



Chairman's Report

As usual, the past year has been a year of many achievements and much activity and these are outlined in the report. Some of these achievements and activities I wish to highlight. It is satisfying to see it is likely that the important Poultry DVD will be available by the end of the year. In the area of publishing there is a number of new Technical Notes and very important Guidance Notes on the handling and killing of farmed salmon and trout. A noteworthy development is the launch of the Crustastun, a new machine for the humane killing of crabs and lobsters, which is the result of research part-funded by HSA. The staff have not only been active in the already mentioned areas but, in addition, they have been involved in important training activities and they have somehow found time to travel abroad and give a number of presentations.

The Chief Executive has drawn attention to the presentation to the HSA of the British Society of Animal Science/RSPCA Award for outstanding contributions to animal welfare. This is such a significant and important award I have no hesitation in noting it here as well. The HSA is a unique body and does such important work I do hope that all who read this report will make welcome contributions to the Association which are needed for it to continue its work.

Chairman

Introduction

This year, as detailed in this report, the HSA received the British Society of Animal Science/RSPCA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare, in recognition of its lifetime achievements.

The HSA team works tirelessly in developing and promoting sound, practical, science-based practices and improvements in livestock welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter. However, with heads down, working with the industries and others in pursuit of these aims, very little time is spent promoting the Association to wider communities. It is therefore very gratifying for all the staff, trustees and members, past and present of the HSA, that the importance of the charity's work and all its achievements have been recognised in this way.

There is a great deal still to be done in this field, not least a major sharing of ideas and technology around the world, and this award is a very pleasant and encouraging surprise for us all in these endeavours.

This Annual Report provides examples of some of the HSA's activities during the past year. We are very grateful for the generosity and loyalty of the charity's supporters and welcome any others who wish to join and to help the HSA in its work to promote the highest livestock welfare standards worldwide.

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/Fundraising Officer:

Ms Kate Davey (July 04–Feb 05)

Administrative Staff:

Mrs Wendy Goodwin

Mrs Samantha Griffin

Veterinary Adviser:

Professor Mac Johnston

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Technical

Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) workshop update

A workshop on the controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS) of poultry was held by the HSA and UFAW at the headquarters of the British Veterinary Association in London on 27 May 2005. This was a follow-up to discussions and issues that emerged at the previous workshop held at Silsoe in May 2004. The aim was to attempt to resolve the difficult and complex issues of interpretation of physiological and behavioural responses to CAS and the choice of gas mixtures. The workshop was attended by 18 delegates from six countries representing research in CAS, the poultry industry and UK government.

At the workshop, Dr Dorothy McKeegan and Dr Mohan Raj presented new data regarding CAS of poultry and discussed their significance with regard to the question of time to insensibility in birds exposed to various gas mixtures. Whilst there was agreement that CAS systems can have clear advantages over electrical stunning systems (eg live birds are not inverted or shackled), decisions about which gas mixtures are the most humane remain difficult and somewhat subjective because the various CAS methods permitted in the UK and Europe appear to each have both advantages and disadvantages to bird welfare.

The workshop identified the need for further research in a number of areas and the HSA will be exploring ways in which these may be pursued.



HSA Guidance Notes

Two titles in the HSA's Guidance Notes series have been updated and reprinted this year. *Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms* is now a second edition, with additional information and illustrations in the ballistics section, plus up-to-date guidance on carcase disposal and the associated legislation. *Electrical Stunning of Red Meat Animals* is an updated reprint with some format changes.

Both titles feature the newly-designed covers and are available from the HSA office at £5.00 per copy (inc. p&p) or £3.50 for orders of ten or more.

Poultry DVD

As detailed in this year's Newsletter, filming is well under way for the production of HSA's best practice training DVD on the capture, transport and slaughter of poultry.

This is a very important project for the HSA, as it is the first training DVD of its kind aimed solely at training new staff members and updating those already working within the poultry industry. It is hoped that filming will be completed by the end of August and the finished product will be available for purchase by early 2006.

