



# Humane Slaughter Association Annual Report 2020-2021

Caring beyond the farm gate



[www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)

**The Humane Slaughter Association, established in 1911, is an independent charity that works through scientific and technical advances, education and training, towards achieving the highest world-wide standards in food animal welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter.**

This report highlights the work undertaken by the charity during the last year, which has been possible due to the continued commitment of its members and donors who have supported the charity through subscriptions, donations and legacies. This support is the very heart and life-blood of the charity and enables us to continue to deliver initiatives which have made a difference to millions of animals – for which we thank you.

The HSA's vision is simple – to improve the welfare of food animals between the farm gate and slaughter around the world. It seeks to do this by:

- Providing technical information and advice on all aspects of animal handling, transport and slaughter.
- Providing training in humane methods of handling and slaughter of livestock.
- Producing educational and technical publications.
- Giving independent advice to governments, other welfare organisations and the food industry.
- Making regular visits to markets and slaughterhouses.
- Providing funding for research projects.
- The development and application of scientific advances.
- Providing grants towards the improvement of animal welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter.

**Cover photos:** Cow - HSA, Sheep - HSA,  
Pig - Matthias Zomer/Pexels, Chicken - Alexas Fotos/Pixabay



Photo credit: Martin Surr/Pixabay

## Welcome to the 2020–21 Annual Report for the HSA

**This has been a challenging year with the world still grappling with the effects of COVID-19, but it has also been one of innovation and growth, with the charity adapting quickly to be able to continue to engage with its various audiences.**

Our first virtual webinar enabled us to reach a truly international audience, with delegates from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia and our technical staff have also been able to attend a number of virtual meetings and events.

On page 15 you can read about an exciting development in terms of animal welfare, potentially reducing journey times for many animals, with the HSA's input into a mobile abattoir initiative.

In March 2020, the charity announced its largest ever programme of research and development to improve the welfare of fish, crustaceans and cephalopods at slaughter. The £1.93 million award was made to three separate consortiums which have each been focusing on a specific area and, with pages 8 and 9, you can read about the progress made so far.

Also this year, the HSA recognised the work of Dr Carmen Gallo who is the worthy recipient of the Humane Slaughter Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication and commitment to enhancing livestock welfare in Chile and Latin America. You can read more about Dr Gallo's work, and the forthcoming presentation of her award at a webinar in October on page 15.

All that we have achieved this year has only been possible thanks to our supporters and donors, whose generosity is deeply appreciated. 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.



**Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS**  
Chairman of Trustees



***“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.”***



***“The upcoming years will be both exciting and challenging but I am confident that the HSA is in an excellent position to make a lasting difference to the welfare of millions of animals..”***

**Welcome to the HSA annual report. I hope all our members and supporters are safe and well during such difficult times for many around the world.**

This report details a busy year of work by HSA staff and the researchers we support, all focussed on making real-world practical improvements to the welfare of livestock during transport, marketing, slaughter or killing. Despite the obvious challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic it was a year of achievement. We rapidly switched many of our activities to an online format and managed to offer most of our core services such as the provision of expert advice and guidance despite the challenges of lockdown. As life hopefully returns to normal over the coming year, we are looking forward to restarting many activities which have been on hold but also to working in new ways as a result of valuable lessons learned during the pandemic.

Of particular note is our increasing focus on making a difference around the world. We have organised far-reaching online webinars and conferences and participated in numerous events organised by others, which have enabled us to reach much larger audiences from far further afield than we have previously. Our Technical Director's talk on preparedness for emergency slaughter in light of the COVID-19 pandemic at a Chinese virtual conference reached an audience of 31,700 people, the largest ever audience for the HSA by quite some margin! We will be working hard to maintain these newfound ways of sharing our expertise over the coming years.

In April 2021 we held our first HSA webinar, examining the highly topical issue of the provision of local or even mobile slaughter facilities. We were delighted with the large number of interested people who registered for the meeting, which was a fascinating discussion of the challenges and opportunities of slaughtering animals as close as possible to where they are raised. Do take a look at the recording of the meeting which is available online [hsa.org.uk/webinar2021](https://hsa.org.uk/webinar2021) if you are interested in this issue.

