

**Caring beyond
the farm gate**

Humane Slaughter Association

Annual Report 2012–2013

Caring beyond the farm gate

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), established in 1911, is an independent charity that works through scientific and technical advances, education and training towards achieving the highest worldwide standards in food animal welfare at markets, during transport and at slaughter.

To accomplish its aims the HSA provides:

- technical information and advice on all aspects of animal handling, transport and slaughter
- training in humane methods of handling and slaughter of livestock for farmers, vets, abattoir staff, police firearms officers, RSPCA Inspectors, students and others
- educational and technical publications
- independent advice to governments, other welfare organisations and the food industry
- regular visits to markets and slaughterhouses, advising on improvements where appropriate
- funding for research projects
- development and application of scientific advances into industry working practices
- grants towards improvement of animal handling facilities in markets and slaughterhouses

Examples of the HSA's wide range of activities in these areas are outlined in the following pages.

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Chairman's report

Welcome to the HSA's Annual Report for 2012-2013. It is pleasing to note that the recognition and influence of the HSA continue to grow – around the world as well as in the UK.

I recently had the pleasure of presenting the third HSA annual award for significant advances in humane slaughter to the Spain-based IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group at the UFAW symposium in Barcelona, and of noting the high regard for the HSA's work amongst delegates from many countries – both highlighting the international importance of this work. You will also see that one of this year's three Dorothy Sidley Scholars is based in Portugal and that our Centenary Research Training Scholar has, amongst other venues, presented her work in Brazil and Spain.

As you will also see in this Report, the scope and reach of the HSA's work in the UK continue to grow, particularly in training, education and research. The charity is in a healthy position both with regard to its animal welfare work and its finances, a significant achievement in the current economic climate, and I thank you for your continued and much appreciated support.

On behalf of myself and the Trustees I would also like to offer many thanks to Donald Davidson who retired this year as HSA Secretary, and wish him a long and rewarding retirement.

Chief Executive's report

In last year's Annual Report I noted that: 'The world wide web offers a route to reach many and, in the coming year efforts will be focused on developing ways to 'roll out' HSA education and training using

this'. A year later and already four modules on aspects of humane slaughter are now on-line at the HSA website. These present key information on principles and practice of humane livestock slaughter free to anyone worldwide. The website is a very important vehicle for dissemination of information and we have been working to redevelop and modernise it. We hope that the new site will be up and running before the end of the year.

In the past, the HSA has generally charged for its publications to help cover their costs. However, thanks to the generous funding that the HSA has received from its supporters, it is now increasingly in a position to make its publications available on-line for free so that they are readily accessible worldwide. Although we have plans to make further translations, at present, most publications – on-line and on paper, are only available in English. However, we hope that the on-line modules will prove to be useful and fairly easily understood by non-fluent english speakers because of the clear language and illustrations used.

In addition to providing guidance on the use of existing methods and technologies this way, the HSA is also always keen to learn of potential new and improved methods. Hence, it is organising a workshop later in 2013 to discuss welfare and other aspects of the use of low atmospheric pressure as a slaughter or killing method.

The HSA aims to make best use of its resources to advance animal welfare and, to this end, also to raise funds to support its work. In the coming year we will be conducting a review of strategy to check if the charity is doing all it can in these regards or if better ways can be identified.



Lydia Brown



James K Kirkwood

Donald Davidson retires



HSA Secretary Donald Davidson retired from his position at the end of July this year. He was appointed as Secretary of the HSA's sister charity UFAW in 1997 and in due course became Secretary of the HSA also. Donald has overseen many developments and changes in the HSA over the years, and we are all very grateful to him for his 17 years of excellent work for the administration and finances of the charities. We wish him a very happy retirement.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Andrea Nolan, HSA Trustee, who was awarded an OBE in June 2013 for services to veterinary science and higher education.



New constitution for the HSA

The HSA is a charity whose constitution is that of an unincorporated association. The size of the HSA and the scale of its activities have increased over the years and the trustees believe that it should now become a charity limited by guarantee. As stated on the Charity Commission's website, 'As the scale and complexity of a charity's activities increase so will the financial risk. The main advantage of a company is that it offers some protection from personal liability to trustees and members¹.' As regards when a charity should consider incorporation as a company, the Commission states, 'It may be appropriate to establish a company where some or all of the following apply

- the charity is or will be quite large
- the charity has or will have employees
- the charity does or will deliver charitable services under contractual agreements
- the charity does or will regularly enter into commercial contracts
- the charity is or will be the owner of freehold or leasehold land or other property.'

