



Humane Slaughter Association

Annual Report 2023–2024
Caring beyond the farm gate





Welcome from our Chief Executive

Welcome to this year's HSA Annual Report

It has been a busy and varied year, and this report showcases our extensive efforts and the broad range of activities we have undertaken to ensure the humane treatment of animals raised for food, extending far beyond the farm gate.

The HSA plays a pivotal role in advancing animal welfare during transport, slaughter, at markets and in emergency situations. Our efforts to drive practical and lasting improvements for food animals worldwide continued throughout the year, with numerous research projects, events, and training sessions undertaken. These activities have an impact on a huge number of animals – as an example, the four abattoirs we assessed and provided advice to last year process over 80 million animals a year. In this report you can read about this and the many other ways the HSA has been working to improve the welfare of livestock animals over the past year.

At the end of last year, we hosted our one-day seminar on Animal Welfare at Slaughter and Killing, where we shared the latest advancements in humane transport and slaughter with our global colleagues. In addition to our seminar, the dedicated HSA team was active in conducting welfare assessments and participating in various agricultural shows across the country, sharing their expertise with those who can use it to make real-world improvements in animal welfare.

Our grants not only back innovative studies aimed at developing more humane methods for animal slaughter and transport, but also support practical projects that apply established solutions. This year, our Spring Appeal funded an initiative in Malawi to enhance the welfare of chickens transported to markets. This project exemplifies our commitment to implementing practical solutions: by educating smallholders on straightforward improvements for transporting their chickens, we have empowered those in the community to use their new skills to significantly

improve the welfare of many animals. With your continued support, we can fund more initiatives like this.

The HSA continues to be at the forefront of scientific and technical developments in animal welfare. Following research, co-funded by the HSA and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, UK), on alternatives to high-concentration CO₂ for stunning pigs, we have updated our position. We are advocating for the rapid adoption of more humane alternatives to CO₂ and working closely with the pig sector to address this significant welfare challenge. You can read more about our position on this important issue in this report.

None of our impactful work would be possible without the generous support of our members and donors. Thank you for recognising the importance of our mission and contributing so generously.

We hope you enjoy reading about our achievements and activities over the past year. Everyone who has chosen to donate to the HSA this year, or who has supported our work in some way, is helping us to make a real difference.

We could not do this without you – thank you.

If you're not yet a member or supporter, please consider making a donation or joining us.

Dr Huw Golledge
Chief Executive &
Scientific Director



Chair's comment

This report reflects another year of diverse and impactful activities and events undertaken by our dedicated HSA team. It is encouraging to see the recognition and influence of the HSA expanding globally, reflected in our numerous research projects, events, and training sessions, all aimed at achieving practical and lasting improvements for food animals worldwide.

A major highlight was our one-day seminar on Animal Welfare at Slaughter and Killing, where we shared recent advancements with our international peers. Additionally, our team conducted numerous welfare assessments and participated in agricultural shows across the country, providing valuable guidance to foster real-world improvements in animal welfare.

In this report, you will find details on our position on important topics such as alternatives to CO₂ stunning in pigs, as well as updates on our grants which continue to support both innovative studies and practical projects to enhance humane methods for animal slaughter and transport.

The HSA makes a unique contribution to promoting better animal welfare. Our achievements are made possible only by the commitment of the HSA staff, under the excellent leadership of Huw Golledge, and by the generous support of our members and donors. Your contributions are crucial in enabling us to make a meaningful difference in animal welfare. I hope to see many of you for an update on our work at our (revamped) AGM in November.

We encourage those who have not yet joined us to consider making a donation or becoming a member.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mike Radford
Chair of Trustees

Our vision and mission

Vision

A world where all farmed animals are transported and killed humanely.

Mission

To advance and promote the use of humane methods for the transport, slaughter and killing of farmed animals through research and education.

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News and events

Extending our reach and promoting food animal welfare at agricultural shows.

Participating in agricultural shows offers us a valuable opportunity to connect with our dedicated supporters and introduce our work to new audiences.

