

Chairman's Report

It is a pleasure to report another very active and productive year and I should again like to pay tribute to our dedicated staff who do so much to promote the high standing of our charity. Despite the respect in which the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) is held, the charity is still not widely known by the general public and members and supporters are asked to do whatever is possible to remedy this.

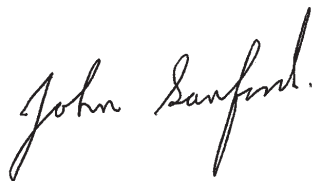
Landmarks include: the launch of the *Emergency Slaughter* video, which has already sold well; the launch of *Best Practice Guidelines* for animals at slaughter; and the receipt of an award from the Animal Transportation Association for our video on *Livestock Welfare in Transit*. A workshop in Scotland successfully introduced a practical electric stunning machine for the harvesting of farmed trout, which will lead to the more general introduction of this humane technique.

Increased meat production from non-traditional species such as ostriches and buffalo prompted an HSA-sponsored survey of the welfare of such species during transport and at slaughter. Another survey has been launched to study worldwide practices and legislation relating to the slaughter of food animals.

As many members will know, the HSA and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), have operated from the same premises for 25 years and, since 1987, at the request of the then trustees of the HSA, the members of UFAW Council have been the trustees also of the HSA. Both charities continue to occupy the same premises, purchased on a $\frac{2}{3}$ UFAW, $\frac{1}{3}$ HSA basis in 1997.

As an unincorporated association the HSA cannot hold property, so persons who were officers of the charities at the time of purchase have held its share of the premises in trust. However, these individuals have since retired from the HSA Trustee Board/UFAW Council. The current trustees are concerned that this is not ideal and have sought legal advice about a possible solution. It would be possible for the title deeds to be amended to the names of current trustees but it would then be necessary to repeat the process each time a named trustee retired from the Board. This would also still leave trustees exposed to any risk which might be associated with personal liability. After deliberation, the trustees have decided that a better solution would be to transfer the HSA's share to UFAW to be held in trust for the HSA (UFAW being unlike the HSA, a company limited by guarantee and so able to hold property). This presents no disadvantage to either charity and the HSA's share of the premises of course remains part of the HSA's assets.

The shared premises and the dual role of the HSA Trustee Board/UFAW Council emphasise the close working relationship between the two charities. With a shared philosophy and joint approach, the charities have together forged a remarkable record of achievement for animal welfare.



Chairman

Introduction

The objects of the HSA, as written in its constitution, are the promotion of humane methods of slaughter and the introduction of reforms in livestock markets (including transport facilities) where needed to prevent the suffering of animals. In pursuit of these, the Association identifies about 12 specific projects to strive to take forward each year.

Three major completed projects during the year 2003/2004 were the promotion of the new electrical system for the humane killing of farmed trout, production of the emergency slaughter video and the publication of best practice guidelines for the welfare of animals at slaughter. Staff have also continued making regular visits to slaughterhouses and markets to keep abreast of current practices and to assist in tackling problems. We are now starting the initial planning of a video on the welfare of poultry at slaughter. The HSA's various grant schemes continue, as can be seen from this annual report these and other activities have progressed well.

During the year, staff meet regularly to review the progress of these projects and also to consider other topical matters within the HSA's focus of interest. Year on year the HSA has, in this way, been highly productive and has been able to contribute greatly to advances in livestock welfare, not just in the UK but around the world. We live in a global free market and it is most important, where possible, to tackle welfare issues on an international basis.

The HSA is well known within the livestock transport, marketing and slaughter industries but is not so well known more widely. However, we find that many members of the public, although they may not wish to know much about the technicalities of humane slaughter, are very supportive of the aims of the charity when they hear about them. We believe it is important that the aims and work of the HSA should be publicised more widely, both to help promote humane practices and also to better publicise the HSA (the funding of which depends on the generosity of its supporters). We are pleased to announce, therefore, that Kate Davey, who has previous experience with The Wellcome Trust and the Game Conservancy Trust, has joined us as Public Relations and Fundraising Officer. As many supporters know, the HSA has worked very closely with UFAW for over 25 years and this appointment is a joint HSA/UFAW post. This is an important step in the further promotion of the HSA's aims and objectives.