As regards these criteria, the HSA has become quite large, it does have employees, it does deliver services under contractual agreements, and it does enter into commercial contracts (eg with the EC to provide international training in 2006). It shares its premises – The Old School, Wheathampstead – on a 1/3 : 2/3 basis with the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (but being an unincorporated association that cannot itself own property), UFAW currently holds the HSA's share of The Old School, for it, on trust.

The trustees therefore wish to modernise the constitution so that the charity becomes also a company limited by guarantee. This will be done in such a way as to preserve the existing provisions about governance and management of the HSA so that it will continue to function just as it presently does in all respects - but with the limited liability appropriate to an organisation of its scale and activities.

The necessary steps involve setting up the new body (as a charity and company limited by guarantee) and then, subject to it being agreed at the AGM, transferring the HSA assets from its old into this, its new, form.

¹In the HSA's case, we are not aware of any circumstances that would result in liability to members that are not trustees.

HSA Award for significant advances in humane slaughter 2013

The 2013 HSA award to recognise individuals or organisations who have made significant scientific, technical or other advances that have led to improvements in the humane slaughter of livestock, was won by the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group, Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA) / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). The members of this group are: Antonio Velarde Calvo - Researcher (IRTA); Xavier Manteca Vilanova - Professor (UAB); Antoni Dalmau Bueno - Researcher (IRTA); Emma Fàbrega Romans - Researcher (IRTA); Pedro Rodríguez Rodríguez - Support of Research (IRTA); Pol Llonch Obiols - Researcher (IRTA / UAB); Cecilia Pedernera Romano - Researcher (IRTA); Isabel Blanco Penedo - Researcher (IRTA); Eva Mainau - Researcher (UAB/IRTA); Déborah Temple - Researcher (UAB); Ricard Carreras Ubach - PhD student (IRTA/UAB); Nicolau Casal Plana - PhD student (IRTA/UAB); and Joaquim Pallisera Lloveras - Support of Research (IRTA).

The award was presented to the Group at the UFAW Symposium on international developments in animal welfare science, Barcelona on Friday 5 July 2013.

Since it was founded in 1996, the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group has made many contributions to improve welfare of livestock at slaughter. Its work has included research aiming to optimize gas stunning at slaughter in pigs, sheep, poultry and rabbits and investigations into the use of alternative gas mixtures that may be less aversive than carbon dioxide.



Members of the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group with representatives of the HSA at the UFAW Symposium in Barcelona.

Back row left to right: Pedro Rodriguez (IRTA), Pol Llonch (IRTA/UAB), Antonio Velarde (IRTA), Xavier Manteca (UAB), Jade Spence (HSA), Lydia Brown (HSA Chairman), Nathan Williams (HSA), Cecilia Pedernera (IRTA), Joaquim Pallisera (IRTA). Front row left to right: Déborah Temple (UAB), Ricard Carreras (IRTA/UAB), Nicolau Casal (IRTA/UAB), Eva Mainau (IRTA/UAB).

The Group has published numerous scientific papers in the field but has worked also to promote the uptake of scientific findings in development of policy and in practice. Members of the Group have contributed to important international expert consortiums, including working groups of the European Food Safety Authority's Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (addressing welfare aspects of animal stunning and killing methods and welfare of animals during transport), and the EU-funded DIALREL Project (improving knowledge and expertise through dialogue and debate on issues of welfare, legislation and socio-economic aspects). The Group has also contributed to post-graduate courses and training activities at national and international levels.