Over the past year, our team of animal welfare experts has been present at several agricultural shows, providing advice and guidance. Exhibiting at these shows allows us to showcase our efforts to a diverse range of attendees – from smallholders with a few animals to large-scale farmers and producers.

During 2023–2024 the HSA team attended:

Association of Meat Inspectors Seminar, Newport
8-9 September 2023

Royal Welsh Spring Festival, Builth Wells
18-19 May 2024

The National Sheep Association Sheep Event, Malvern
30 July 2024

Beef Expo 2024, Cumbria
27 April 2024

English Winter Fair, Stafford
18-19 November 2023

British Pig and Poultry Fair, Birmingham
15-16 May 2024

To connect with a broader audience, we are actively pursuing additional opportunities to exhibit at agricultural shows and events in 2025. By sharing our expert advice and guidance more widely, we can positively impact the welfare of a greater number of animals.

Your next chance to meet us will be at the English Winter Fair at the Staffordshire County Showground on 16–17 November 2024.



HSA One-Day Seminar: Animal Welfare at Slaughter and Killing – Hot Topics 2023

We were delighted to welcome 120 delegates to our one-day, in-person seminar in October 2023 held in Solihull, UK. The seminar was an opportunity to bring together international colleagues associated with animal welfare at slaughter, including animal welfare officers, veterinary surgeons, food business operators, and legislators.

By holding the seminar as an in-person only event, we aimed to foster open and engaging debates among attendees. The programme included 10 invited speakers and delegates heard from a range of experts on wider-ranging and crucial topics including:

- Allocation of funding to maximise animal welfare in small abattoirs
- Poultry welfare during mass depopulation operations



An update on the 'Demonstration of Life' protocol as a method to promote use of stunning during halal slaughter



Are current methods used for the killing of day-old male layer chicks humane?

Events such as these are an important part of our mission to advance and promote the use of humane methods for the transport and killing of farmed animals through research and education.

We will be holding a similar event in Scotland this year (see page 6).

Some participant feedback:

“Excellent day. Congratulations to the HSA team!”

“Very good meeting. Met new contacts and learned a lot!”

Other events and meetings

The HSA also took part in the 4th FSVO/UFAW Symposium – Humanely Ending the Life of Animals – held in March 2024 in Bern, Switzerland, as well as online. Birte Nielsen presented the methods currently used for killing day-old chicks in hatcheries and took part in a panel debate on humane killing of animals.



Humane methods for killing day-old chicks

Two methods exist for the humane killing of day-old chicks: Instantaneous Mechanical Destruction (IMD) and gas killing. Although it may be aesthetically unpleasant, IMD is a humane and effective killing method for day-old chicks provided the equipment is used, managed, and maintained correctly (ie if death is not instantaneous, it is neither humane nor legally allowed to be used). Gas-killing of chicks by immersion into gas mixtures is another humane method to use. The best gas mixtures for this purpose are those that do not contain carbon dioxide (CO₂), as this gas is acidic and at concentrations above 25% has been found to cause head shaking and gasping in older chickens, indicating it is unpleasant to inhale. If CO₂ is used in the gas killing of day-old chicks, the concentration in the mixture must be under 25%. Immersion into 100% CO₂, although permitted, is not a humane killing method, because it is likely to cause pain

or distress to the chicks. In summary, the routine killing of male chicks may be an *ethical* concern, but the killing of day-old chicks is not an *animal welfare* issue provided it is done humanely.

The healthy male chicks killed are not a waste product, as they are used as feed for raptors and carnivorous reptiles in zoos and pet shops. If the routine killing of day-old male chicks is banned, this protein source would need replacing, which could lead to other animal welfare issues if rodents need to be bred as an alternative. Also, hatcheries would still need to have well-functioning equipment available for immediate euthanasia (ie killing for welfare reasons) of sick and moribund chicks. In Europe, this currently accounts for around 8 million chicks per year.