As always it is due to the generosity and loyalty of our 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



Humane Slaughter Association

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HSA Objectives:
Promote humane methods of slaughter
Introduce reforms in livestock markets
Improve transport facilities

Annual Report 03-04

Technical

Changes in legislation

In the HSA 2004 Newsletter three amendments were reported which had been made to the law protecting livestock at slaughter, *The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995* (WASK '95). One of the points which caused concern for some readers was the permitting of con-specifics (animals of the same species) to be bled in front of one another (excluding horses)

Previously, animals slaughtered 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 to the risk of animals not being bled within the recommended 15 seconds. Following scientific and practical advice, this ban has now been lifted to reduce the risk of animals partially recovering from the stun whilst being bled.

The HSA sees this as a positive step for animal welfare at slaughter.

Animal Welfare Update Course

The HSA is in the initial stages of planning a new welfare update course. The course is planned for February 2005 and will run over two days, with red meat species being covered on the first day and white meat species on the second.

The objective of the course is to update all staff involved with the transport, handling and slaughter of animals, including managers and supervisors.

New research, developments, technology, legislation and guidelines will be covered within the course, which will be presented by HSA staff and external speakers from the meat and livestock industry.

Further details will be available in the relevant press as they are confirmed and will also be posted on the HSA website.

If you would like to register your interest in this course, please email info@hsa.org.uk and further details will be sent when available.

HSA fish stunning workshop

On 27 May 2004, over 45 people from various aspects of the trout industry attended the electrical stunning of fish workshop organised by the HSA.

The workshop included four talks from key contributors to the progression of this project: Jeff Lines, who carried out the initial research; John Ace-Hopkins, the equipment manufacturer; Mark Davis, a fish farmer who has implemented the system on his farm; and Forbes Smith of Scot Trout, the company which processes the fish killed by this method.

Following lunch there was an opportunity for all the delegates to observe the stunning machine working on a four-ton commercial harvest. This stunning machine works in two stages: first stunning the fish by a short exposure to a high frequency current, followed by a longer exposure of low frequency current which prevents recovery. By splitting the process into two stages the power requirements are significantly decreased. This new technology has helped make the system much more affordable to the industry and can be fitted into most farming systems with relative ease. In this system fish are killed by extended exposure to the electric current, which is important as these fish are not bled individually.

So far there has been no significant change in the carcass quality of the fish humanely killed, in comparison to those killed under the more conventional system of ice slurry. As there is now a practical, affordable and reliable machine available, we are pleased to note that the Quality Trout UK's standards for farmed trout will shortly state that all fish produced and marketed through this scheme will have to be humanely killed.

Best Practice Guidelines

On Tuesday 29 June 2004 the HSA launched a new set of publications aimed at further improving the welfare of animals at slaughter.

Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Cattle, Pigs, Sheep and Goats in Abattoirs, and Broilers and Hens in Processing Plants were launched by Professor Sir Colin Spedding at the Farmers Club, London.

Following a brief presentation by HSA technical staff, Peter Bradnock and Peter Scott (representing the British Poultry Council and the British Meat Processors' Association respectively) replied on behalf of the meat industry.

The HSA has produced the Guidelines in response to demand from wholesalers, retailers and auditors. The aim of the new publications is to improve the welfare at slaughter of a large number of farmed animals by raising the animal welfare baseline across the board.



From L to R: Professor Sir Colin Spedding, Peter Scott and Peter Bradnock

Quotes

'...these guidelines are sensible, practical and clear and we will be recommending them to our members.'

Peter Bradnock, British Poultry Council

'...I welcome the new guides as they make good commercial sense.'