Whilst spreading our message in the virtual world is incredibly useful, in many cases there is no substitute for hands-on practical advice and training. I'm pleased to say that as some restrictions begin to ease our technical experts have been able to resume offering advice and training in the real world. We expect to attend our first agricultural shows since the start of the pandemic later in the year and have already resumed in-person training and welfare assessments. I am incredibly grateful to our technical staff for adapting to constantly changing circumstances, it is their dedication which has ensured that the HSA has remained so effective despite many challenges.

Behind the scenes our expert technical staff have also been offering their advice and expertise to countless stakeholders. It has been a busy year, with many proposed changes to legislation and guidance around the world, including potential bans on live-export from the UK and changes to the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill which may see crustaceans and cephalopods protected for the first time. A blanket ban on live-export may have unintended negative consequences for animal welfare such as extended transport times within the UK, something we pointed out in our response to consultations on this measure, showing yet again that the HSA takes a pragmatic, evidence-based approach to often emotive issues. In terms of acknowledgement of crustacean and cephalopod sentience, we strongly support this and have invested in research to ensure that if these species are protected, we will have the necessary information to know how to slaughter them humanely.

The upcoming years will be both exciting and challenging but I am confident that the HSA is in an excellent position to make a lasting difference to the welfare of millions of animals. Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of our members and donors, so thank you to all of you who have given us your support.

**Huw Golledge BSc PhD**  
Chief Executive & Scientific Director

**The HSA offers independent training and advice on animal welfare matters during transport, marketing and at slaughter. The charity is also internationally recognised for its livestock expertise and produces various publications in print, online and in video format. Despite the severe curtailment of the HSA's activities since March 2020, technical staff have taken part in the following events:**

- Provision of training courses in the use of firearms, captive-bolt and electrical stunning equipment for: Yorkshire Dairy Goats, British Quality Pigs and Ainsworth Wildlife Rescue.
- Virtual animal welfare lectures to students at the Universities of Cambridge (Veterinary Science) and Edinburgh (MSc); the Association of Meat Inspectors (AMI) Webinar; the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) webinars; the Scottish Smallholders event; the Small Shepherds' Club; the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), Animal Welfare and Ethics Society (AWES) Webinar; and the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD).
- Animal welfare assessments have been undertaken for: C&K Meats, Joice & Hill, Dovecote Park, Moy Park and Dalehead Foods.
- The HSA provided lectures on farm animal welfare at the time of killing to students of the University of Edinburgh's MSc in *Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare*, the MSc in *International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law*, the University of Edinburgh/ SRUC MSc in *Applied Poultry Science*, and the University of Liverpool's veterinary medicine students.



Photo credit: HSA



Photo credit: HSA

## Poultry slaughter training and assessment

Since October 2020 Technical Director, Charlie Mason, has delivered three poultry slaughter training courses for smallholders and seasonal producers, which have included assessment of the trainees for certification and licensing. The first course was held at premises in East Sussex. Seven delegates successfully completed the training and subsequent assessment by APHA vets. The proprietor, who was also one of the trainees, offered the use of the facilities for future courses; an offer which the HSA took up, delivering our first scheduled course to eight delegates in July: again, all the trainees were successful. Training was also requested by a Scottish crofter who had been unable to find a provider in Scotland. The HSA dutifully obliged, delivering a course for five trainees in August and again all were successful, bringing the total of successful candidates to 20. A third course in East Sussex is planned for 20th September and is already oversubscribed.

## Animal Welfare Advice

During the last year the HSA provided advice on the principles of assessing and protecting animal welfare at the time of killing, including for poultry, pigs and fish, to industry and NGOs in the UK and overseas, including in Japan which is dealing with outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever.