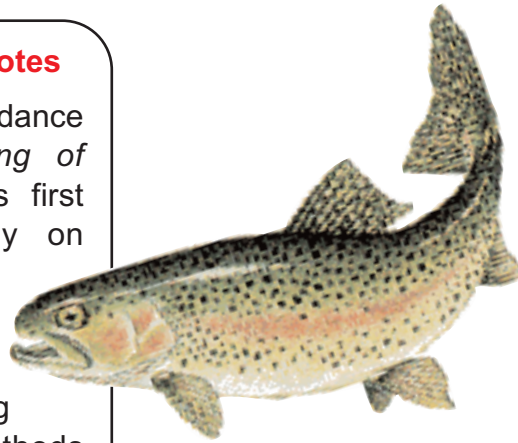
Salmon and Trout Guidance Notes

The HSA has now published Guidance Notes No.5 *Humane Harvesting of Salmon and Trout* – the HSA's first publication focusing specifically on farmed fish.

The 20-page booklet details the principles of humane handling and killing of farmed fish, outlining the range of slaughter methods available. Carcase quality implications of the different methods are also highlighted.

Slaughter methods in use in some parts of the world, which are no longer considered humane, are also given attention. Reasons are listed why these methods should no longer be used.

Copies are available from the HSA office at £5.00 each (inc. p&p) or £3.50 for orders of ten or more.



New Technical Notes

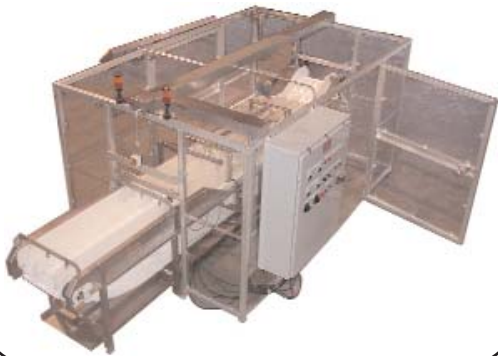
Several new Technical Notes have been produced over the last year and these are available from our office on request.

These include:

No.13 *Handling Facilities for Abattoirs and Farms*

No.14 *Gas Killing of Chicks in Hatcheries*

No.15 *Poultry Catching and Handling*



Picture of the Crustastun system for crab processing plants

Crustastun launch

Following a number of years of research, part-funded by the HSA, a new machine for the humane killing of crabs and lobsters has now been launched. The machine, which was built in Canada, was installed and has been working at a Devon crab-processing plant since November 2004. The machine will significantly improve the welfare of crabs and lobsters at slaughter and will also benefit the efficiency of the processing plant and quality of the final product.

The crabs are individually placed on a slow conveyor which passes through a small electrical waterbath. Whilst in the waterbath the crabs are exposed to an electrical current which stuns them immediately and renders them permanently insensible until their death. The designers of this machine have also developed a stunner for individual crabs and lobsters that is suitable for restaurant kitchens, which is currently undergoing commercial trials.

Technical

HSA receives top welfare award

The HSA was this year's recipient of the prestigious British Society for Animal Science (BSAS)/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Award for outstanding contribution to animal welfare. This lifetime award for the HSA was presented to James Kirkwood by David Thomas, RSPCA Chairman, at the BSAS Conference Dinner on 4 April, for the HSA's 'outstanding contribution to animal welfare through promoting humane methods of slaughter and reforms in livestock markets and transportation'.

David Thomas said *'The RSPCA is always delighted to acknowledge the work of others who give animal welfare the same high priority. The HSA's effectiveness, through application of science, technology and practical experience, in securing improvements to the welfare of farm animals particularly when they are most vulnerable, makes the association a very worthy winner of this year's BSAS/RSPCA award for outstanding contribution to animal welfare'*.

It was a great honour for the HSA to receive this recognition and we thank all those who have supported us past and present.



