surveys into current hatchery and slaughterhouse practices and welfare during transport and at markets. Some of these studies have been conducted by HSA staff but the majority have been undertaken externally, supported by HSA funding. A number of students have gained expertise and postgraduate degrees within areas of interest to the HSA by carrying out studies funded by the charity. The HSA's research has led to significant advances in technology and it has also helped lay the foundations for further developments by expanding the pool of scientists and industry members with special interest in livestock welfare.

### Dorothy Sidley Awards 2004

Applications for the HSA's Dorothy Sidley Awards 2004 are now invited. The Dorothy Sidley Awards are open to young people, to undertake animal welfare projects in the fields of marketing, transport and slaughter of food animals.

This year up to five awards, each worth a maximum of £1,000, are available for successful applicants. Proposed projects can be part of college course work, and students or trainees in agriculture, veterinary or meat science are invited to apply.

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2004 and successful applicants will be notified by March. The project must then be completed and reports submitted by November 2004.

For further details contact the HSA office.

## Dorothy Sidley Awards

The first Dorothy Sidley Award was made in 1986 to Gillian Weyman for a study on cattle loading and unloading procedures. Since then 20 students and trainees have received the award. The aim of this scheme is to provide an opportunity for promising students and trainees to develop their knowledge of animal welfare in the HSA's interests, helping in those first steps towards a career in animal welfare. One early recipient, Dr Danny Mills, studied stress in end-of-lay hens during transport. He went on to become the supervisor of another HSA-funded project on the humane shooting of horses, which was published in 2001.

This year two awards were made to:

*Lucy Percival, Suffolk and Otley College.*

Livestock markets selling horses vary in their standards of care and facilities. With so many different standards it can be difficult to compare and assess the actual welfare impact on the horse objectively.

This project will attempt to produce an objective means of assessing the welfare of horses in livestock markets. The assessment criteria will be tried and tested and, if successful, distributed widely.

*Russell Parker, University of Bristol School of Veterinary Science.*

Loading a horse onto transport of any form can be stressful, especially if the horse has had a negative experience in the past. Some people, in an attempt to ease this stress, blindfold the horse, but does this really calm the animal?

This project will assess the effects of blindfolding horses during loading using heart rate, salivary cortisol levels and behaviour in an attempt to discover how humane this procedure is and if it really is an improvement in terms of welfare.

## Ongoing Research

This year substantial research funding was given to two projects in the fields identified as areas for further work by the HSA last year.

Drs Lines and Kestin received a grant for a project entitled:

*Humane slaughter of trout using reduced electric power.*

Past work by these researchers has resulted in the development of an electrical stunning machine for fish which works effectively in fresh water. To transfer this technology to sea water, however, requires an immense increase in power because of the high conductivity of sea water. This increased conductivity causes the electricity to travel around rather than through the fish, resulting in ineffective stunning.

Preliminary results look very promising. Using a high current to cause an initial stun and then maintaining the fish in a lower field for one minute can humanely kill with 100% efficiency and may reduce total power consumption by about 80%.

Dr Arney and colleagues were awarded a grant for a study entitled:

*Transport and slaughter of ostriches, deer and wild boar used for the meat industry in the UK.*

This project is an in-depth review of the numbers of these 'exotic' animals within the UK, how they are currently handled and slaughtered and the practical options for such animals. This information will be useful in identifying areas in need of improvement and development. Initial reports from the authors, who are working in close liaison with both the British Wild Boar Association and the British Deer Farmers Association, show that the project is going well. Once the data have been collated and compiled in a final report, there are also plans to hold a conference to help disseminate results to the industry.

## Research Awards 2003/2004

The HSA is inviting applications for funding to support research projects or pilot studies in the following areas:

- improvements in poultry transport
- methods of on-farm killing of poultry for disease control
- review of trends in livestock marketing methods in the UK
- welfare impact of food withholding periods in farmed fish

However, applications will be considered for research in other fields within the HSA's objectives. A total of £15,000 is available through the scheme in this financial year to support one project or to be subdivided to support more than one. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2003. For further details and an application form please contact the Secretary or, if you wish to discuss ideas informally, please contact James Kirkwood.

## Horse Transport

Every year, thousands of unfit horses are transported across Europe for slaughter in often less than humane conditions. This is to meet the demand for fresh horse meat, rather than meat killed at source and transported.

The HSA is in discussion with the ILPH and others about an initiative to investigate the welfare standards of these horses. It is believed that their welfare could be further compromised when they are not in prime condition. Any stressor, eg heat, dehydration or overcrowding, experienced during the journey has a greater effect on these already weak animals, but the full extent is still not known.

The proposed plan is to monitor groups of horses whilst they are travelling and compare them with results from fit horses, travelling similar distances and times in good conditions. It is hoped the results will provide information that will allow improvements to be made where necessary, and help lead to tighter and more effectively enforced rules for the transportation of horses.

Research

# Markets

## Market Award Presentation

The second of the HSA 2002 Market Awards was presented on 19 May 2003. The award of £1,500 was presented to Mr Andrew Luxton of Honiton Collection Centre by Mr Dick Sibley of the British Cattle Veterinary Association. The grant is towards the cost of a new cattle race to aid individual identification.