## HSA Webinar – *Slaughter of livestock – keeping it close to home*

The Humane Slaughter Association held its first webinar on the 28th April 2021. Entitled *Slaughter of livestock – keeping it close to home* the presentations covered why abattoirs are closing, the advantages and disadvantages of small and mobile abattoirs, practical considerations of mobile slaughter units and the challenges and opportunities for small abattoirs from the point of view of a small abattoir operator. The programme included a presentation on recent developments of mobile slaughter units in The Netherlands before a Q&A session.

The event was well received with people commenting on an “*excellent and informative session*” as well as “*informative lectures and discussion*”.

HSA’s Technical Director Charlie Mason said: “*This was the first HSA webinar and we are very pleased at the response. The HSA’s previous one-day seminars have attracted around 100 delegates and the webinar’s final attendance tally was 392, with attendees from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia! The six presentations were excellent and all focused on the potential benefits to animal welfare from the availability of local slaughter facilities. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the speakers for their valued contributions.*”

The recording of the event is now available to view ([hsa.org.uk/webinar2021](https://www.hsa.org.uk/webinar2021)). It is free to view but please consider making a donation to the HSA to enable us to continue our vital work helping to improve the welfare of livestock animals Beyond the Farm Gate. None of our work, including this webinar, would be possible without the generosity of our members and supporters.

## Spreading the message overseas

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely limited our ability to travel overseas to share our expertise. Our ambitious plans to make a number of visits to China to liaise with Chinese academics and the livestock industry are on-hold until travel restrictions are lifted. As restrictions ease we look forward to resuming this work as soon as possible.

Last year we also made ambitious plans to travel to countries in Africa to begin a programme of work to promote humane slaughter. These plans also remain on hold until travel restrictions are relaxed but we are very excited about working alongside colleagues in Malawi and Ghana to bring the HSA's expertise to countries eager to make improvements to animal welfare at slaughter and during transport.

## Planned shows and exhibitions

The COVID-19 pandemic saw many trade and livestock shows cancelled or moved online throughout 2020 and the beginning of 2021. The HSA participated in the virtual event held by the Scottish Smallholder Festival in the autumn of 2020 as reported in our Spring Newsletter.

We are hopeful that the 2021 winter fairs will be able to go ahead and as we go to press, all being well, we are planning to exhibit at the English Winter Fair, at the Bingley Hall, Stafford on the 20th -21st of November 2021. Other events currently under consideration are the Welsh Winter Fair at Builth Wells on the 29th -30th November 2021, the Pig and Poultry Fair at Stoneleigh on the 10th-11th May 2022 and the Welsh Spring Festival and Smallholders' Show on the 21st -22nd May 2022.

We are excited at the prospect of reconnecting with our supporters and the wider agricultural community after such a long time.

## Exhibitions and events 2020/21

HSA Technical Staff have attended the following events over the last twelve months:

### 2020

UFAW Conference - 30th June-1st July

The Association of Meat Inspectors Seminar\* - 12th September

Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) Autumn Meeting\* - 15th & 17th October

Scottish Smallholders, Lanark\* - 24th October

Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office/UFAW/HSA Symposium - 3rd & 4th November

World Horse Welfare Conference - 12th November

### 2021

China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation Webinar\* - 8th January

Annual UFAW Scholar's Meeting - 24th February

Animal Welfare and Ethics Society Webinar\* - 4th March

HSA Webinar - 28th April

EuFMD webinars\* - 27th May and 8-11th June

\*denotes speaker

# FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

## HSA research aims to show us how to protect the species newly acknowledged as sentient.

Recently the news emerged that the UK Government may include cephalopods (octopus and squid) and crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, prawns etc) in the Animal Welfare (Sentience Bill), meaning that they are likely to have their welfare protected by law. We welcome this move, but in some ways it only goes to further emphasise the need for the research that the HSA funds. Acknowledging that these animals are sentient (ie they have feelings like pain, distress or pleasure that matter to them) is just the first step, now we need to know how we can improve their welfare. In 2020 we awarded over £1.9 million to three research groups to develop and validate humane stunning methods for cephalopods, crustaceans and various species of finfish. Once we have validated, precisely-defined stunning parameters for these species, it will be possible to require these methods to be used, and to monitor their routine use, in the way that we already do for terrestrial species. Only at this stage do we believe that acknowledgement of sentience will begin to make a meaningful difference to the lives of crustaceans, cephalopods and previously neglected finfish species.

