HSA Student/Trainee Scholarships
(Dorothy Sidley Award for Advances in Animal Welfare during Transport, Marketing & Slaughter)

The scholarships are designed to encourage students to take an interest in the welfare of food animals. A limited number of awards are made available each year for successful applicants to carry out research projects that have a clear relevance to improving the well-being of food animals during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students in agricultural, veterinary or meat sciences and trainees in the livestock, meat and fish industries in the UK are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Applications are also invited from students registered at universities outside the UK which have a UFAW/HSA University ‘LINK’ person (see www.ufaw.org.uk/links).

Project proposals should be prepared under the student or trainee’s own initiative but guidance should be sought from tutors or heads of department to ensure that the necessary facilities and animals are available, that the work is well designed and that it will be appropriately supervised. Alternatively, heads of department or supervisors who may be able to find suitable candidates can also apply, although preference is usually given to applications initiated by students and trainees. Projects may be used as part of a student’s assessed coursework. It is the applicant’s responsibility to abide by all laws and codes and to obtain any necessary permissions and licences.

The scholarships were established in 1986 as a memorial to the late Miss Dorothy Sidley MBE, who was General Secretary of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) for 48 years.

Applications
Application forms are available from the HSA website or the HSA office (see contact details). A concise outline of the proposed study is required. Where applicable it should contain reference to scientific papers or other work relevant to the investigation. The proposal should include details on the number of any animals to be studied and the methods. The scholarship should be used by the student or trainee to fund their project costs and associated subsistence. Applications should include a reference from the supervisor, which should also be endorsed by the head of department. Completed application forms and a CV should reach the HSA by Thursday 28th February 2019; those received after this date will not be considered. All applications will be acknowledged and we aim to notify the successful scholars by the end of May 2019.

Details of the awards
The scholarships will provide a stipend of £200 (GBP) per week for up to 8 weeks (£1600 total), payable directly to the student and up to £800 for research costs (maximum total value of award: £2400).

Suggested topics
We’re interested to receive applications in any area of the welfare of livestock animals during marketing, transport or slaughter, but we would be particularly pleased to receive applications in the following areas:

- Improved stunning/slaughter techniques for farmed rabbits
- The implications of individual or breed temperament for the welfare of livestock during transport, marketing or at slaughter
- The welfare of farmed fish during transport or at slaughter
- Understanding the welfare of animals during low atmospheric pressure stunning

Previous projects
In the past, funding has been awarded for a diverse range of projects including:

- Investigation of equine slaughter and stunning methods
- Evaluating and enhancing stakeholder knowledge of OIE animal welfare standards in Southeast Asia
- Reducing fear and pain in cattle at point of slaughter
- Sheep welfare responses to movements experienced during sea transport

See www.hsa.org.uk/grants--awards/dorothy-sidley-memorial-scholarships--previous-winners for more examples of previous projects.

The final report
Scholars are required to submit a final project report to the HSA by the end of October in the year the award is granted. Reports should include photographs, diagrams and graphs as appropriate. The report is confidential to the HSA and the HSA reserves the right to publish a brief synopsis in its Annual Report and Newsletters.
However, by prior mutual agreement, the HSA encourages scholars to publish the report or offer it in part or in its entirety for publication in scientific or technical journals.

What does the HSA do?

The HSA works through educational, scientific and technical advances, exclusively towards the highest worldwide standards of welfare for food animals during transport, marketing, slaughter, and killing for disease control and welfare reasons. In addition to providing the annual Student/Trainee Scholarships in memory of Dorothy Sidley, the HSA achieves its aims by:

- Producing educational publications and training material on all aspects of animal handling and slaughter;
- Arranging practical demonstrations and training courses in the UK and overseas;
- Visiting markets and slaughterhouses and recommending and advising on improvements where necessary;
- Funding essential research and projects through grants and awards;
- Organising workshops and symposia;
- Providing advice to government bodies, animal welfare organisations and the meat industry.

How can you help the HSA?

The HSA depends entirely on voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacies for its income. Support is needed from both individuals and corporate groups in order that the HSA may continue to play an effective role in improving the welfare of food animals around the world. The annual membership subscription for individuals is £15, for full-time students £5, and for societies and corporate groups £50. Further details may be obtained from the HSA office or www.hsa.org.uk.

HSA Student/Trainee Scholarships

The Dorothy Sidley award for advances in animal welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter

Information Leaflet

Caring beyond the farm gate

Humane Slaughter Association

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