Peter Scott, British Meat Processors Association

'...it is very helpful to have an objective assessment on methods of slaughter.'

Professor Sir Colin Spedding

All Guidelines are available from the HSA office on receipt of payment. Prices start at £10 for a single copy, with discounts available on bulk orders.

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 21 consultations including:

- Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Order
- Wild Boar Assurance Scheme
- Welfare of White Meat Animals at Slaughter
- Government response to Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) report
- Assured Chicken Production (ACP) Scheme Standards 2003-04
- Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

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

Animal Handling Guidance Notes

Work has now begun on Guidance Notes No. 6 *Humane Handling of Livestock*.

This will cover all aspects of handling red meat animals during transport, at markets and at slaughter.

The contents will include animal behaviour, handling facilities, loading/unloading, restraint and design specification.

These guidance notes will be a useful reference for all people handling livestock.

Technical

Technical

Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) of poultry

To address the welfare aspects of using Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) systems for the killing of poultry, an important workshop was held in June 2004 at Silsoe, Bedfordshire.

This was organised by the HSA and UFAW, along with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

The workshop was attended by 40 invited participants from Europe and the USA, and reviewed the latest research findings, current practices and experiences of those involved.

HSA Chief Executive, James Kirkwood, presented a paper entitled *Distress and suffering in birds* and HSA Technical Officer, Natalie Simmonds, presented on *Perspectives on controlled atmosphere stunning*. A report of the workshop is to be published in due course.

Fallen Stock Scheme

On 1 May last year *The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003* came into force. This legislation prohibited the burial, open burning, composting and biodigestion of fallen stock. Livestock producers were told that a 'fallen stock scheme' would be made available, but it failed to materialise at the expected time.

The latest news is that the scheme will commence this autumn. This scheme has changed somewhat from the original proposals. Now farmers will be able to access the new scheme on payment of a nominal annual registration fee currently set at £25 and they will be able to choose their preferred approved collector. The National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) will provide all members of the scheme with a full list detailing all the prices of the collectors who cover their area.

The HSA will be monitoring the progress of the new scheme with interest.

Technical Notes

Further Technical Notes have been published, including:

- *Gas Killing of Chickens and Turkeys*
- *Gas Killing of Chicks in Hatcheries*

Technical Note No. 12, *Gas Killing of Chickens and Turkeys*, describes the principles of gas killing and the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of gas mixtures used to kill chickens and turkeys in the UK.

Gas Killing of Chicks in Hatcheries focuses on the principles of gas killing, the relevant legislation and the advantages and disadvantages of the types of gas mixtures used.

Both Technical Notes aim to provide constructive, practical advice to maximise animal welfare at the hatchery or abattoir and are available, free of charge, from the HSA office.

Horse Passports

As of 30 June 2004 all horse owners must have applied for or have a passport for each of their horses.

The HSA had been concerned about the declaration which had to be signed when the passport was issued, stating whether or not the horse was intended for human consumption.

Signing the 'not intended' declaration would have removed any option of slaughtering the animal for food at a later point in its life. The disposal options open to horse owners are limited and this could have caused unintentional welfare problems if owners could not afford the other legal options for disposal.

Fortunately this proposal has been altered. The owner can now sign the declaration at **any** time after receipt of the passport, but **must** sign it before the horse is exported, is sent for slaughter for human consumption or before the administration of any drugs banned for use on horses intended for food.

Transport of fish

For many years farmed fish in Scotland have been killed *in situ* by mobile slaughter teams or by the farm workers themselves.

However, some larger companies are now moving towards centralised killing stations which requires fish to be transported from the farm to the killing station. This transport is carried out in highly sophisticated 'well' boats in which the conditions of the fish are monitored throughout the entire journey.

One benefit of well boats is that live fish can be moved to a central killing station which will have a specifically designed killing area and fully trained staff. It also means that the fish can be moved more quickly to the processing plant resulting in improved quality. However, there can be problems if the water quality deteriorates or the fish are loaded or unloaded badly.