James Kirkwood (left) receives, on behalf of the HSA, the BSAS/RSPCA award for the HSA's lifetime achievement for animal welfare, from RSPCA Chairman David Thomas

Animal Welfare Forum

Wednesday 13 April 2005 saw the HSA host a meeting to decide the future of the Animal Welfare Forum previously organised and hosted by the Silsoe Research Institute. The main objective of the forum is to bring together the major retailers, legislators and welfare bodies to discuss current animal welfare issues.

Represented on the day were the HSA, RSPCA, Food Animal Initiative, Marks and Spencer, Co-operative Wholesale Society and Tesco.

After some discussion it was decided that the HSA would organise and host the forum in future; that it would be primarily concerned with farmed food species; and that the membership would be extended to all major retailers and relevant food service sectors. The first scheduled meeting of the Animal Welfare Forum will take place in the autumn.

Electrical Waterbath Guidance Notes

This year the HSA has embarked on its first set of Guidance Notes specifically for the white meat industry.

Electrical Stunning of Poultry, Guidance Notes No.7 is intended to provide technical information and advice on the stunning of all poultry species.

This publication is in the early stages and is therefore not due to be available until sometime in 2006.

Training

HSA Welfare Update Course 2006

The HSA is now in the initial stages of planning its second Welfare Update Course. Due to overwhelming support, enthusiasm and further enquiries following this year's course, the decision has been made to make it an annual event. The next course is planned for March 2006 and will again run over two days, with white meat species being covered on the first day and red meat species on the second.

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

Further details will be published in the relevant media in due course and will also be posted on the HSA website. If you would like to register interest in this course, please email info@hsa.org.uk and further details will be sent when available.



HSA Technical Team at this year's Welfare Update Course promoting our new Best Practice Guidelines series (L to R): Natalie Simmonds, Charlie Mason and Tess Benson

Small abattoir training

The need for affordable animal welfare training for smaller abattoirs was highlighted in the 2004 FAWC Report on Animal Welfare at Slaughter – Red Meat.

The HSA in consultation with the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS) has developed a new course that can be tailored for individual smaller abattoirs according to their specific welfare training requirements.

The course, which will be delivered by NPD Services Ltd, also conforms to new requirements in the recently launched ABM standards for independent abattoirs wishing to achieve the red tractor standard.