New slaughter legislation update

The new European Regulation, EC 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, came into force on the 1 January 2013. Currently the four UK governments are still finalising the domestic legislation necessary for the implementation and enforcement of the Regulation. The HSA has received many enquiries about the new legislation and has produced a Technical Note, available on the HSA website, which provides information for processors about the changes. It is hoped that the domestic legislation will be published by the end of the year.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF KILLING	
Changes to Current Legislation in England as they affect Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards January 2013	
<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 comes into force on 1 January 2013 and is directly applicable in all EU Member States. It replaces Council Directive 93/119/EC and the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK) (as amended) in England, and similar legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, where WASK currently sets higher standards than the new EU Regulation the Governments have said these are to be retained under separate national legislation. Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 applies directly throughout the UK, but legislation to implement the provisions of the Regulation is to be introduced separately in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (but see table below). All those involved in the slaughter or killing of farmed animals as a part of a business or trade involving the production of food, wool, skin or fur or other products, will need to be aware of the provisions of the Regulation and associated national legislation, as will those involved in the killing of animals for the purpose of depopulation and related operations. The Regulation covers all aspects of the operations of slaughterhouses and knackers yards from the arrival of animals at the lairage through to the animals' death. It also introduces new requirements relating to the training of all slaughterhouse staff involved in the handling of live animals, and in the appointment of Animal Welfare Officers. The manufacturers and/or retailers of restraining and stunning equipment must provide operating and maintenance instructions with all equipment sold. Member States and/or their Competent Authorities are required to ensure that guides to good practice are available to operators, and that appropriate courses leading to Certificates of Competence are available to relevant slaughterhouse staff.</p>	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>This leaflet is intended to identify and provide guidance on significant changes to the previous legal requirements for the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing. Regulation 1099/2009 makes provision for Member States to maintain existing national welfare standards where those standards currently exceed the minimum required by the Regulation, and to introduce higher standards in relation to religious slaughter, slaughter of farmed game, and slaughter outside a slaughterhouse. The relevant UK authorities have announced that they intend to maintain all existing national rules that go beyond Regulation 1099/2009. The new Regulation covers the killing of animals bred or kept for the production of food, wool, skin, fur or other products, as well as for the purpose of depopulation and related operations. However, it does not cover the killing of these animals in an emergency outside of a slaughterhouse, or where compliance with those provisions would result in an immediate and serious risk for human health or safety. Also excluded from the Regulation are animals killed: (1) during authorised scientific experiments; (2) during hunting or recreational fishing activities; and (3) during cultural or sporting events. In addition the regulation does not apply to the killing of poultry, rabbits and hares outside of a slaughterhouse by their owner for private domestic consumption.</p>	
<p>Humane Slaughter Association</p>	
<p>No.26</p>	

Education & Training

The HSA's comprehensive range of training services in livestock handling and welfare, built on its long experience and expertise, is a key element in establishing and maintaining high standards of welfare. Below are some examples of the way the HSA helps promote best practice.

Training activities and other initiatives

Over the year the HSA has provided

- fifteen emergency slaughter courses to pig producers via the offices of BPEX and EEPTG
- lectures to smallholders at Duchy College, Cannington
- courses on animal welfare at slaughter to employees of Dalehead Spalding, ABP Guildford and a family firm in Devon
- a specialist course on humane destruction of injured horses to five deck officers working for Irish Ferries out of Holyhead
- a bespoke course on the safe operation and maintenance of firearms and captive-bolt equipment to a research establishment in the north of England
- a bespoke course on unloading, penning and emergency slaughter of sheep for a security firm in Somerset
- a bespoke course on the options for on-farm humane destruction of lambs and calves afflicted with the Schmallenberg virus
- a lecture on animal welfare policies and their implementation at a drovers conference held at Ludlow market
- welfare training for staff at turkey farms and hatcheries.

Tertiary education

During the year the HSA provided a range of lectures to students in tertiary education

- on animal welfare at the time of killing for the University of Edinburgh's MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare degree
- on fish welfare at slaughter at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science

- on fish welfare at slaughter at Sparsholt College's National Aquatic Training Centre, for BSc Aquaculture and Fishery Management final-year students. This was the first HSA lecture for this degree programme and it included discussion of fish handling and humane and inhumane killing methods, including for crustaceans



Cultured tilapia fish at the National Aquatic Training Centre, Sparsholt College.