Join us after our AGM for an update on our work

The 2024 HSA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Society in London on 13 November (18.00-18.30). Following the AGM (18.30-21.00), there will be a chance to hear updates on progress at the HSA from our CEO, and updates on two HSA-funded projects, followed by drinks and canapés:

- **Dr Jessica Martin**, Newcastle University, UK
Investigation of Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning as an alternative to Carbon Dioxide for pig stunning.
- **Dr Madeline Nyamwanza**, Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, Malawi
Improving the welfare of chickens during transportation in Malawi.

The meeting is held jointly with our sister charity, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), so you can also hear updates on UFAW-funded research.

HSA members can register to attend the event in person (subject to venue capacity) by sending an RSVP to rsvp@hsa.org.uk (please let us know if you have any dietary or access requirements). It will also be possible to join the meeting online, we will circulate details to members and newsletter subscribers nearer the date.



HSA One-Day Seminar: Animal Welfare During Transport and Slaughter – Hot Topics 2024

26 October 2024, Edinburgh

The HSA is holding a one-day seminar highlighting current issues and latest developments on animal welfare during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing. The event will take place on Saturday 26 October 2024 at the Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh, UK.



To register, visit:
hsa.org.uk/seminar2024

Talks include:

- **Andrew Voas**, Scottish Government (SEERAD)
Update on chicken catching, live exports and farmed fish
- **Huw Golledge**, Chief Executive, HSA
Time for action – carbon dioxide can and should be replaced as a method for stunning pigs
- **Jess Martin**, Newcastle University
Nitrogen foam for depopulation of pigs and poultry
- **Joe Anzuino**, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) *The Head to Heart (H2H) Euthanizer (poultry killing device) – a regulator’s viewpoint*
- **Awal Fuseini**, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) *Update on Halal beef slaughter*
- **Peter Kettlewell**, Livetec Systems Ltd
Temperature controlled transport of poultry
- **Birte Nielsen**, Research Director, HSA
Update on HSA international projects
- **Simon Turner**, Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)
Livestock transport at sea between Scottish islands and the mainland
- **Ellie Wigham**, University of Glasgow
Abattoir provision in Scotland and opportunities for mobile slaughterhouses
- **Fergus Younger**, Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS)
Provision of local and private kill facilities in Scotland
- **Nicola Randall**, Harper Adams University
Fish welfare at slaughter in wild-capture fisheries

HSA publications: advancing best practice and accessibility

A core element of our mission is to promote and advance the use of humane methods in the transport, market, slaughter or killing of farmed animals through education. We work towards this goal by producing a wide array of publications.



We are currently reviewing our existing guidance documents to ensure they reflect the latest best practices and comply with current legislation.



Most HSA publications are available to download for free on our website at hsa.org.uk/printed-publications

The latest addition to the information we share is a monthly list of scientific publications relevant to the work of the HSA. The list is an easy way to stay up to date with the latest research related to animal welfare in markets, during transport, and at slaughter or killing. Please note, this list is not intended to be exhaustive and does not indicate endorsement of the included articles. hsa.org.uk/latestpapers

Providing expert independent advice

Governments and various organisations, including industry stakeholders, frequently turn to the HSA for our expertise on new legislation, proposed amendments, and guidelines related to animal transport and slaughter.

Through these consultations, we have the opportunity to present our insights and contribute to shaping policies that enhance animal welfare. Engaging with decision-makers in this way allows us to play a pivotal role in advancing humane practices from the farm gate to the point of slaughter.

By reviewing and providing feedback on proposed changes and best practice, the HSA actively helps to improve standards and ensures animal welfare remains a priority throughout the entire process.

In 2023–2024, we submitted written responses to three consultations, including:



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Enforcement of animal health and welfare offences consultation.



Mandatory Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Slaughterhouses (Wales) consultation.



Report for Welsh Assembly on the use of corral traps and shotguns for the humane killing of feral wild boar.

Following the Mandatory CCTV consultation, requirements to install and operate a CCTV system, and keep CCTV footage, came into force on 1 June 2024 in Wales.

Small abattoirs update

In December 2023, the UK Government introduced a new £4 million grant scheme aimed at supporting small abattoirs in England. This initiative marks the first opportunity for smaller abattoirs to secure funding to enhance their operations. The HSA warmly welcomed this announcement and the recognition of the vital role of small- and medium-sized abattoirs. The reduction in such abattoirs has led to increased travel distances for animals, raising concerns about their welfare.