The HSA is now working with some of the companies involved in order to develop guidelines for the transport of fish. These will be included in the forthcoming Guidance Notes No. 5.

Dates for your diary

This year the HSA has so far attended four shows:

- Foodex Meatex (NEC)
- The Pig and Poultry Fair (NAC)
- The National Sheep Event (Malvern)
- Beef Event 2004 (Edinburgh)

We are also planning to attend:

National Traditional and Native Breeds Show

10–11 September, Melton Mowbray

Association of Meat Inspectors (AMI) Conference

3–5 September, Harper Adams University

Royal Smithfield Show
2–5 December, Earls Court

Transport legislation update

Over the past few years the European transport directive has been under review by the EU Commission.

Two of the major changes proposed to the current regulations concern not only how long animals are allowed to travel without resting periods, but also how long the resting periods should be.

Unfortunately, member states could not come to an agreement. As a result, the EU has failed to reach a suitable conclusion and the proposal has now been dropped.

In addition to its recent enlargement, the EU has just changed its presidency. This makes it unlikely that any further work on this proposal will take place in the near future.

However, the review has highlighted how poorly enforced the current legislation is and moves are now being made to ensure better enforcement to help improve the standards of animal welfare during transport.

CAS system for end-of-lay hens

Although the majority of birds slaughtered in the UK are stunned using electrical waterbath systems, an increasing number of plants are killing poultry using gas.

This year one of the UK's major poultry companies, Deans Foods, has had the first gas killing system for end-of-lay hens fitted into its Lincolnshire plant.

The CAS system has a number of welfare advantages for end-of-lay hens over electrical waterbath systems: the major improvement is the removal of the extra handling needed during shackling of live birds at the processing plant.

CAS systems are currently being used to kill end-of-lay hens, broilers, turkeys and ducks within the processing plant.

Technical

Training

Training for small/medium abattoirs

Many small/medium abattoirs find it difficult to send staff on external courses because of limited resources and time constraints. In response to this, the HSA has been approached by NPD Services to develop a suitable animal welfare training course for these types of companies. NPD Services already provides training to members of the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS), giving it access to over 100 abattoirs.

This new course covers all aspects of live animal handling up to the point of slaughter. A pilot course has now been delivered and a second course is being planned.

The course has the full support of AIMS, which is currently seeking funding to make it more affordable for all of its members.

Market managers' degree course

The University of Central Lancashire, in association with the Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA) is now developing an on-line course for market managers in the form of a foundation degree. Delegates will be able to take the course part-time over three years.

In the first year, one of the modules will be on animal welfare; the HSA's *To Market To Market* video and other HSA materials will be included as course references. HSA staff may also be involved in lecturing to the students.

Emergency Slaughter video

The launch of the HSA's new *Emergency Slaughter* training video on 26 February 2004 has proved to be an overwhelming success.

After much favourable publicity, over 200 copies have been sold and more copies have had to be produced. The video gives practical guidance on the humane killing of injured, diseased and non-viable livestock, dealing with both red and white meat species.

Copies are available priced £15 from the HSA offices.

Training

The HSA technical team has been heavily involved in providing training for various people and organisations over the past twelve months.

Among several new bodies to seek the assistance of the HSA is AIMS, as previously mentioned.

In addition to this, a major provider of Official Veterinary Surgeons to the Meat Hygiene Service has recently contacted the HSA to request CPD training in animal welfare at slaughter. Plans are being made to give this training in association with specialists in legal aspects of slaughter.

HSA poultry video

This year the HSA has embarked on the planning of a new training video looking at best welfare practice for the catching, handling, transport and slaughter of different poultry species.

This new video plans to cover all major poultry species killed for meat, including broilers, hens, turkeys, ducks, geese and quail.

