

HSA

DOROTHY SIDLEY

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS



**INFORMATION
LEAFLET**

2015



Humane Slaughter Association

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Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships

An annual award scheme was 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. The scholarship is designed to encourage more 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-news-events.php).

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.

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. A full breakdown of costs and expenditure will also be required. 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 27th February 2015;** those received after this date will not be considered. All applications will be acknowledged and the successful scholars will be notified by the end of April 2015.

Details of the awards

Each scholarship is for up to £2,000.

Suggested topics

The following are suggested topics, however, applications on other topics that have a clear relevance to improving the well-being of food animals during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing are welcome:

- By law, stunning must cause an immediate loss of consciousness. **Are there refinements to be made to the different electrical stunners used for small-scale poultry slaughter?** Which design of electrodes produces the most effective stun? Are some electrode positions better at inducing an effective stun compared to others and is this influenced by the electrical parameters?
- Farmed fish are often transported prior to slaughter. Very little scientific information exists on the welfare of fish during transport. **What associations are there between transport variables and fish welfare?** Is there merit in a recommendation to slaughter fish on-farm and only transport their carcasses? Does flesh quality confirm this?
- Currently, not all countries have legislation to protect the welfare of livestock at slaughter. Similarly, not all countries require the use of modern methods to stun livestock prior to their slaughter. **What are the constraints to the adoption of higher welfare methods of stunning?** Can recommendations be made for overcoming these constraints and applying higher welfare methods at slaughter or killing across the world?
- Variation in temperament between beef cattle breeds has been reported. It would be useful to study the **differences in temperament, and the impact on welfare, between different beef cattle breeds in abattoirs.** Can recommendations be made to inform future breed selection criteria?

Previous scholars and their projects

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

- *An investigation into behavioural responses of broilers to low atmospheric pressure stunning.* Nikki Mackie, University of Glasgow.
- *Investigation of equine slaughter and stunning methods.* Elisabeth Bedford, Royal Veterinary College.
- *Evaluating and enhancing stakeholder knowledge of OIE animal welfare standards in Southeast Asia.* Ihab Erian, University of Queensland.



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 Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarships, 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.