Smaller abattoirs play a crucial role in the agricultural sector. They are essential for local economies and provide valuable processing routes for native and rare breeds, including horned animals that larger facilities often cannot handle. Additionally, these abattoirs can contribute to higher animal welfare standards by minimising journey times to slaughter, thereby reducing welfare issues associated with long-distance transport.

In the UK, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is currently working on the specifics of the Smaller Abattoir Fund. With thoughtful investment, this fund has the potential to improve access to local slaughter facilities and mitigate the negative impacts of longer animal transport times. The HSA has been actively involved in shaping the fund by providing feedback on its proposed elements and will continue to collaborate with Defra to ensure that animal welfare remains a key focus.

In addition to the £4 million fund, in May 2024 the previous UK government announced a £3 million grant scheme for new and mobile abattoirs through the Farming Investment Fund. This scheme is designed to complement the Smaller Abattoir Fund by enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of smaller abattoirs. This initiative awaits ratification by the new government.



Update on the HSA's position on using CO₂ for stunning pigs

The HSA's position regarding the slaughter of all animals is that they should be killed as humanely as possible with every reasonable effort made to reduce pain, suffering and distress to an absolute minimum.

Concerns about carbon dioxide (CO₂) in pig stunning

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is widely used to stun pigs before slaughter. However, robust scientific evidence highlights significant animal welfare concerns associated with this method. The UK Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) recommended phasing out CO₂ as early as 2003, yet it remains in use, with over 80% of pigs in the UK still being stunned this way. The HSA urges the adoption of a more humane alternative without delay.

Research into alternatives

In 2018, the HSA co-funded research with The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to test Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) as a potentially humane alternative. Unfortunately, the findings revealed that LAPS is not a humane option for pigs, despite its effectiveness for poultry. The researchers concluded that "both LAPS and CO₂ stunning are associated with several indicators of poor welfare and

are equally aversive to pigs." The full report can be accessed at <https://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/ProjectDetails?ProjectId=19805>

These findings underscore the urgent need to implement other humane alternatives to CO₂.

Welfare impacts of current pig slaughter methods

In the UK and Europe, pigs are stunned before slaughter using one of two commonly employed methods: carbon dioxide gas or electrical stunning. Both methods have their respective advantages and disadvantages regarding animal welfare.

Carbon dioxide

This method involves exposing pigs to a high concentration of CO₂, rendering them unconscious. UK regulations require pigs to be killed through prolonged exposure to CO₂, while in other countries pigs are rendered unconscious by CO₂ and then killed using another method, typically through exsanguination.

CO₂ has been shown to be strongly aversive to pigs (and almost all other mammals in which it has been tested), causing breathlessness or pain in high concentrations, and anxiety even at lower concentrations. Given these welfare issues, the HSA strongly recommends replacing CO₂ with a more humane method as soon as possible.





“Both LAPS and CO₂ stunning are associated with several indicators of poor welfare and are equally aversive to pigs.”

Electrical stunning

Electrical stunning involves passing an electrical current through pigs’ brains using electrodes placed on either side of the head, causing instantaneous unconsciousness. The pigs are then killed by bleeding.

When correctly used, electrical stunning induces less suffering during the stunning process than CO₂. However, the overall welfare impact must consider the entire slaughter process, including the pre-slaughter handling of the pigs. Electrical stunning often necessitates handling practices that may cause more stress than the handling procedures for CO₂, such as separating pigs from their group or placing them in restrainers. Additionally, the risk of inadequate stunning is higher if the procedure is not performed correctly.

CO₂ stunning systems, on the other hand, allow pigs to be handled in groups, which can help to keep them calmer, given their social nature. Stunning is also automated, reducing the risk of error. However, these advantages do not outweigh the negative welfare impacts of CO₂ exposure. Therefore, CO₂ should be replaced with a more humane system that retains the handling and automation benefits.

What are the alternatives?