Best practice guidance will be given on a number of issues including:

- capturing birds in a commercial situation
- on-farm emergency slaughter
- handling and loading of birds into containers
- transportation issues, eg loading of birds, ventilation etc
- unloading at the processing plant
- lairaging considerations
- electrical waterbath stunning
- Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) systems

The HSA is hoping to start filming at the end of this year.

World animal welfare initiative

HSA Chief Executive, James Kirkwood, attended the Office Internationale des Épizooties (OIE) Initiative for Global Animal Welfare Standards conference in Paris on 23 February 2004.

The OIE, as the World Association for Animal Health, received a unanimous mandate from its now 166 member countries to become the leading international organisation in the field of animal welfare.

This is a very important initiative as, once OIE standards are developed and agreed, they are likely to be a significant force for improving animal welfare standards worldwide.

From the OIE conference in Paris, working groups have been set up to develop standards in a number of fields including three within the HSA's interests:

- *humane slaughter*
- *culling for disease control*
- *livestock transport*

The HSA will follow these developments closely and will do all it can to assist in the development of global standards.

The Netherlands

HSA Technical Officer, Natalie Simmonds, travelled to Laren, Holland to view the on-farm loading of broilers into Stork PMT transport modules.

These containers are used in conjunction with the Stork PMT tipping system (as mentioned in 2002/2003 annual report) and are designed to load birds from the bottom level upwards. Each module consists of four tiers so when the bottom tier is full the sliding floor can be pulled forward to allow the next level to be filled.

On the day of the visit the system worked well and the catchers employed were competent, placing the birds with care into the containers.



Delegates at the AATA International Transport Conference

Austria

HSA Technical Officer, Natalie Simmonds, attended the Animal Transportation Association (ATA) 30th International Conference, which was held in Vienna, Austria.

This conference focused on transport issues for both farmed and zoo species, including current and future legislation and scientific research on a number of issues affecting the welfare of animals being transported by road, sea and air.

HSA receives prestigious award

The HSA was honoured to receive the AATA 2004 Animal Welfare Award, which was presented at the AATA conference in Vienna (see above).

The Animal Welfare Award is given to a person or organisation that has worked with the transportation of animals and has exhibited an outstanding job in promoting animal welfare.

The award was given to the HSA for its development of a specific training video *The Road Ahead - Livestock Welfare in Transit*.

The video (which is available in English, Spanish and the ten languages of the new EU countries) was judged to be a valuable tool for raising industry awareness and the competence levels of animal handlers.

Overseas

Research

Dorothy Sidley Awards

The HSA has offered Dorothy Sidley Awards annually for the past 19 years. These awards have provided opportunities for many students to develop their interests in animal welfare through vacation projects, as well as supplying the HSA with valuable research in its fields of interest.

Lucy Percival and Russell Parker were the winners of the 2003 award. Lucy gave an excellent presentation on her project, assessing the welfare of horses in livestock markets, at the UFAW Vacation Scholars' Meeting held on 10 December 2003 at the Royal Veterinary College in London.

The winner of the Dorothy Sidley Award 2004 is:

Ms Jade Spence, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh.

The award will be used to support her project on *The effects of lying deprivation on fatigue in sheep* under the supervision of Dr Michael Cockram.

The aim of this study is to investigate the welfare impact of transporting sheep that are unable to lie down. This will be looked at in terms of whether increased fatigue occurs in this situation, compared with the transportation of sheep where the opportunity to lie down is given.

Flatfish research

The HSA is pleased to announce it will be involved in another project with Silsoe Research Institute and the University of Bristol, who have secured funding from Defra to develop electrical stunning procedures for sea fish. The year-long project will focus on halibut, which present very different challenges to those of trout which have been worked on previously. It will attempt to identify, test and demonstrate a humane and commercially acceptable approach to slaughter.

The halibut farming industry is relatively new and currently uses death by asphyxiation by default, as there is no humane option currently available. However, growers do recognise that slaughter issues need to be addressed.