- to animal science students and trainee livestock auctioneers at Harper Adams University College
- on the use of firearms to veterinary undergraduates at the University of Cambridge
- to veterinary science students at the University of Liverpool on slaughter legislation
- on poultry welfare at the time of killing at the Royal Veterinary College for fifth year veterinary medicine students on a post-rotations tour tracking week covering poultry
- the keynote lecture on EC Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, as applicable to poultry, at the MSc Applied Poultry Science symposium at Scotland's Rural College. This degree is a web-based flexible distance-learning programme and the students presented the results of their research projects at the Symposium
- a guest lecture for the University of Edinburgh's new distance-learning MSc in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law. This was the first on-line lecture the HSA has given and was successful in encouraging dialogue with international students and promoted the HSA abroad. The course has 33 registered students who are studying from countries including Spain, Italy, Hong Kong and Australia. The HSA provided information on the biology of animal welfare with regard to killing and on the various stunning and killing methods used around the world.

Welfare advice

In December 2012 the HSA provided an assessment of animal welfare in the live animal areas of a slaughterhouse processing geese, and during the year several visits to provide animal welfare advice were made to 'red meat' processing plants also.



Poultry training and advice

In April 2013 the HSA provided training at a duck slaughterhouse on the use of a specialist captive-bolt stunner to humanely render birds unconscious. This training was requested by the slaughterhouse in light of the coming into force, on 1 January 2013, of EC Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (PATK). This restricts the use of cervical dislocation as a method of killing birds.

The staff were able to update their slaughter licences to include a new method of stunning and therefore have an alternative means of killing birds on site, for example, if they cannot be processed using the routine slaughter method. A captive-bolt is a rapid and very humane way of causing insensibility in poultry. Similar training was provided in winter 2012 for laying hen, broiler chicken and turkey farm staff as part of a Defra-funded research project awarded to Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Avian Science Research Centre.

The HSA attended two industry meetings: the Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey technical meeting on 27 March 2013, held in Coventry in association with GLW Feeds Ltd & Hockenhull Turkeys Ltd, and the British Poultry Council Goose Producers sector group spring meeting in Leicestershire on 11 April 2013. The HSA was invited to present an update on the recent changes to the legislation regarding on-farm slaughter. An article was also published in the Goose News members' newsletter in April 2013, advising producers of the legislative changes.

Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships 2013

Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to three students this year:

Rebecca Taylor and Thomas Elwes, both undergraduate Veterinary Science students at the Royal Veterinary College, UK, and Jorge Miguel Carvalho dos Reis Branco de Matos, an Integrated Masters in Veterinary Medicine student at the University of Porto, Portugal.

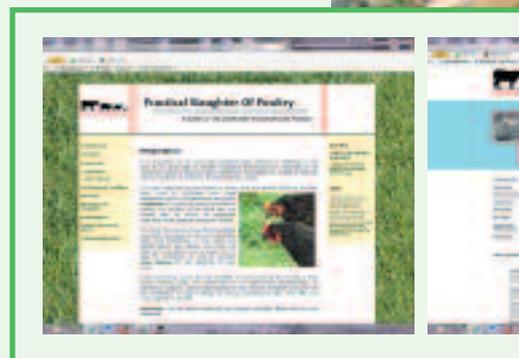
Rebecca Taylor has proposed a study examining the pathophysiology of captive-bolt stunning of alpacas. The findings of the study will hopefully provide important information on the stunning and slaughter of alpacas that could lead to improvements in welfare at the time of slaughter.

Thomas Elwes has received the scholarship to assist his investigation into the reasons for rejection of carcasses during ante- and post-mortem inspection for religious slaughter. It is hoped that the results of the project may be useful in informing protocols which may aid the ante-mortem identification of animals unlikely to pass the post-mortem inspection.

Jorge Miguel Carvalho dos Reis Branco de Matos has designed a study to assess the impact of weight, age and manual catching of broilers on the morphological integrity of the hip joint and gracilis muscle. The objective of the study is to assess any correlation between handling methods and lesions found in the hip joints of the birds post-mortem, with the ultimate aim of raising awareness of the importance of maintaining best practice.

The Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships are named after the late Dorothy Sidley MBE, who was General Secretary of the HSA for 48 years. The scholarships exist to encourage students to consider research and careers within the areas covered by the HSA's remit. Past scholars' projects have covered a wide range of topics, from investigating the welfare of sheep during sea transport to evaluating the efficiency of slaughter methods on small- to medium-scale turkey processing plants.