Contrary to the belief that no viable alternatives to CO₂ exist, modifications to existing electrical and gas stunning systems could potentially offer more humane solutions.

Research in the 1990s conclusively showed that inert gases such as argon are less aversive to pigs than CO₂

and could replace CO₂ in gas stunning systems. Alternatively, electrical stunning could be combined with humane handling systems that allow animals to be handled in groups.

Inert gas stunning systems are a particularly promising solution, not least because they can be retrofitted into existing CO₂ stunning equipment. Nevertheless, engineering challenges to switching to the use of inert gases still remain, and the HSA urges the industry to address these without further delay.

We are encouraged that these approaches are currently under investigation as part of the EU-funded Pig Stun project, which is examining improved electrical stunning methods and three different gas-based systems, including inert gas systems that can be retrofitted to existing CO₂ stunning equipment.

Moving forward

Given the disappointing outcome of the LAPS research and the continued use of CO₂, the HSA is committed to working with the industry and regulators to facilitate rapid progress in addressing this significant animal welfare issue.

A working group within the pig sector has recently been formed to tackle this challenge. We are collaborating with this group to overcome any remaining barriers to adopting a more humane stunning method. We are encouraged that this issue is receiving much-needed attention from those best positioned to ensure progress.



For more information about the HSA mentoring partnership, visit hsa.org.uk/mentor



Mentoring partnership

Two new HSA mentoring partnerships were made in 2023.

One pairing was between Abdul Rahman Safian (West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare, Ghana), who wanted to undertake a research project investigating the humane handling and slaughter of pigs in abattoirs in Ghana, and Jasmine Clarkson (Newcastle University, UK). Jasmine is assisting Abdul in how best to plan and carry out such a project.

Farhan Rhidor Akorede (a recent veterinary graduate from Nigeria) and Cecile Kobek-Kjeldager (Aarhus University, Denmark) were a second mentor/mentee pairing. Cecile mentored Farhan in designing and planning a research proposal looking into the awareness of animal welfare among primary stakeholders during transport and at markets in Nigeria. Farhan was then successful in receiving a grant from the HSA to carry out his work and he is currently half-way through the practical stage of data collection and looking forward to sharing the results of his work later in the year.

Research funding

Student and Trainee Scholarships 2024: Making an impact through research dissemination

Central to our mission of advancing animal welfare through research and education, our Student and Trainee Scholarships scheme plays a vital role. This initiative provides support for short research projects aimed at improving animal welfare during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing. Supporting these projects highlights our dedication to driving global progress in animal welfare.



This year, we are delighted to be supporting four scholars:



Charlotte Butcher
The Royal Veterinary College, UK
On-farm dispatch methods of goats in the UK – their prevalence and perceived efficacy by stock people.



Jarrah Ransome
University of New England, Australia
Understanding the risk factors associated with transport and lairage that compromise meat chicken welfare.



Megan French
University of Glasgow, UK
Assessing the use of a mechanical rump pusher in a commercial cattle slaughter plant.



Jonathan Zziwa
Makerere University, Uganda
Assessment of the welfare of broiler chicken slaughtered at commercialised poultry abattoirs in Kampala Metropolitan, Uganda.

Student and Trainee Scholars 2023

Every year we host an online seminar for our Scholars in partnership with the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). This seminar offers Scholars a valuable platform to present their work to peers, gaining experience that will benefit their future careers.

In December 2023, all four of our 2023 Student and Trainee Scholars presented their research at the meeting. Their presentations were engaging and technically impressive, with each Scholar handling questions expertly. Well done to everyone involved!

“Animal Welfare is an incredibly diverse field, and we constantly need more information so as to improve the current practice in regard to animal welfare. The experience gave me a chance to learn about the organisation and the work they deal with. I also got a chance to present my work to an international community which I believe shed light to the study area I had chosen.”

Feedback from 2023 scholar Grace Muita (Maasai Mara University, Kenya). *Assessment of cattle welfare in Narok Town Slaughterhouse in Narok County, Kenya.*




For more information about HSA student and trainee scholarships, visit hsa.org.uk/stss

Grants awarded

The HSA Research, Project and Travel Grants demonstrate our dedication to advancing the use of humane methods for the transport, marketing, slaughter or killing of farmed animals, through research. We welcome applications for research and other projects aimed at improving the welfare of food animals during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing for disease control and welfare reasons.