It is anticipated that this research will demonstrate the feasibility of humane electric stunning systems for farmed sea fish. This is expected to lead to industry demand for, and development and commercial availability of such, systems.

The research will also expand the understanding of the interactions between fish and electric fields. It is also hoped that it will contribute to knowledge which could be used for the development of humane slaughter methods for wild fisheries, if or when this becomes necessary.

Dorothy Sidley Awards 2005

Applications for the HSA's Dorothy Sidley Awards 2005 are now invited. The Dorothy Sidley Awards are open to young people to enable them to undertake animal welfare projects in the fields of marketing, transport and slaughter of food animals.

Five awards, each worth up to £1,000, will be available to support student/trainee animal welfare projects in the fields of livestock marketing, transport or slaughter.

These projects can be undertaken as vacation projects or as part of college course work. Students/trainees in agricultural, veterinary, meat science and related fields are invited to apply.

The deadline for applications is 28 February 2005 and successful applicants will be notified by May. Further details and application forms are available from the HSA Secretary.

Review of the welfare of non-traditional farmed animals

In recent years there has been growing UK interest in meat production from non-traditional livestock species such as wild boar, deer, ostrich, buffalo and bison. However, there has been little specific research into their transport and slaughter.

Dr Hannah Bornett and colleagues at Moulton College, Northampton, won an HSA Research Award to undertake a UK-wide survey which reviewed the welfare of low-volume livestock during transport and at slaughter. Survey results suggest an estimated 316 UK deer farms with a total herd of 24,000 animals. Around 100 farms keep wild boar, with herds ranging from a few to more than 500 animals. In 2002, 1292 wild boar were slaughtered in the UK. There are around 150 ostrich farms. Buffalo and bison are also kept but exact figures were unable to be collected.

The report surveyed the opinions of both producers and abattoirs about welfare during transport and at slaughter. Among its recommendations, the report confirmed the need for:

- up-to-date, species-specific codes of practice to be available for producers, transporters and abattoir personnel
- specific training to be available on the handling of these species for transporters and abattoir personnel

Research Awards 2004/2005

Awards have been made to:

- Paul Berry, BBSRC – poultry waterbath stunner refinement
- Steve Wotton, AWTraining, Bristol University – investigation of problem areas when using beef electrical stun/kill systems

The projects will be reported in the Spring Newsletter.

Research Awards 2005/2006

The closing date for applications for the 2004/2005 Research Awards has now passed. Seven applications were received, dealing with a wide range of topics. Projects were considered by the Grant Panel and announced just prior to the printing of this report. The projects to be supported are shown in the box below.

The HSA will shortly be inviting applications for funding in 2005/2006 to support research projects or pilot studies. Applications will be considered for research in any field within the HSA's objectives.

A total of £15,000 will be available through the scheme to support one project or to be subdivided to support more than one. The closing date for applications will be 28 February 2005.

For further details and an application form please contact the Secretary or, if you wish to discuss ideas informally, please contact James Kirkwood.

World review of slaughter legislation and practices

Whilst there are still improvements to be made in the UK, there is no doubt that standards of livestock slaughter have improved enormously since the HSA was founded in 1911.

Livestock production has increased massively all around the world, making it increasingly important that modern, science-based, humane methods are used wherever livestock is slaughtered. It is vital that everyone involved understands the reasons why this is so important.

The HSA is keen to do all it can to help promote humane slaughter practices globally. This year it is beginning a survey of slaughter practices and legislation world-wide. The results will be helpful in identifying best practice and in developing ways to effectively share this with all livestock-producing nations. The survey was launched at an HSA workshop held at the Defra offices in London on 8 June 2004.

Research

Markets

Market Award Presentation

The 2003 Livestock Market Award was presented to the operators of Dingwall Auction Mart on 31 March 2004. Mr Bob McPherson MRCVS, formerly of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, presented the award on behalf of the HSA to Mr Kenzie McKenzie of Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd.

