



Media Release

**For immediate release:
10th July 2013**

HSA announces award for significant advances in humane slaughter

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) has announced the winner of its 2013 award for significant advances in humane slaughter. The award, which recognises individuals or organisations that have made significant scientific, technical or other advances that have led to improvements in the humane slaughter of livestock, was won by the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group, Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA) / Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).

The members of this group are: Antonio Velarde Calvo - Researcher (IRTA); Xavier Manteca Vilanova - Professor (UAB); Antoni Dalmau Bueno - Researcher (IRTA); Emma Fàbrega Romans - Researcher (IRTA); Pedro Rodríguez Rodríguez - Support of Research (IRTA); Pol Llonch Obiols - Researcher (IRTA / UAB); Cecilia Pedernera Romano - Researcher (IRTA); Isabel Blanco Penedo - Researcher (IRTA); Eva Mainau - Researcher (UAB/IRTA); Déborah Temple - Researcher (UAB); Ricard Carreras Ubach - PhD student (IRTA/UAB); Nicolau Casal Plana - PhD student (IRTA/UAB); and Joaquim Pallisera Lloveras - Support of Research (IRTA). The award was presented to the Group at the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) Symposium on International developments in animal welfare science, Barcelona on Friday 5th July 2013.

Since it was founded in 1996, the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group has made many contributions to improve welfare of livestock at slaughter. Its work has included research aiming to optimise gas stunning at slaughter in pigs, sheep, poultry and rabbits and investigations into the use of alternative gas mixtures that may be less aversive than carbon dioxide.

The group has published numerous scientific papers in the field but has worked also to promote the uptake of scientific findings in development of policy and in practice. Members of the Group have contributed to important international expert consortiums including working groups of the European Food Safety Authority's Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare addressing welfare aspects of animal stunning and killing methods and welfare of animals during transport, and the EU funded DIALREL Project (improving knowledge and expertise through dialogue and debate on issues of welfare, legislation and socio-economic aspects). The Group has also contributed to post-graduate courses and training activities at national and international levels.

The HSA is an independent charity that works through educational, scientific and technical advances to improve the welfare of food animals worldwide during transport, marketing, slaughter and killing for welfare reasons or disease control. For more information about this work visit www.hsa.org.uk or telephone 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk.

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Attached photo:



Members of the IRTA/UAB Animal Welfare Research Group with representatives of the HSA at the UFAW Symposium in Barcelona.

Back row left to right: Pedro Rodriguez (IRTA), Pol Llonch (IRTA/UAB), Antonio Velarde (IRTA), Xavier Manteca (UAB), Jade Spence (HSA), Lydia Brown (HSA Chairman), Nathan Williams (HSA), Cecilia Pedernera (IRTA), Joaquim Pallisera (IRTA).

Front row left to right: Déborah Temple (UAB), Ricard Carreras (IRTA/UAB), Nicolau Casal (IRTA/UAB), Eva Mainau (IRTA/UAB).

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Note to Editors:

As an independent registered charity, the HSA is unique in working exclusively to achieve the highest worldwide standards in food animal welfare at markets, during transport and at slaughter through scientific and technical advances, education and training. 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

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