“Once the crates are made, they will be distributed to 500 local chicken vendors, who will also receive training on improved chicken welfare practices.”



Special Grant: Improving chicken welfare in Malawi

At the end of 2023, we awarded funding to the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA) for a project aimed at improving chicken welfare during transport in Malawi. This initiative builds on their previous survey and pilot study, aiming to replace the traditional practice of transporting chickens suspended upside down from bicycle handlebars, with more humane, welfare-friendly crates.

The project will train 20 local craftspeople to produce these crates, ensuring a steady supply. Once the crates are made, they will be distributed to 500 local chicken vendors, who will also receive training on improved chicken welfare practices. This effort has the potential to enhance the welfare of hundreds of thousands of chickens in Malawi each year and reflects the HSA’s commitment to improve animal welfare beyond the farm gate, through global research and education.

Survey findings highlighted chickens often being transported in groups of up to 50 on a single bicycle, where they remained suspended in excessive heat for hours, leading to broken wings and legs, heat stress, and a mortality rate of at least 10%. By providing better transport crates and training, this project aims to significantly improve the welfare of chickens and set a new standard for their humane treatment in the region.



Special Travel Award

The HSA offers occasional Special Travel Awards to allow researchers to travel and undertake studies or other activities that may lead to significant developments in the humane treatment of animals during marketing, transport or slaughter.

This year, we awarded £5,500 to Dr Han Quang Hanh who is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Animal Science at Vietnam National University of Agriculture. Dr Hanh received the award to fund travel to Aarhus University (ANIVET Behaviour, Stress, and Welfare), Denmark to visit Professor Mette S Herskin’s research group.

Dr Hanh will learn more about the welfare of animals during transport and at the slaughterhouse which will be significant to the sustainable development of livestock production in Vietnam in the coming years.



“It is my honour to receive the HSA 2024 Special Travel Award to go to Aarhus University to join the research group of Professor Herskin. This is a unique opportunity for me to learn more about the welfare of farm animals during transport and at the slaughterhouse, which is significant to the sustainable development of livestock production in Vietnam in the coming years. This award will help me build an important network with Professor Herskin and her research group for long-term cooperation. I highly appreciate the support from the HSA and look forward to visiting Denmark soon”

Dr Hanh, HSA 2024 Special Travel Award

Other grants awarded

In January 2024, Farhan Rhidor Akorede, a veterinary surgeon from Nigeria, received an award for his project titled “Awareness of animal welfare among primary stakeholders during transport and in markets in Nigeria.” Additionally, he was mentored by Cecilie Kobek-Kjeldager, an Early Career Researcher from Aarhus University in Denmark, through the HSA Mentoring program.

In January 2024, we awarded Eleftherios Kasiouras funding for travel and registration costs to attend the 4th FSVO/UFAW Symposium – Humanely Ending the Life of Animals in Bern, Switzerland, in March 2024.

At the symposium, Eleftherios gave an oral presentation entitled: ‘Humane killing of an economically important decapod crustacean, the signal crayfish’.



“The meeting was impeccably organised, having top-notch equipment, seamless flow, and captivating speakers delivering fantastic presentations. Attendees were not only friendly but shared a common goal of enhancing animal welfare”

Eleftherios Kasiouras



Training courses & welfare assessments

To advance and promote humane methods for the transport and killing of farmed animals, we offer a diverse range of training courses led by our expert team. These include practical, hands-on sessions focusing on slaughter and emergency killing methods, alongside tailored lectures and classroom-based instruction.

By engaging directly with those involved in these critical processes, our training fosters best practice and leads to meaningful improvements in the welfare of potentially millions of animals at slaughter.

During 2023–2024, we undertook:



5 poultry culling training courses for vets and catching teams



11 practical training courses



7 lectures and teaching sessions



9 animal welfare assessments

Four

animal welfare assessments conducted by the HSA since the beginning of 2024 have the potential to positively impact the welfare of...