The presentation took place in the main cattle ring, immediately prior to that day's sale of store cattle, and was preceded by a short address by the HSA's Veterinary Advisor, Professor Mac Johnston OBE.

Dingwall Auction Mart is a new, purpose-built livestock marketing facility, encompassing several structural features designed with animal welfare in mind. The HSA award was given in respect of the unloading bays which feature sliding, cantilevered extensions to the side rails. These are adaptable to all sizes of livestock vehicle and ensure safe, secure unloading and loading of livestock.



Dingwall Auction Mart unloading bay which received the HSA's Livestock Market Award 2003

Market Award 2004

This year the HSA has again 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.

Nine applications for the 2004 HSA Livestock Market Welfare Development Award were received by the closing deadline. As usual they presented the HSA technical staff with a variety of projects ranging from the complete relocation of a livestock market, to developing specific facilities for particular classes of animals. The nine markets were visited during July and August, and the panel hopes to announce its decision by the end of September, with a view to presenting the award by the end of the year. A full account of the award winners and the presentation will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

HSA market survey

Following the 2001 foot-and-mouth epidemic, the livestock marketing industry has seen significant changes in the way in which it operates. This has also impacted on the way in which animals move around the country.

In order to assess these changes the HSA, in association with the LAA, will be reviewing current marketing trends.

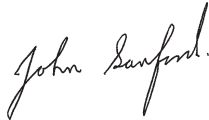
The aim of the review is to produce an up-to-date picture of the industry and the way in which animals are moved. These results will then be used to focus the HSA objectives with regard to the welfare of animals during livestock marketing.

The review will be carried out over the next few months, initially by sending a questionnaire to all members of the LAA. The results will then be collated and a report produced in time for the next review of HSA objectives.

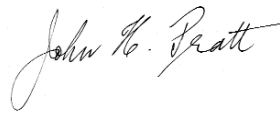
Finance and Accounts

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2004			BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2004		
	2003/2004 £	2002/2003 £		2004 £	2003 £
Incoming resources	<u>229,622</u>	<u>251,117</u>	Fixed assets:		
Less: Direct charitable expenditure	182,836	169,874	Tangible fixed assets	214,365	220,565
Fundraising and publicity	5,713	7,617	Investments	1,446,305	1,107,720
Other expenditure	<u>72,275</u>	<u>63,909</u>	Cash at stockbroker	<u>15,197</u>	<u>276,414</u>
Total resources used	<u>260,824</u>	<u>241,400</u>		<u>1,675,867</u>	<u>1,604,699</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources in year	<u>(31,202)</u>	<u>9,717</u>	Current assets:		
Other recognised gains and losses:			Debtors	27,977	5,646
Revaluation of land and building		69,635	Deposits at bank	93,000	120,666
Realised (loss)/gain on investments	(3,096)	(9,396)	Cash at bank & in hand	<u>33,130</u>	<u>30,052</u>
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	<u>103,889</u>	<u>(177,169)</u>		<u>154,107</u>	<u>156,364</u>
Net movement in funds	69,591	(107,213)	Creditors:		
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2003	<u>1,737,141</u>	<u>1,844,354</u>	Amounts falling due within 1 year	(18,367)	(23,922)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2004	<u>1,806,732</u>	<u>1,737,141</u>	Amounts falling due after more than 1 year	<u>(4,875)</u>	—
			Net assets	<u>1,806,732</u>	<u>1,737,141</u>
			Funds:		
			Designated	2,317	4,677
			Undesignated	<u>1,804,415</u>	<u>1,732,464</u>
				<u>1,806,732</u>	<u>1,737,141</u>

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 1 July 2004



Dr J Sanford, BVSc PhD FRCVS, Chairman



Mr J H Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS, 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 5 October 2004. 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 1 July 2004.

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 2004.