University lectures

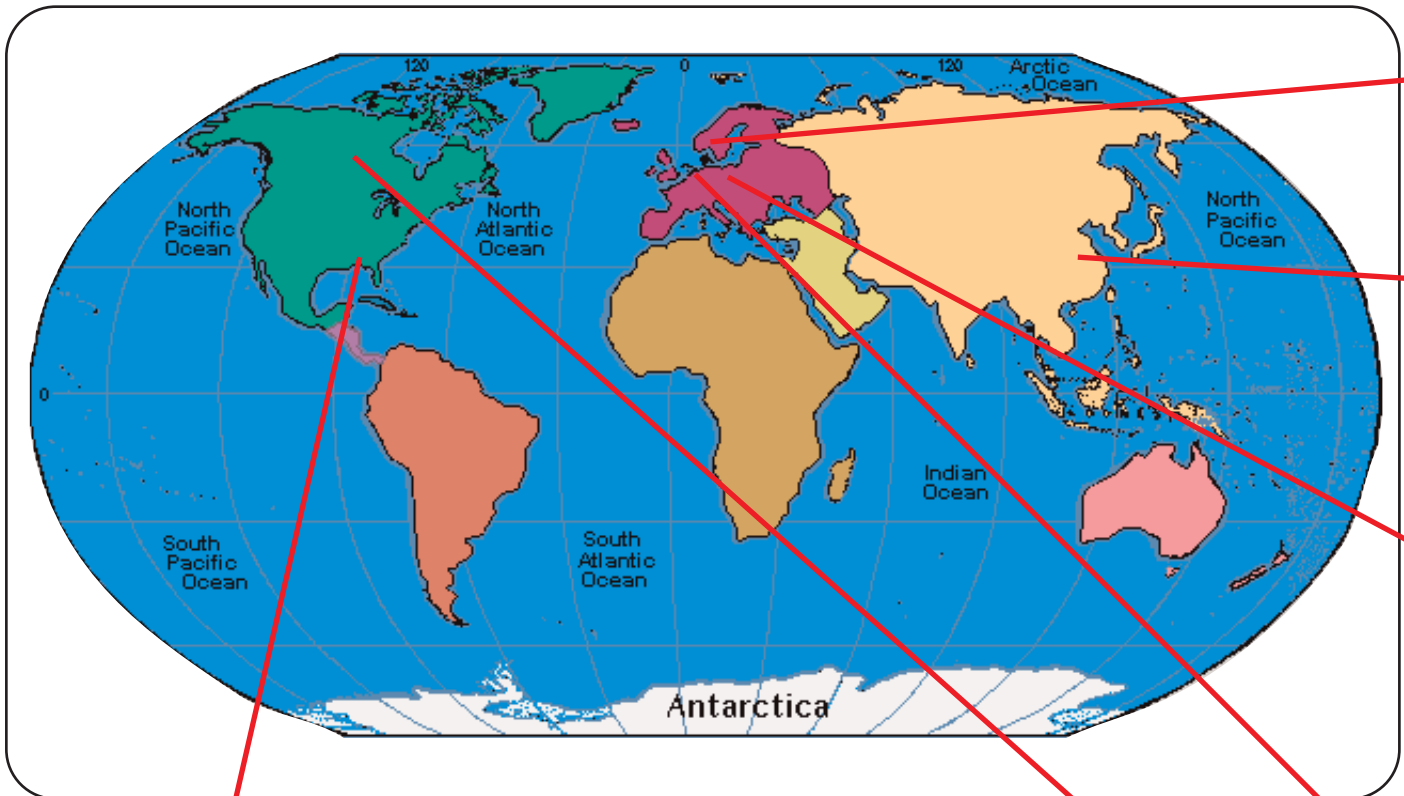
Throughout 2004 and 2005 the HSA staff have given a number of lectures to various students on the HSA's objectives. These have provided students with a current and realistic view of the welfare of animals at markets, during transport and at the point of slaughter.

Presentations were given at the University of Lincoln, Newcastle University, Aberdeen University, Harper Adams Agricultural College, Glasgow and Cambridge Veterinary Schools, Capel Manor College and Lackham Agricultural College.

We hope the information provided will encourage students to apply for the HSA's Dorothy Sidley Award, and keep them updated on current issues within this field by becoming members of the charity.



Overseas



Areas that HSA has visited over the last two years

New Orleans

Tess Benson gave a paper at the American National Aquaculture Association Conference in New Orleans in January 2005. It was presented during a special session focusing purely on fish welfare – the first of its kind at this annual conference. This highlights just how seriously some countries are beginning to take fish welfare and that they are open to new ideas and developments. Although there is little consumer or retailer pressure in the USA to improve fish welfare, the industry is watching new developments in this area closely. The presentation was well-received and there was much interest in how the more humane systems could be implemented.

Canada

In July 2005 Tess Benson gave two presentations at the Aquaculture Association of Canada conference in St Johns, Newfoundland. The first presentation focused on improving public perception of aquaculture by developing quality standards based upon sound science and a thorough understanding of the aquaculture industry.

The second presentation explained how following humane principles for handling and slaughter can help to improve flesh quality. The assessment of fish welfare at harvest was also covered, as was post-mortem inspection, which can provide useful indicators of the conditions the fish experienced prior to slaughter.