80 million +

poultry and over a million cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered annually by the facilities assessed.



For more information about our training courses, visit hsa.org.uk/training-education

Appeals and legacies

Spring Appeal update

For our Spring Appeal this year, we shared the important story we mentioned earlier regarding improving chicken welfare in Malawi (see page 14). The HSA is committed to improving food animal welfare worldwide and this project is just one of many we aim to support which can make a tangible difference. If you would like to help support this project and others like it, please consider making a donation today by visiting hsa.org.uk/donate

We are grateful for your generosity and support. Thank you.

Autumn Appeal

Our Autumn Appeal in 2023 was focused on supporting our Mentoring Partnership. The HSA is committed to advancing and promoting the use of humane methods for the transport and killing of farmed animals, not just through research but also education. Our Mentoring Partnership is a scheme designed to support the next generation of animal welfare researchers.

The Partnership pairs enthusiastic students with more experienced mentors who guide and support them in the early stages of their research projects. By providing mentorship, we ensure these projects have a solid scientific foundation and the potential to make a real and practical difference.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this appeal.

How you can help the HSA

By supporting the HSA, you are helping to bring practical and lasting improvements to the welfare of food animals around the world. You can directly support our research, education and advocacy efforts by:



Leaving a lasting legacy



Making a one-time or recurring donation



Becoming a member

Legacy giving

Make your mark by leaving a legacy to the HSA

By leaving a legacy gift to HSA, you can help make a lasting impact on the welfare of food animals. Your legacy gift will support critical research, education and advocacy that aims to improve animal welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter.

A special thank you

This year, the HSA received £135,399 in legacy gifts. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Peter Ludwig Rosso, Yvonne Alyssum de Beaufort, Nancy Andrew and David Smith for their generosity. Their thoughtful gifts will play an instrumental role in furthering our mission to improve the welfare of food animals beyond the farm gate.

“Your legacy gift will support critical research, education and advocacy that aims to improve animal welfare during transport, marketing, and slaughter.”



For more information, please visit hsa.org.uk/support



Administrative and finance

Finance and accounts

The summarised accounts set out have been extracted from the full accounts of the Humane Slaughter Association and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, which were approved by the Trustees.

The gross income of the Association was £388,071. The Unrestricted income was £338,724. Of which 35% came from legacy income at £135,399, a drop from the previous year. Legacy income is very unpredictable. The income from lecture fees and publication sales decreased to £33,643. Unrestricted investment income increased to £142,855.

The full accounts have been audited and the auditors' opinion was without qualification. The accounts will be filed with the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2024.

Full accounts and the audit report can be obtained from the Charity Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN, UK

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Trustees of the HSA

We have examined the summarised financial statements that comprise the summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council 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 20 September 2024.

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 2024.



Grant Franklin (Senior Statutory Auditor)
20 September 2024

for and on behalf Hillier Hopkins LLP and is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Annual General Meeting 2023

The AGM was held at the Mothers Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton St, London SW1P 3RB, UK on 15 November 2023. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). The members of UFAW Council also act as Trustees for the HSA. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all members and was taken as read Minutes of the AGM of 2022 were agreed and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 March 2023. Questions on the Report of the year's work were answered by the officials present and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received.

It was resolved that Hillier Hopkins LLP, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to HSA and its associated Trusts and their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

Jane Downes, Dr Anna Olsson and Dr David Sargan stood down under the rules regarding rotation, and offered themselves for re-election, and were re-elected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Humane Slaughter Association will be held at 18.00 on 13 November 2024 at the Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, UK. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