Alexander, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, London, 1 July 2004

Administration

Administration

General Meeting 2003

The 2003 Annual General Meeting was held at the Women's Institute Hall, Wheathampstead on 7 October 2003. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the AGMs of our sister charities at the time, UFAW and the Society for Animal Welfare in Israel (SAWI). The members of UFAW Council are the Trustees of the HSA and were, until 7 October 2003, the Trustees of SAWI also. 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 2003, 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. Mr Norman Reed and Professor Stephen Hall retired from the Council; Mr Michael Bird, Finance Director of the Zoological Society of London, and Professor Vincent Molony, Head of Preclinical Veterinary Sciences at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh, were elected to fill the vacancies. Mr John Pratt was re-elected.

General Meeting 2004

The General Meeting will be held at 3pm on Tuesday 5 October 2004, again at the Women's Institute Hall, Meads Lane, Wheathampstead. The formal notice and agenda are circulated with this report.

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.

New member of staff

We have pleasure in announcing a new member of staff to the HSA team. Kate Davey joined us on 19 July and will be dealing with fundraising and public relations issues including advertising, press releases and product launches. This is a new position which is to be shared jointly with our sister charity, UFAW.

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 family and friends:

Miss A M Ansell
Miss A F Biggs
Mr M Buckley
Mrs E M Dines

Mr E H Dubery
Mrs J E Lemmens
Mrs M B Relf

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

CPF Trust
Donald Forrester Trust
Leonard Chadwick Charitable Trust

Marston Charitable Trust
Mrs Maud Van Norden's Charitable Foundation
The Sarah Hanson 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

There are three ways of persuading the Inland Revenue to hand over the tax related to your donations and subscription: by signing a Gift Aid declaration (so we can then reclaim the tax you have paid on what you give us) and two methods where you get the tax benefit yourself (by donating via an account with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) using a CAF Charity Card or voucher, or giving straight from your salary using a Give As You Earn scheme).

To make a CAF charity card donation, either complete the relevant section of the enclosed appeal form, or ring the HSA on 01582 831919 and the necessary details will be recorded by the accounts staff.

For Give As You Earn, 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.

Trustees of the HSA

Chairman:	Dr J Sanford
Vice Chairman:	Professor P M Biggs
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr J H Pratt *
Trustees:	Dr R Bennett Mr M T Bird * Dr J M Dewdney Dr B R Howard Dr B O Hughes Professor V Molony * Dr M A Parry Mr M Radford Ms E Wright **
Vice Presidents:	Professor R S Anderson Miss J Drummond Thompson Professor A M Johnston Professor J E T Jones Dr G D Sales

* From 7/10/03

** To 27/01/04

Wills

There is no doubt that the HSA owes its continued existence to the generosity of bequests from supporters. However, it is surprising that only six out of ten people have made a Will, even though it is the only way

to be certain that you benefit the causes you care about. It is also a tax efficient way of making donations to registered charities as such bequests can be free of Inheritance Tax.

Those who have yet to accomplish this necessary task may be interested in the Will Aid scheme that will be running in November 2004, where participating solicitors will draw up a simple Will for free, whilst inviting the client to make a donation to one of nine leading UK charities. For more details see www.willaid.org.uk. Contact the HSA office for a free leaflet to help with getting your thoughts in order before you consult a solicitor.

Spreading the word

Despite the HSA's 93 years of hard work within the food animal industry, the HSA is not well known amongst the general public. The limited size of the advertising budget does, inevitably, restrict our promotional activities. You can help us greatly: how about sending HSA Christmas cards, all bearing the HSA logo and brief details of our work, perhaps accompanying them with a good-quality pen bearing our logo, or passing this report on to someone who might be interested in our work?

Staff

Chief Executive & Scientific Director:

Dr James Kirkwood

Secretary:

Mrs Ann Lang

Technical Director:

Mr Charles Mason

Technical Officers:

Miss Tess Benson

Miss Natalie Simmonds

PR and Fundraising Officer:

Ms Kate Davey

Veterinary Adviser:

Professor Mac Johnston

Administration