Although no longer operating as a traditional livestock market, HSA staff felt the award was still deserved, highlighting that current alternatives to livestock markets can still provide good animal welfare conditions when well managed. Only suitably experienced livestock handlers are employed by the market and, in addition, a vet is employed on-site to monitor all livestock on the premises.

The old race at Honiton was no longer suitable or strong enough for the breeds of cattle now popular in the industry. Two races have been built side-by-side, so that cattle can move through the system together if necessary, whilst keeping them separate until identification takes place.

The continuation of this market as a collection centre has provided a valuable facility. Without it some cattle would be subjected to longer journeys, many of them involving multiple pick-ups from farm to farm.



Presentation of HSA Market Award at Honiton Collection centre.

## Market Award 2003

This year the HSA has offered a £2,000 welfare development grant to any livestock market in England, Scotland or Wales which has made improvements to its facilities in an attempt to improve animal welfare whilst livestock is held on the premises. The closing date was the end of May and four markets in Scotland and England have been shortlisted for a visit. These markets will be visited in August and September and a decision will be made soon after all visits are complete.

## NEWC Code of Practice

HSA staff have been working with the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC) on a code of practice for horses and ponies (including donkeys) in markets. The code covers all aspects of horse welfare within the market place and makes specific reference to horse sales, the running of which often differs markedly from horse markets.

The code is now available from NEWC: [markets@newc.co.uk](mailto:markets@newc.co.uk).

## Market Welfare Policy

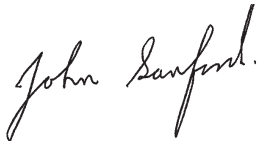
One of the outcomes of the 2002 HSA Welfare Awareness Day for Market Managers was a request for help to produce individual market welfare policies. These documents help focus the market manager's mind, both on specific welfare issues and on setting standards. A good welfare policy helps the manager communicate to staff what is important and, when made public, can demonstrate to both users of the market and public alike the standards that are expected in the market place.

In response to this request the HSA is currently writing a general policy that can be adapted to suit individual markets' aims and requirements. The draft policy will be circulated to various markets before completion and will be made available in a format that can be customised by market operators.

## Finance and Accounts

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2003			BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2003		
	2002/2003	2001/2002		2002/2003	2001/2002
	£	£		£	£
Incoming resources	<u>251,117</u>	<u>289,186</u>	Fixed assets		
Less: Direct charitable expenditure	169,874	139,664	Tangible fixed assets	220,565	149,333
Fundraising and publicity	7,617	5,333	Investments	1,107,720	1,281,291
Other expenditure	<u>63,909</u>	<u>63,600</u>	Cash at stockbroker	<u>276,414</u>	<u>163,657</u>
Total resources used	<u>241,400</u>	<u>208,617</u>		<u>1,604,699</u>	<u>1,591,281</u>
Net incoming(outgoing) resources in year	<u>9,717</u>	<u>80,569</u>	Current assets:		
Other recognised gains and losses:			Debtors	5,846	7,237
Revaluation of land and building	69,635		Deposits at bank	120,666	200,000
Realised (loss) gain on investments	(9,396)	8,188	Cash at bank & in hand	<u>30,052</u>	<u>58,656</u>
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	(177,169)	(102,170)		<u>156,364</u>	<u>265,893</u>
Net movement in funds	(107,213)	(13,113)	Creditors:		
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2002	<u>1,844,354</u>	<u>1,857,467</u>	Amounts falling due within 1 year	<u>(23,922)</u>	<u>(15,820)</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2003	<u>1,737,141</u>	<u>1,844,354</u>	Net assets	<u>1,737,141</u>	<u>1,844,354</u>
			Funds:		
			Designated	4,677	5,422
			Undesignated	<u>1,732,464</u>	<u>1,838,932</u>
				<u>1,737,141</u>	<u>1,844,354</u>

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 10 July 2003



John Sanford, BVSc PhD FRCVS, Chairman



Norman J Reed, BSc FCA, Treasurer

The summarised accounts set out above have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the 2000 Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting by Charities (SORP). The full accounts have been audited and the auditors' opinion was without qualification. The accounts will be filed with the Charity Commission after the General Meeting on 7 October 2003. Full accounts and the audit report can be obtained from the Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN.

### Independent Auditors' Statement to the Trustees of the HSA & CJA

We have examined the summarised financial statements that comprise the summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet.

### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditors

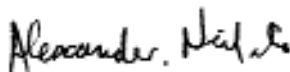
You are responsible as the Trustees for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with the financial statements, on which we reported to you on 10 July 2003.

### Basis of Opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2003.



Alexander, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, London, 10 July 2003

Administration

# Administration

## General Meeting 2002

The General Meeting was held at the Women's Institute Hall, Wheathampstead on 8 October 2002. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the AGMs of our sister charities, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the Society for Animal Welfare in Israel (SAWI). The members of UFAW Council act as Trustees for all three societies. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The main purposes of the meeting were to present the report of the year's work and audited accounts to 31 March 2002, to re-appoint the auditors and elect new members of the UFAW Council. The report and accounts were duly presented and it was resolved that Alexander, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, be re-appointed as auditors. Professor Ronald Anderson retired from the UFAW Council; Dr Janet Dewdney OBE, Deputy Director of AdProTech plc, was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr Mike Radford and Dr Richard Bennett were re-elected.