China

In early November 2005 Charlie Mason and James Kirkwood will travel to China at the invitation of Joyce D'Silva of Compassion in World Farming (CIWF). The purpose of the visit is to attend a conference which will be funded by CIWF Trust, the RSPCA and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

The conference will focus on pigs and cover pig farming, transport and slaughter. The HSA will speak on the principles of the humane slaughter of pigs and take part in an assessment of some Chinese pig slaughter facilities. Other speakers at the conference include Professor Don Broom (University of Cambridge) and Dr Mohan Raj (University of Bristol).

The Netherlands

Natalie Simmonds attended the 17th European Symposium on The Quality of Poultry Meat, and presented on the welfare aspects of CAS of poultry as an alternative to electrical waterbath stunning.

This conference was held at Doorwerth, in The Netherlands in May this year and was run alongside the 11th European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products.

Norway

In September 2004 Tess Benson was invited to Norway to observe an electrical system for the stunning of salmon. The machine is an electrical system capable of stunning large volumes of fish in saltwater.

At the time of the visit there was a number of mechanical difficulties and the HSA could not provide a complete welfare review of the system.

Poland

June 2005 saw the HSA attending the 7th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare which was held this year in Lublin, Poland.

Natalie Simmonds presented a paper on *The Perspectives of Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) of poultry*. This examined the current UK legislation regarding gas killing and the welfare advantages and disadvantages compared to the more common method of electrical waterbath stunning.

As Poland has recently joined the EU, it is hoped that the HSA's publications will be used by the red and white meat industries in order to help further improve welfare standards.



Research

Dorothy Sidley Awards

The HSA has offered Dorothy Sidley Awards annually for 20 years. The scheme is so named in honour of Miss Dorothy Sidley who was at the charity's helm from the 1920s until the 1970s.

The winners of the 2005 Dorothy Sidley Award are Miss Anna Hardcastle and Miss Elaine Berry from Bishop Burton College.

Anna will be using the funding to investigate the effects of one hour's rest in the lairage on (a) cortisol in saliva and (b) behaviour in pigs, under the supervision of Dr Katja van Driel of the Central Science Laboratory, York.

Elaine is planning to investigate the effects of one hour's rest in lairage on stress in sheep, again under the supervision of Dr Katja van Driel.



Defra grants awarded

This year the HSA has collaborated in three successful applications for Defra funding. The projects are:

- 1) *Welfare assessment of animals moving through markets* (with the Royal Veterinary College)
- 2) *A study to design a holding pen for group stunned animals* (with ADAS, High Mowthorpe)
- 3) *Literature review and survey of conditions relevant to farm animal welfare in lairages* (with Bristol University)

The HSA is providing technical advice and information, as well as playing a role in the research of these issues, all of which are at the core of the HSA's objectives.

The third project is due to run for one year and the other two are longer projects both running for over two years.

Dorothy Sidley Awards 2006

Applications for the HSA's Dorothy Sidley Awards 2006 are now invited. Five awards, each worth up to £1000, 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 and trainees in agricultural, veterinary, meat science and related fields are all invited to apply.

The deadline for applications is 28 February 2006. Further details and application forms are available from the HSA offices.



HSA worldwide objectives

The HSA is a unique organisation that has, as far as we know, no equivalent elsewhere in the world. During the past century remarkable advances have been made in the science and practices that underpin the principles of humane transport and slaughter of livestock. Whilst further refinements are needed in the UK if standards are to continue to improve, many of the major challenges to the welfare of livestock at slaughter are now in other parts of the world.

Historically most of the HSA's work has been in the UK, but the charity is increasingly involved in promoting modern methods around the globe and we are seeking funds and assistance to develop this outreach work.

One of the objectives during the coming year is to strengthen our network of contacts around the world to assist us in seeking ways to promote humane methods and disseminate HSA publications. If you think you may be able to help with this, please contact James Kirkwood.

Research into small animal stunner

One of the outcomes of the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) crisis was the need for a device for the humane dispatch of neonates (lambs, kids and piglets up to four weeks old).