The HSA wishes the 2013 Dorothy Sidley scholars well with their projects and looks forward to seeing the results later in the year.





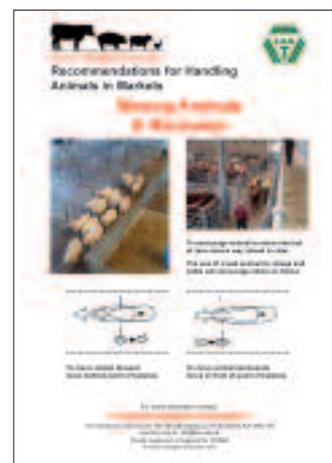
On-line guides

Work on the new series of on-line guides is progressing well, with 'Captive-Bolt Stunning of Livestock', 'Electrical Stunning of Red Meat Animals' and 'Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms' now available, in addition to 'Practical Slaughter of Poultry' which was published on-line in January 2013. The three latest guides have been produced primarily for the slaughter industry and contain images and video footage of best practice. The new on-line guide series has been developed to enable access, free of charge, to the HSA's publications anywhere in the world.



Welfare in markets

The HSA has produced a series of A4 information leaflets for market workers, summarising, in bullet points and photographs, the salient points concerning loading, unloading, raceways, sale-rings and handling aids. This project has been supported by the Livestock Auctioneers' Association (LAA) and all its member markets will receive a set from the HSA. The leaflets can be used as notes for training packages or, alternatively, they may be enlarged and laminated as posters for display at appropriate sites in the market. The HSA has already circulated a small number of the leaflets to delegates on the auctioneers' degree course in January, and at a drovers' conference at Ludlow this summer. We have also been approached by the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) to explore the possibility of these leaflets being used in livestock handling training courses delivered by EBLEX staff.



Low atmospheric pressure stunning workshop

The HSA is organising a workshop to discuss the use of a new technology for the slaughter of food animals. Recent research has suggested that Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) could be a humane method for the slaughter of poultry and possibly other food animal species, and may have the potential to overcome some of the inherent disadvantages of gas and electrical stunning systems.

The aim of the workshop will be to try to identify any animal welfare, technical, research, or other issues or constraints that may need to be addressed in further exploring this technology for possible widespread use in the future. Presentations will be given by Dr Dorothy McKeegan, from the University of Glasgow, UK, who will talk about her research into the use of LAPS for food animals and the evidence supporting the humaneness of the method, and Dr Karen D Christensen from OK Foods, Arkansas, USA, who will talk about her experience of LAPS equipment in a commercial setting. Participants with backgrounds in scientific research, animal welfare and the slaughter industry have been invited from across Europe and the USA.

HSA Centenary Research Training Scholarship

In honour of its Centenary year in 2011, the Humane Slaughter Association offered for the first time, a Research Training Scholarship for a promising scientist to undertake a doctoral programme of research aimed at improving the welfare of animals farmed for food when they are either transported, housed in livestock markets or at the time of their killing. The successful candidate, Jessica Hopkins, started her PhD at SRUC, Ayr in autumn 2011 and is investigating humane mechanical methods for killing chickens. During this second year of her PhD, Jess compared the efficacy of different methods of killing chickens and she is completing the data analysis for her second and third experimental phases. Jess presented her most recent findings

- at the Annual Meeting of the United Kingdom Branch of The World's Poultry Science Association at the University of Nottingham on 16 April 2013
- at the 47th congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology in Florianópolis, Brazil on 6 June 2013
- as a poster at the UFAW International Animal Welfare Science Symposium at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain on 4 July 2013.

The HSA looks forward to an update of Jess' progress when we receive her annual report this autumn.

Research projects

The DVD 'Livestock Transportation: What's the risk?', produced by the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and part-funded by the HSA has now been completed and circulated to all fire services across the UK. The four-hour programme gives details of different types of livestock containers and how they can be accessed when compromised in collisions and accidents. There are sections on animal behaviour and welfare, to assist when livestock has to be evacuated, and a section on humane destruction using captive-bolt equipment to help prepare the viewer for what to expect when the worst comes to the worst. The need for such a training aid was identified after a number of incidents which were compounded by animals being released onto busy roads by well-meaning, but ill-informed incident commanders.

