

Humane Slaughter Association



Caring beyond the farm gate

Spring/Summer 2025

Welcome

Welcome to our Spring update. As usual, the HSA continues its important work to promote the most humane treatment of animals during transport and slaughter, as well as striving to push for further improvements through research and development.

Alongside the activities you will read about in this newsletter, we continue to be a strong, expert voice advocating for progress and driving practical solutions, ensuring that animal welfare remains a priority in both policy discussions and industry practices.

Recently, we were one of seven animal welfare organisations invited to meet UK agriculture Ministers Baroness Hayman and Daniel Zeichner, where I shared our priorities including the need to urgently replace the use of carbon dioxide for stunning pigs with more humane alternatives, and to adopt detailed legal protections for farmed fish. We raised the same points at the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) meeting at the House of Lords, attended by Ministers, MPs, and Peers concerned with shaping animal welfare policy.

We have also just published an important report outlining the scale of the welfare challenge for wild-caught fish. Over a trillion fish are caught for food every year, and most are not humanely stunned. Our report outlines a practical roadmap to introducing humane stunning for wild fish, which could be one of the most impactful developments in animal welfare in recent decades. You can read the report here: hsa.org.uk/fishreport2025

Many thanks for your support of the HSA which makes all this work, and more, possible.

Dr Huw Golledge
Chief Executive



Annual Appeal 2025

Thanks to your support, the HSA's work has directly benefitted millions of animals worldwide:

- **Seminars and Training:** We brought together global experts to share knowledge and best practice at our one-day seminar in Edinburgh, UK, in October 2024.
- **Welfare Assessments:** Our welfare assessments spanned four major UK abattoirs, processing over 80 million animals annually, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring best practices are applied.
- **Global Impact:** In Malawi, we funded an initiative to replace traditional chicken transport practices with safer, more humane methods, demonstrating the tangible impact of our efforts.

Your Support Matters

Every achievement was made possible by your generosity, but there is still so much more to do. **Together, we can ensure a more humane future for animals beyond the farm gate.**

To donate, please complete the enclosed appeal form, or visit hsa.org.uk/annualappeal



Join us at this year's agricultural shows!

Our hardworking team has already been on the road this year, attending two shows in May, providing advice, guidance and information to 85 people who visited our stand!

The team will be back on the road later this year at the:

- **Scottish Smallholders Festival:** 18 October
- **English Winter Fair:** 15–16 November

Visit our stand to say hello! Whether you're looking for advice, guidance, or just a friendly chat about what we do, including information on our membership, we'd love to see you.

Humane Slaughter Association

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8AN, UK
Registered Charity in England no 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation



Council News

2025 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the evening of Wednesday 12 November 2025 at the Royal Society in London.

Following the formal business, there will be a series of talks on recent HSA-funded projects and updates from our sister charity, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), followed by a drinks reception.

Council changes at the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Dr Siobhan Abeyesinghe, Professor Richard Bennett and Mr David Pritchard were re-elected to council.

How you can help

The HSA is a registered, independent charity and membership organisation. We receive no government funding.

We play a vital role in improving animal welfare beyond the farm gate, in markets and collection centres, during transport, and at slaughterhouses. We do this by providing funding and support for essential research and specialised guidance and training to the livestock industry and animal welfare scientists from our in-house experts.

To learn how to support our work, please visit us at hsa.org.uk/support

HSA Conference 2025:

Latest developments in humane slaughter and transport of animals

We are delighted to announce that our hybrid conference dedicated to advancing and promoting animal welfare during transport, slaughter and killing will take place on 21–22 October 2025 at the Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, UK and online.

Conference overview:

- **Day One - Applied Focus:** A programme focused on the latest developments in legislation and best practice techniques used by industry. This day will feature both presentations by invited speakers and discussion sessions, covering a wide range of species and topic areas.
- **Day Two - Research Focus:** A research-driven agenda exploring the latest scientific advancements and novel developments.

You can join us in person for networking and live discussion sessions, either for the full conference or on the day most relevant to you. Registration for in-person attendance is now open. Details of online registration will be released closer to the event.

For more information, to register, or to submit an abstract, visit hsa.org.uk/conf2025.



Abstract submission is now open!

Abstract submission for the second day of the HSA Conference 2025 is now open. We welcome abstract submissions addressing the welfare of food production animals during transport, marketing, and slaughter, as well as killing for welfare reasons or disease control.

We are particularly interested in abstracts highlighting novel research or findings related to:

- Alternatives to CO₂ for humane slaughter of pigs
- Improved slaughter methods for poultry
- Novel stunning methods
- High welfare catching and handling of poultry
- Animal welfare during transport



The deadline for abstract submission is 28 June 2025.

For more information, visit hsa.org.uk/conf2025 or scan the QR code