HSA Summary of Financial Activity Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2023/2024 (£)	Restricted Funds 2023/2024 (£)	Total 2023/2024 (£)	Total 2022/2023 (£)
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income	162,226	–	162,226	298,065
Charitable Activities	33,643	–	33,643	46,415
Investment Income	142,855	49,347	192,202	150,676
Total Incoming Resources	338,724	49,347	388,071	495,156
Resources Expended				
Costs of Generating Funds	59,138	–	59,138	62,277
Charitable Activities	444,924	3,502	448,426	390,241
Total Resources Expended	504,062	3,502	507,564	452,518
Net Operational incoming/ (outgoing) resources for the year	(165,338)	45,845	(119,493)	42,636
Net Realised Gains on Investments	224,581	–	224,581	(213,120)
Net Movement in Funds	59,243	45,845	105,088	(170,482)
Balance Brought Forward	5,554,728	653,523	6,208,251	6,378,733
Net Movement of Funds	59,243	45,845	105,088	(170,482)
Balances Carried Forward	5,613,971	699,368	6,313,339	6,208,251

HSA Balance Sheet Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2023/2024 (£)	Restricted Funds 2023/2024 (£)	Total 2023/2024 (£)	Total 2022/2023 (£)
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets	192,993	–	192,993	197,049
Investments	5,088,726	–	5,088,726	4,844,462
	5,041,509	–	5,281,719	5,041,511
Current Assets				
Debtors	31,886	–	31,886	11,938
Term Deposits at Bank	350,000	1,012,762	1,362,762	1,754,564
Cash at bank and in hand	246,600	–	246,600	181,481
	628,486	1,012,762	1,641,248	1,947,983
Current Liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year	(55,669)	(553,959)	(609,628)	(722,438)
Net current Assets	572,817	458,803	1,031,620	1,225,545
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due After More than One Year	–	–	–	(58,805)
Net Assets	5,614,326	458,803	6,313,339	6,208,251
Funds				
Unrestricted	5,613,971	–	5,613,971	5,554,728
Restricted	–	699,368	699,368	653,523
	5,613,971	699,368	6,313,339	6,208,251

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 20 September 2024.



M R Radford OBE LLB
Chairman



C L McCann BSc ACA
Hon Treasurer

The summarised accounts set out here have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with Charities Act 2011.

Legal and administrative information

Vice-Presidents

Lydia Brown

MBE BVSc BA PhD FRFB MBA FRCVS

John Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS

Bryan Howard BVMS PhD FRCVS

Gillian Sales BSc PhD AKC MRSB DipTCDHE

Andrea Nolan CBE FRSE MRCVS

Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS

Trustees

Chair

Mike Radford OBE LLB ¹

Deputy Chair

Emma-Louise Singh MCIOF (advDip) ^{1 2}

Honorary Treasurer

Corrie McCann BSc ACA ^{1 3}

Siobhan Abeyesinghe BSc MSc PhD ³

Paula Junqueira BSc MBA CFP® ^{1 2}

Richard M Bennett BSc MSc PhD ¹

Dorothy McKeegan BSc MSc PGCAP PhD ³

Emily Craven MA VetMB PGCertVPS MRCVS ²

Anna Olsson MSc PhD ³

Jane Downes BVSc MRCVS

David Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS

Alison Enticknap PhD ²

David R Sargan MA PhD ^{2 3}

¹ Finance Committee Member

² Fundraising Committee Member

³ Grant Committee Member

Staff

Chief Executive & Scientific Director

Huw Golledge BSc PhD AFHEA

Secretary

Jane Moorman

Technical Director

Charles Mason HND MInstM CF ARAgS

Research Director

Birte Nielsen BSc MSc PhD

Technical Officer

Jade Spence BSc (Hons) MSc AMRSB

(until 31.10.2023)

Technical Officer

Susan Richmond BSc MSc PhD

Scientific Officer

Elizabeth Carter BSc MSc

Scientific Communication

& Outreach Manager

Luisa Dormer BSc MSc AFHEA DLSHTM

Communications Officer

Carly Halliday BA MSc (from 12.02.2024)

Fundraising Manager

Eilidh Muir BA MCIOF (from 13.11.2023)

Administrative Officer

Sam Griffin

Finance Assistant

Tina Langford CICM (Grad)

Independent Auditors

Hillier Hopkins LLP, Chartered

Accountant, Registered Auditor,
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Bankers

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Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London
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Wilsons, Summerlock Approach,
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Investment Advisers

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