The Defra-funded project 'Study to investigate non-penetrating percussive blow to the head as a humane killing method for piglets, kids and lambs up to 5 kg' is now underway. Led by the University of Bristol, equipment has now been velocity-tested and suitable sites are being sought to carry out the field work. This part of the project will take at least a year and the HSA will play a supporting role, in addition to identifying appropriate producers to include in the survey.

HSA Centenary Scholarship winner Jessica Hopkins presents a poster of her work investigating humane mechanical methods for killing chickens at the UFAW international animal welfare science symposium in Barcelona, July 2013.

Humane Mechanical Methods for Killing Poultry – Designing and Testing Novel Mechanical Devices



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Introduction

Poultry have been traditionally killed on farm by manual cervical dislocation (MCD) by either stock management or welfare grounds. Recent research suggested that birds may remain conscious for a significant period of time post application (Conroy and Wilson 1990; Francis et al. 2010). As a result restrictions on its use (e.g. >120 days post-hatch and a <3 kg live weight limit) have been applied as of January 2010 by the European Union (EC1099/2009). This study is the first part of a four stage project aiming to design a novel and humane alternative mechanical method for killing poultry on farm.

Methods

Four mechanical devices were designed and prototyped as Modified Avianus (MAM), Modified Rabbit Zange (MDZ), Modified Force (MPL), and Novel gloved mechanical cervical dislocation device (NMCD).



- To evaluate per bird type and bird age (broiler/layer x 2) suitability for each device (N=180).
- Killing efficacy of the devices was determined by post-mortem analysis to assess the effect on anatomy.
- The efficacy of the devices was evaluated in two ways:
 - Killing Success** - where sufficient damage to the anatomy was documented which would have resulted in death.
 - Device Success** - the specific hypothesised anatomical damage for each device was produced and would have resulted in death.

Conclusions

Three out of the four designed devices (MAM, MDZ, and NMCD) were shown to consistently cause the required anatomical damage to kill a bird on site. It was also determined that they caused the desired anatomical damage hypothesised in their designs over 92% of the time. Bird type did not affect successful application of the devices, but bird age did, with each device being more successful in younger birds compared to older birds. This could be attributed to the lower weight of younger birds and the less developed (e.g. skull) bones.

The MAM, MDZ and NMCD were taken forward to the next stage of the project where they were tested on live, unconscious birds which had been anaesthetised with electrocuthanaesthesia (ECC) electrodes in order to observe the birds' behaviour from varying levels of anaesthesia to death without compromising bird welfare. This experiment is currently undergoing analysis.

References

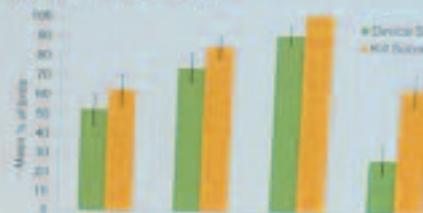
Conroy N.G. and Wilson J.E. 1990. *Meat Poultry* 191-210 p.12.
 Francis R.A., Lewis P., Toral J.J.A. and Wilson J.E. 2010. *Poultry Science* 89, 1245-1254.

Device hypotheses:

MAM - penetration of skin and skull causing severe brain trauma
 MDZM - penetration at the base of the skull, severing the brain stem
 MPL - causes cervical dislocation between base of skull, vertebrae, spinal cord and carotid artery severance
 NMCD - causes cervical dislocation between base of skull, vertebrae, spinal cord and carotid artery severance

Results

GLMM analysis showed that device success was significantly affected by device treatment ($F=7.00$, $df=3,177$, $P<0.001$), but bird success ($F=0.31$, $df=3,177$, $P=0.812$) (figure 2).



GLMM analysis showed that bird age significantly affected device success ($F=5.47$, $df=1,177$, $P=0.021$) and killing success ($F=8.14$, $df=1,177$, $P=0.004$), however bird type and the interactions had no significant effects ($P>0.1$).



Figure 3: Mean percentage of birds for device success and killing success by bird type

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the project funder the Humane Slaughter Association, as well as the support staff, Laura Dixon, Catherine Baker, Kyla McWhirter and David Broadbent (2012).

