



Humane Slaughter Association

Media Release

22 April 2016

HSA ASSISTS CHINESE VETS WITH POULTRY WELFARE

Guidance provided to Chinese Vets following presentation at Chinese Veterinary Conference

Following a presentation on the welfare of poultry at slaughter to the 5th Chinese Veterinary Conference, the HSA was asked by the editor of *China Animal Health Inspection* - the leading national journal of the Ministry of Agriculture of China - to write a paper for Chinese vets on poultry welfare at slaughter.

The paper, which discusses the scientific principles of humane slaughter and describes how to protect animal welfare when slaughtering poultry in a slaughterhouse, on-farm, and when mass-killing poultry for disease control or during natural disasters, has now been published. HSA's Technical Officer Jade Spence said: "We hope the information contained in this paper will assist China's many tens of thousands of veterinarians in improving poultry welfare at this critical time in birds' lives."

Since its foundation over 100 years ago, the HSA has led and/or contributed to major changes in attitudes towards animals, with scientific and technological developments resulting in huge improvements in methods for slaughter or killing. The charity is currently seeking funds to translate into Chinese its Guidance Notes No.7 on Electrical Waterbath Stunning of Poultry, which is the most common stunning method used for poultry in China. Although it is important for animal welfare to build/modify waterbath stunners to a humane specification, the guidance also explains how, elsewhere in the world, waterbaths are being replaced by controlled atmosphere stunning, which currently offers more advantages for bird welfare

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Note to Editors:

The HSA is an independent charity recognised internationally for promoting scientific, technical 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

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