



Humane Slaughter Association

Media Release

28 June 2018

Recognition for ground-breaking work to improve the welfare of food animals

Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) announces winner of its 2018 Award

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) has announced the winner of its 2018 Humane Slaughter Award. The award, which recognises individuals or organisations that have made major scientific advances in the welfare of livestock during slaughter, transport or killing for disease control, has been given to Professor Bo Algers of Sweden in recognition of his exemplary work to improve the welfare of food animals.

Professor Algers' research has included studies on the effects of housing on health and welfare of various farmed species, but he has also made very significant contributions to the advancement of humane farm animal transport and slaughter. His research has included studies on issues such as electrical stunning of lambs and captive-bolt stun quality and recently, he started research on the welfare of animals stunned and killed in mobile slaughter units.

Highlights from his outstanding career include co-ordinating the welfare quality assessment protocol for cattle at slaughter for the largest ever European research project on animal welfare, WelfareQuality, and founding the research group HATS (Handling of Animals at Research and Slaughter) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU), which has achieved international recognition for its work advancing the science of animal welfare. His work also contributed to the Swedish government's and industry's support of research of alternative gases to high concentration of CO₂ for stunning pigs under commercial conditions.

Professor Algers remains active in the field of farm animal welfare and is a Diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioral Medicine. Through his mentorship of scientists and students he has inspired many to question how animal welfare at slaughter can be improved and many former students are now considered animal welfare leaders in their own right. He is now Professor Emeritus but remains very much involved in the ethics of animal husbandry, transport and handling of animals at slaughter and in promoting animal welfare in the public media.

On learning that he had won the award, Professor Algers said: *"I feel very honoured to receive the Humane Slaughter Award by the HSA, one of the oldest and most respected charity organisations promoting a humane treatment of all*

food animals worldwide. I wish to point out that the achievements were reached together with my team of colleagues with Sophie Atkinson, Lotta Berg, Jan Hultgren, Anne Larsen, Rebecka Westin and several others.”

The award was presented to Professor Algiers at the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare 2018 conference at the Centre for Life, Newcastle, on the 28th of June. HSA Chief Executive & Scientific Director Dr Robert Hubrecht, who made the presentation, said: *“Professor Algiers’ considerable achievements throughout his career are a testament to his dedication and commitment to the welfare of animals, including at or around slaughter, and he is a very worthy recipient of this award.”*

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Note to Editors:

In order to help give recognition to important contributions made in this field and to help promote interest in further advances, the Humane Slaughter Association launched the Humane Slaughter Award in 2008 for individuals or organisations (anywhere in the world) whose work has resulted in significant advances in the humane slaughter of farmed livestock.

The HSA is an independent charity recognised internationally for promoting technical, scientific and educational advances towards improving the welfare of food animals worldwide at slaughter, killing, marketing and transport.

Its work includes researching, refining and demonstrating humane slaughter methods, publishing material such as guidelines, best practice, books and videos, funding research projects and the development of equipment. Specialist technical staff provide expert and practical advice on all welfare issues relating to food animals.

The HSA is funded by voluntary donations, subscriptions and legacies.

For more information about the HSA’s work call 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk or visit www.hsa.org.uk

Humane Slaughter Association
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