The University of Bristol's Department of Farm Animal Science, assisted by the HSA, is carrying out a Defra-funded project to determine whether existing mechanical devices are capable of killing neonates outright without causing unconscious kicking spasms, which although not a welfare issue are aesthetically unpleasant. Following fieldwork carried out by the HSA, one device has so far proved successful with goat kids and piglets.

It now remains to complete the fieldwork on infant lambs and submit the final report to Defra for consideration.

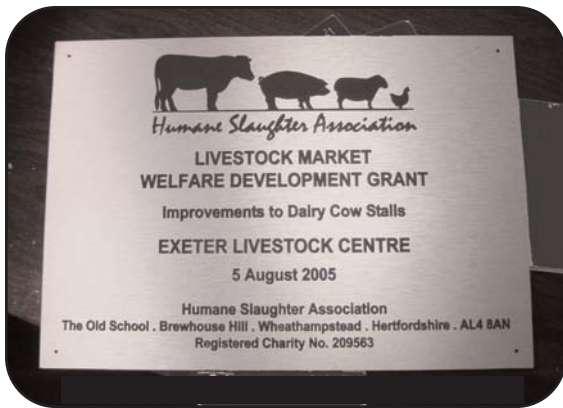
Small project grants 2005/2006

The HSA is always open to applications to support new developments or improvements for livestock welfare at markets, in transport or at slaughter, or for educational initiatives in these fields.

Criteria used in judging applications include: animal welfare benefits, quality of the project, likelihood of success, number of animals affected and value for money. For details of some recently-funded projects and how to apply see the HSA website www.hsa.org.uk. Sums available are limited and potential applicants are advised to contact the HSA to discuss their ideas prior to applying.



Promoting Welfare



Market Award presentation

This year's Market Award was presented to Exeter Livestock Centre on Friday 5 August. The award, presented by Mike Vaughan MRCVS, was given in recognition of changes made to the dairy stalls.

When the market was built it was designed for the animals passing through the market at that time. In the dairy area this included cattle which were much

bulkier than the current dairy cow. As the Friesian has given way to the Holstein over the years, dairy cows have changed in shape and become much leaner. This means that some animals are now able to turn around and may become trapped in the side of the stalls.

The modifications to the stalls, including adding more bars to the sides, prevent the animals getting trapped and will clearly reduce the risk of injury and suffering to individual animals. Overall the market also has high standards of cleanliness and management, and a good working relationship with Trading Standards and RSPCA inspectors.



Exeter's newly-modified dairy cattle stalls which were awarded the HSA's 2005 Market Award

HSA market policy and survey

This year the HSA is carrying out a market survey to gain a clear and practical picture of livestock marketing in the UK. The questionnaire, which has been sent to all livestock markets via the Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA), has been designed to provide the HSA with current information on numbers and types of animals passing through the markets, distances travelled and the time spent in markets.

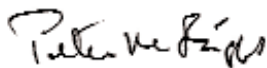
The results of the survey will be used, in conjunction with the recently-published Farm Animal Welfare Council report on livestock markets, to develop the HSA's policy on livestock marketing for the future. In addition, the HSA is working with the LAA to develop a welfare policy for livestock in the market place.

The policy, currently in draft state, is a simple one-page document which provides the basis for good animal welfare in the livestock market and highlights the commitment the market is making to the livestock in its care.