## General Meeting 2003

The General Meeting will be held at 3.00pm on Tuesday 7 October 2003, at the Women's Institute Hall, Mead Lane, Wheathampstead. The formal notice and agenda are circulated to members with this report.

## Membership

Despite the HSA's 92 years of hard work within the food animal industry, a large majority of the general public has rarely heard of the HSA. The limited size of the advertising budget does, inevitably, restrict our promotional activities. We continue to rely on our members and supporters to spread the word and we again ask all readers of this report to tell their friends about the HSA's work and encourage them to become members and support our essential animal welfare work. Paying your subscription by standing order helps us by saving the cost of reminders. In 2002 membership subscriptions were increased for the first time since 1996 and are now £15 for adult and £5 for student membership per year. If you have not already done so, please help our office staff (and again minimise our costs) by changing your standing order now, ready for your next subscription payment.

## Wills

As the HSA receives neither industry nor government funding, the importance of legacies to the continuing existence of the HSA cannot be overemphasised and we urge members to bear in mind the HSA's animal welfare work when writing or updating their wills. If any member would like help in preparing a will, please contact the office and ask for a leaflet.

## Special Thanks

The following legacies of over £1,000 were received during the financial year. We greatly appreciate our supporters' generosity and extend our condolences to their families and friends:

Mrs S G Carter  
Miss W M Hawes  
Mr I C Roberts  
Mrs H J Wilby

Mrs J V Frank  
Mrs P A I M Kaller  
Miss K M Slater  
Mr R L Woolaway

Thanks are also due to the following Trusts for generous donations:

Leonard Chadwick Charitable Trust      The Paget Trust  
Mrs Maud Van Norden's Charitable Foundation      CPF Trust

Finally, to those generous supporters whose extra contributions enabled the Association to achieve so much more, we extend our sincerest thanks.

### Making the Most of your Subscription and Donations

Do you pay at least basic rate income tax in the UK? Have you signed a **Gift Aid** declaration yet? If so, the HSA can reclaim the tax that you have already paid on your subscription and donation. When you sign a once-in-a-lifetime Gift Aid declaration, we can then reclaim the tax on everything you donate to the HSA until you tell us that your circumstances have changed.

Members who have an account with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) may make donations to the HSA using their **CAF Charity Card**: to make a CAF donation, either complete the relevant section of the enclosed appeal form or contact the HSA and the necessary details will be recorded by the accounts staff.

Have you considered supporting your preferred charities by deductions, free of tax, straight from your salary using a **Give As You Earn** scheme? The Government encourages us all to use this trouble-free and direct method by adding 10% to your donations. If you would like to set up such an arrangement, the HSA is registered with the Charities Aid Foundation, GAYE Payroll Giving Service, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. The HSA's Registration Number is 000236.

Whilst we are most grateful when members use either of these latter schemes to make donations, we would ask members to bear in mind that **you** get the tax benefit from these forms of donation, not the HSA. Especially for payment of our modest subscription, we shall be delighted if you feel able to adjust the level of your donation so as to share the tax benefit!

<b>Trustees of the HSA</b>	
<b>Chairman:</b>	Dr J Sanford**
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Prof P M Biggs**
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Mr N J Reed
<b>Trustees:</b>	Dr R Bennett Dr J M Dewdney** Prof S J G Hall Dr B O Hughes Dr B R Howard Mr J H Pratt Dr M A Parry Mr M Radford Ms E Wright
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Prof R S Anderson Miss J Drummond Thompson Prof A M Johnston Prof J E T Jones Dr G D Sales

\*\* From 8/10/02

### HSA Gifts and Cards

As you will see on the HSA gift leaflet, we have five varied designs of Christmas card, including one with a secular greeting. All bear the HSA logo and brief details of our work. Prices include all postage and packaging. Don't forget, too, our high-quality pens and mugs which help raise awareness of the charity.

### Membership Badges

By request, we have recently produced a 10cm X 10cm laminated badge for displaying in a window perhaps, which bears the HSA logo, aims and the statement 'I support the Humane Slaughter Association - Member 2003'. Currently being sent to all corporate members, it is also available to individual members from the HSA office on receipt of an A5 SAE.

**Staff**

**Chief Executive & Scientific Director:**  
Dr James Kirkwood

**Secretary:**  
Mrs Ann Lang

**Technical Director:**  
Mr Charles Mason

**Technical Officers:**  
Miss Tess Benson  
Miss Siobhán Mc Manus  
Miss Natalie Simmonds

**Veterinary Adviser:**  
Professor Mac Johnston

This year we said farewell to Siobhán Mc Manus, and have welcomed Natalie Simmonds. Since completing a degree in animal science, Natalie has worked for a poultry breeding company running their trials site.

*Administration*