



Media Release

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For Immediate Release:

Humane Slaughter Association announces two awards at International Symposium

The two winners of the 2011 Humane Slaughter Award presented by the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) were announced at the Association's recent Centenary International Symposium held in Portsmouth.

The awards were presented on behalf of the HSA by Professor Temple Grandin, Colorado State University, to Jeff Lines of Silsoe Livestock Systems for his research into electrical methods for the humane stunning and killing of farmed fish, and to John Ace-Hopkins of Ace Aquatec Limited for his work taking up this research in the development of commercial humane stunning and killing equipment for farmed fish. The presentation took place during the HSA's International Symposium 'Recent Advances in the Welfare of Livestock at Slaughter' held to mark the HSA's Centenary this year.

James Kirkwood, HSA Chief Executive and Scientific Director, said "Before ten years ago there was no way to humanely kill farmed fish en masse – they died slowly through suffocation when harvested from the water. The welfare benefit from this research and development affects millions of fish. It is a huge step forward and the HSA was very pleased to make these awards to Jeff Lines and John Ace-Hopkins."

Over 250 delegates and speakers from 25 countries attended the HSA's two-day Centenary International Symposium held at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on 30th June and 1st July. Recent scientific and technical advances in the humane slaughter of farmed animals were discussed along with their practical application and uptake by industry and other stakeholders. "It was particularly pleasing to see representatives of so many different types of stakeholder organizations worldwide – scientists, veterinarians, industry, retailers, government, welfare organizations and others – coming together to share information and experiences to the benefit of continuing improvement in welfare", said HSA Chief Executive and Scientific Director, James Kirkwood.

An impressive line-up of speakers throughout the two days included Professor Temple Grandin, Colorado State University, who shared her expertise and experience of auditing animal welfare and practical improvements in slaughter plants, Jia Zili of the Beijing Chaoyang Anhua Animal Product Safety Research Institute, China who described the WSPA and APSRI humane slaughter programme in China, and Andrea Gavinelli of the European Commission who highlighted future challenges of the new European regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing and its relevance to international trade.

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The HSA is an independent charity that works through educational, scientific and technical advances to improve the welfare of food animals worldwide during transport, marketing and slaughter. For more information about this work visit www.hsa.org.uk or telephone 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk.

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Attached photo: Professor Temple Grandin (c) with Dr Jeff Lines (l) and Mr John Ace-Hopkins (r), winners of the 2011 Humane Slaughter Award, at the presentation on board HMS Warrior, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.



Professor Temple Grandin of Colorado State University, US, presenting at the HSA Centenary International Symposium.

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Note to Editors:

As an independent registered charity, the HSA is unique in working exclusively to achieve the highest worldwide standards in food animal welfare at markets, during transport and at slaughter through scientific and technical advances, education and training. Its work includes researching, refining and demonstrating humane slaughter methods, publishing material such as guidelines, best practice, books and videos, funding research projects and the development of equipment. Specialist technical staff provide expert and practical advice on all welfare issues relating to food animals.

The HSA is funded by voluntary donations, subscriptions and legacies.

For more information about the HSA's work call 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk or visit www.hsa.org.uk

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