Accounts

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005			BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2005		
	2004/2005 £	2003/2004 £		2005 £	2004 £
Incoming resources	<u>170,232</u>	<u>229,622</u>	Fixed assets:		
Less: Direct charitable expenditure	192,817	182,836	Tangible fixed assets	206,045	214,365
Fundraising and publicity	11,142	5,713	Investments	1,492,723	1,446,305
Other expenditure	74,000	72,275	Cash at stockbroker	<u>31,204</u>	<u>15,197</u>
Total resources used	<u>277,959</u>	<u>260,824</u>		<u>1,729,972</u>	<u>1,675,867</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources in year	<u>(110,127)</u>	<u>(31,202)</u>	Current assets:		
Other recognised gains and losses:			Debtors	8,057	27,977
Revaluation of land and building			Deposits at bank	0	93,000
Realised (loss)/gain on investments	(19,350)	(3,096)	Cash at bank & in hand	71,294	33,130
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	<u>104,477</u>	<u>103,889</u>		<u>79,351</u>	<u>154,107</u>
Net movement in funds	(25,000)	69,591	Creditors:		
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2004	<u>1,806,732</u>	<u>1,737,141</u>	Amounts falling due within 1 year	(27,591)	(18,367)
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2005	1,781,732	1,806,732	Amounts falling due after more than 1 year	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,875)</u>
			Net assets	1,781,732	1,806,732
			Funds:		
			Designated	1,354	2,317
			Undesignated	<u>1,780,378</u>	<u>1,804,415</u>
				1,781,732	1,806,732

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 13 July 2005



Professor P M Biggs, Chairman
CBE DSc DVM FRCPATH CBiol FIBiol FRS FRCVS



Mr M T Bird, Hon Treasurer
FCA

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 11 October 2005. 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

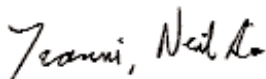
You are responsible as the Trustees for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with the financial statements, on which we reported to you on 13 July 2005.

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 2005.



Gianni, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, London, 13 July 2005



Administration

General Meeting 2004

The General Meeting was held at the Women's Institute Hall, Wheathampstead on 5 October 2004. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the AGM of our sister charity, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). The members of UFAW Council are Trustees of the HSA, therefore 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 up until 31 March 2004, to re-appoint the auditors and elect new members of the Council. The report and accounts were duly presented and it was resolved that Alexander, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, be re-appointed as auditors. Drs John Sanford and Barry Hughes retired from the Council at the AGM, and Dr Janet Dewdney stood down earlier in 2004 due to ill health. Professor Andrea Nolan, Dr James Anderson and Mr Arthur Sains were elected to fill the vacancies.

Since the AGM, Dr Margaret Parry has retired from Council due to pressure of other commitments.

General Meeting 2005

The next General Meeting will be held at 3pm on Tuesday 11 October 2005, 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.



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 Cecile Harris

Mr Walter Appleby

Mr Ernest Tenison

Mr Edmund Orrock

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

Farewell to HSA's Secretary

It is with great regret that we say farewell to Mrs Ann Lang, who has been Secretary to the HSA for the last four years.

Mrs Lang chose to take early retirement this year and left the charity at the end of May. We are extremely grateful for all her hard work and support and wish her all the best for the future.



Making the most of your subscriptions and donations

There are three ways of persuading the Inland Revenue to hand over the tax related to your donations and subscriptions: by signing a Gift Aid declaration (so we can then reclaim the tax deducted from your donation), by donating via 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. The last two methods are where you get the tax benefit yourself.

To make a CAF charity card donation, either complete the relevant section of the enclosed appeal form, or contact the HSA and the necessary details will be recorded by 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:	Professor P M Biggs (from 5.10.04) Dr J Sanford (to 5.10.04)
Vice Chairman:	Professor P M Biggs (to 5.10.04)
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr M T Bird (from 1.7.04) Mr J H Pratt (to 1.7.04)
Trustees:	Dr J C Anderson (from 5.10.04) Dr R M Bennett Dr J M Dewdney (to 3.8.04) Dr B R Howard Dr B O Hughes (to 5.10.04) Professor V Molony Professor A Nolan (from 5.10.04) Dr M A Parry (to 22.10.04) Mr M Radford Mr A Sains (from 5.10.04)
Vice Presidents:	Professor R S Anderson Miss J Drummond Thompson Professor A M Johnston Professor J E T Jones Dr G D Sales Dr J Sanford (from 5.10.04)