Conferences

In May 2013 the HSA was represented at four conferences in England, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland

- 15 May, Stoneleigh Park. Pig & Poultry LIVE event at the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The question for the industry debate was “Welfare; science or perception, what’s our future?”. Some panellists felt that the public perception of animal welfare standards, the scientific evidence and the producers’ needs are often all in agreement but Professor Sandra Edwards, Newcastle University, pointed out that what is important is how an individual animal ‘feels’
- 16/17 May, Brussels. Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and European Commission conference “Caring for health and welfare of fish: a critical success factor for aquaculture”. Conclusions included the need to encourage veterinary schools “to include in their curricula, aquatic veterinary disciplines and/or training programmes in order to ensure a high level of knowledge, skills and competencies of the graduate”. The HSA is taking steps to further promote its education and training material, particularly in fish and poultry welfare, to the vet schools of the EU in the hope that this may assist with this goal
- 29 May, Dublin Castle. European Commission conference on “enforcement of animal welfare during transport: bringing best practice to light”. The Commission has no immediate plans to alter the content of Regulation 1/2005 and so enforcement of what is already required is imperative
- 30 May, Dublin. Final conference on “renovation and promoting high quality control posts in EU”. Control posts (CPs) are facilities for housing animals, off vehicles, along routes which livestock vehicles commonly travel within the EU. Eight CPs have so far been renovated (or built new in some cases) with European Community funding. An assessment of the impact of the renovations on animal welfare is underway.

Exhibitions 2013

The HSA had a stand at the National Beef Association (NBA) Beef Expo at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern in May. Much interest was focussed on the new slaughter legislation and on transport.

In early May, Technical Director, Charles Mason, visited the IFFA exhibition in Frankfurt. The purpose of the visit was to collect information on electrical stunning equipment which meets the requirements of the new European Slaughter Directive, EC 1099/2009. This requires electrical stunning equipment to record the date, voltage, current, frequency and duration of each stunning episode, and store the readings for one year. New systems are being supplied with the software and USB ports as standard, but some manufacturers are building attachments for recently acquired systems.



The European Commission conference on enforcement of animal welfare during transport.



Baroness Byford presents Charles Mason with his award at the House of Lords.

HSA Technical Director awarded Associate Fellowship of Royal Agricultural Societies

Charles Mason, Technical Director of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), has been awarded an Associate Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Societies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, in recognition of his ‘distinguished achievement in agriculture and land based industries’.

Mr Mason, who has been with the HSA since 1987, was presented with the award on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at a ceremony in the House of Lords. The presentation was made by Baroness Byford, who served as Opposition Parliamentary Spokesman for Food, Farming and Rural Affairs from 1997 to 2007. She has also served as President of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, as a Warden of the Worshipful Company of Farmers in the City of London and she is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Secretary for the English Panel of the Council for Awards, Malcolm Stansfield MBE said; “Charles Mason’s Associate Fellowship has been awarded in recognition of his distinguished achievement in farm animal welfare. He has also contributed significantly as Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Uppingham Fatstock Show Society, a committee member and senior steward for the Rutland Agricultural Society and as a cattle steward at the Royal Bath and West Show.”

Administration & Finance

General Meeting 2012

The General Meeting was held at the Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the AGM of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). The members of UFAW Council are Trustees of the HSA. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all subscribers and was taken as read. The meeting agreed the Minutes of the General Meeting of 2011 and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 March 2012. There were no questions on the Report of the year's work and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received.

It was resolved that Anthony Joseph & Co, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to HSA.

Mr Michael Bird retired from the board of trustees. There were two new candidates for election and in accordance with UFAW's Articles of Association Mr Alick Simmons and Dr David Sargan were elected. Ms Barbara Cooper, Professor Neville Gregory, Professor John Bradshaw and Professor Richard Bennett were re-elected.

The Chairman advised the meeting that following the AGM Dr Lydia Brown will replace him as Chairman and Professor Richard Bennett will replace Dr Lydia Brown as Vice Chairman and that Ms Corrie McCann will replace Mike Bird as Hon Treasurer.

Notice of General Meeting 2013

The General Meeting of the HSA will be held at 12.30pm on Wednesday 16 October 2013, at The Old School, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (HSA's office premises). The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

Finance and Accounts

The summarised accounts set out overleaf have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, which were approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf on 16 July 2013.

