

Humane Slaughter Association



Caring beyond the farm gate

Spring/Summer 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the HSA's spring newsletter. The HSA continues to be a strong voice for food animal welfare - working across research, policy and industry to drive practical, lasting improvements. In this newsletter you will find the latest on our work, including details of our upcoming conference, training courses and annual appeal.

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



Dr Huw Gollledge
Chief Executive



Join us at this year's agricultural shows!

Our hardworking team will be out on the road again this year, attending a number of key agricultural events and shows.

The team will be attending the following events later this year:

- Pig and Poultry Fair: 13-14 May 2026
- NBA Beef Expo: 30 May 2026
- Sheep Event: 28 July 2026
- Scottish Smallholders Festival: 17 September 2026

Visit our stand to say hello! Whether you're looking for practical advice, guidance, or simply want a friendly chat about the work we do - including information about HSA membership - we'd love to see you.



HSA Conference 2026

📅 20-21 October 2026

📍 The Catalyst,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
UK and online



HSA Conference 2026

Animal Welfare Beyond the Farm Gate: Latest developments in humane slaughter and transport of animals

We are pleased to announce the HSA Conference 2026 will take place on 20-21 October at The Catalyst, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This is a 2-day hybrid event dedicated to advancing the welfare of food animals during transport, slaughter and killing.

The conference brings together professionals, researchers and advocates from around the world to explore the latest scientific and technological developments in our field, and to share knowledge, experience and best practice.

For more information or to register visit hsa.org.uk/conf2026.

Humane Slaughter Association

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8AN, UK

Registered Charity in England no 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation



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Welcome to the team

We are delighted to welcome Dr Kate Fletcher, our new Technical Lead. Kate brings a wealth of international experience in animal welfare science, combining frontline operational work with impactful research and policy expertise. We very much look forward to working with her and the breadth of knowledge she brings to the HSA.



Expert training courses

The HSA offers expert training in humane slaughter and animal handling, delivered by licensed personnel and grounded in the latest scientific evidence. Designed to support a wide range of experience levels, these courses help ensure high welfare standards across diverse range of settings. Since September 2025, the team has delivered fourteen training courses, including four for wildlife rescue centres.

Agricultural shows and industry events continue to be key opportunities for engagement, allowing the HSA to connect directly with practitioners, smallholders and animal health professionals. These conversations often lead to future training and collaboration, extending the reach of HSA's guidance beyond the showground.

To find out more visit hsa.org.uk/training-education

Or follow the QR code.



Annual Appeal 2026

Treating animals humanely throughout their lives, including at the end, is essential for improving animal welfare.

Your support helps the HSA drive evidence-based reforms and practical guidance that raise standards for millions of animals each year.

Your donation helps us:

- Fund welfare research
- Deliver practical training
- Improve slaughter standards worldwide
- Influence policy and best practice

To support our work please visit hsa.org.uk/support

Or follow the QR code



In memorium

Angus Stewart Lowden MBE

19 December 1939- 24 March 2026

The HSA has lost a great friend and loyal supporter with the passing of Angus Lowden, President of the Association of Meat Inspectors (AMI). A founder member of the AMI, Angus was fervent in support of its principles: animal health and welfare, public health and the environment. He held every position in the Association, representing it throughout the UK and Europe. HSA staff have been regular exhibitors and speakers at the annual AMI Seminar, thanks to the enthusiasm and support of Angus and his fellow officers. Angus, of course, was ever present; his wee smile and gentlemanly manner will be sorely missed.

Technical Director appointed to Animal Welfare Committee

We are delighted to announce that Charlie Mason, Technical Director at the HSA, has been appointed to the Animal Welfare Committee – a fantastic recognition of his expertise and dedication to animal welfare.

The Animal Welfare Committee provides independent advice to Defra, as well as the Scottish and Welsh Governments, on a wide range of welfare-related issues. Charlie will be contributing in a personal capacity, particularly as a member of the Welfare at Killing sub-committee, which focuses on the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter or killing.



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