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 16 October 2013. Full accounts, and the audit report can be obtained from the HSA Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN.



Accounts

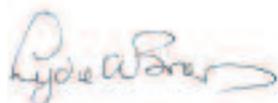
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	2012/13 £	2011/12 £
Incoming resources	316,723	475,214
Less: Costs of generating funds	36,824	44,215
Charitable activities	178,292	221,897
Governance costs	4,550	2,100
Other resources expended	49,743	55,354
Total resources expended	269,409	323,566
Net incoming resources in year	47,314	151,648
Other recognised gains and losses:		
Net realised gain on investments	65,470	79,016
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	314,411	(37,135)
Loss on revaluation of freehold property	(85,371)	-
Net movement in funds	341,824	193,529
Balance brought forward	3,568,254	3,374,725
Balance carried forward	3,910,078	3,568,254

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	2012/13 £	2011/12 £
Fixed assets:		
Tangible fixed assets	200,264	287,075
Investments	3,556,019	3,190,687
	3,756,283	3,477,762
Current assets:		
Debtors	11,141	14,642
Deposits at bank	221,899	187,008
Cash at bank & in hand	3,875	7,690
	236,915	209,340
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	(57,154)	(47,862)
Net current assets	179,761	161,478
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due after more than 1 year	(25,966)	(70,986)
Net assets	3,910,078	3,568,254
Funds:		
Unrestricted	3,910,078	3,568,254
	3,910,078	3,568,254

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16 July 2013.



L Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FSB MBA FRCVS
Chairman



C McCann BSc ACA
Hon Treasurer

The summarised accounts set out above have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. 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 16 October 2013. 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 16 July 2013.

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 2013.



S. Francis-Joseph FCCA, Senior Statutory Auditor, Anthony Joseph & Co, Registered Auditors, Stevenage, Herts. 16 July 2013

**The Humane Slaughter Association
and Council of Justice to Animals
(Registered in England Charity No. 209563)**

Vice-Presidents: Professor R S Anderson BVMS PhD MRCVS
J Drummond Thompson
Professor J E T Jones
PhD MRCVS FRCPath
Professor A M Johnston
OBE BVM&S DVetMed
FRSH DipECVPH HonFRCVS
I J Lean BSc PhD FSB MSB
G D Sales BSc PhD AKC MSB DipTCDHE
Professor P M Biggs CBE DSc DVM FRCPath
FSB FRS FRCVS
B R Howard BVMS PhD MRCVS
J H Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS

Trustees

Chairman: L Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FSB MBA
FRCVS (from Oct 2012)
Vice-Chairman: Professor R M Bennett BSc MSc PhD (from Oct 2012)
Honorary Treasurer: M T Bird (to Oct 2012)
C McCann BSc ACA (from Oct 2012)
Professor J Bradshaw BA PhD
B Cooper VN Cert DTM
Professor N Gregory BSc PhD
Professor A Lawrence BSc DipRurSci PhD
Professor A Nolan OBE MVB DipECVA DipECVPT
DVA MRCVS
D Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS
M Radford OBE LLB
D R Sargan MA PhD (from Oct 2012)
A Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS (from Oct 2012)

Staff

**Chief Executive
& Scientific Director:** James K Kirkwood OBE BVSc PhD FSB HonFRCVS
Secretary: Donald C Davidson (to Jul 2013)
Jane Moorman (from Jul 2013)
Technical Director: Charles W Mason HND MInstM ARAgS
Technical Officer: Jade Y Spence BSc MSc AMSB
Technical Officer: Nathan R Williams BSc BVSc MRCVS
**Public Relations
& Fundraising Officer:** Brian D Pemberton BA MA
Office Staff: Samantha Griffin
Wendy L Goodwin

Registered Auditors: Anthony Joseph & Co, Suite F47, Business &
Technology Centre, Bessemer Drive, Stevenage,
Herts SG1 2DX, UK

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, 171 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts
EN6 1BU, UK

Solicitors: Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7EG, UK
Wilsons, Summerlock Approach, Salisbury, Wiltshire
SP2 7RJ

Investment Advisers: Smith & Williamson Investment Managers,
25 Moorgate, London EC2V 5NS, UK

Offices: The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead,
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Humane Slaughter Association

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