In June 2021 the recipients of the HSA funding met online to discuss the progress of their research. The meeting was a fascinating insight into the innovative ways the researchers are developing and testing stunning techniques. The projects are at a relatively early stage and, understandably, some projects have faced challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but all are progressing well. Bjorn Røth (Nofima AS) and his colleagues in Norway are working on developing and testing large-scale methods for stunning of crabs and lobsters. Although much attention in the recent coverage of crustacean sentience has focussed on the live boiling of lobster and crab in restaurants, the truth is that the great majority of these animals are slaughtered during industrial-scale processing in factories, therefore the most pressing need is to develop a humane stunning method which can be used in this scenario.



Photo credit: Skeeze/Phaboy



Dr Giovanna Ponte and her team at the Association for Cephalopod Research (CephRes) in Italy are working to develop stunning techniques for cephalopods. They are testing both electrical and mechanical stunning methods for octopus and squid, species which are commonly killed for food yet for which there are currently no validated humane stunning methods.

A consortium led by Ace-Aquatec and the University of Stirling is looking into ways to electrically stun several finfish species including Nile tilapia, pangasius, gilthead sea bream, yellowtail and possibly carp. They are hoping to optimise electrical stunning parameters for these species. Although electrical stunning is well established for some species like salmon, the process needs to be tailored to each species to ensure it is humane for these anatomically and physiologically diverse species.

Also presenting updates on their work at the meeting were members of a research group, led by Dr Nicola Randall at Harper Adams University, who are undertaking an HSA-funded project to examine the feasibility of routinely stunning fish which are caught in the wild. Enormous numbers of fish are caught from the wild and frequently these fish are not stunned, meaning they are likely to experience significant suffering. It may be possible to routinely stun many wild-caught fish on board boats. Research and development work will be essential to develop humane on-boat stunning for various species, but the first step is to fully understand what is already known about on-boat stunning methods so that we can understand what is already known. Dr Katy James gave an update on the impressive work of the team to systematically map out the evidence base for on-boat stunning and the extent of fisheries where stunning might be employed. We hope the results of the study will help identify where research could be focussed to most rapidly work towards making routine stunning of wild-caught fish a reality.

Taken together, the HSA's research funding aims to ensure that we have the vital information to protect animals at the time of slaughter and, as the studies deliver their results over the coming years, we look forward to seeing how they bring about real-world improvements to the welfare of these often-overlooked species. Together, these projects have the potential to improve the welfare of many millions of aquatic animals.



Photo credit: Pivaboy

Photo credit: Suzanne Jutzeler/Pixabay



## Alternatives to high concentration CO<sub>2</sub> for stunning pigs

In 2019 we co-funded a research project to test whether Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) might be a more humane alternative to the use of high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to stun pigs. Dr Dorothy McKeegan of Glasgow University and colleagues at Scotland's Rural College and Edinburgh University thoroughly tested LAPS in comparison to CO<sub>2</sub>. Sadly, the research showed that LAPS also causes significant welfare problems and is unlikely to be a viable alternative to CO<sub>2</sub>. We were disappointed that the research did not identify a humane alternative to CO<sub>2</sub> but it was crucial to rule out the use of LAPS.

In February 2021, HSA CEO Huw Golledge gave an interview to BBC Radio 4's Farming Today programme to give an update on the outcomes of the study and discuss what alternatives might now be available. He outlined that we are actively considering support for more research to study other potentially more humane approaches to pig slaughter. The HSA remains strongly committed to solving such difficult problems because, although progress is difficult, the potential animal welfare benefits are highly significant.

## 2021 Student Scholarships

HSA Student Scholarships provide funding for undergraduates or trainees to undertake a short research project, allowing them to gain experience of animal welfare research related to humane slaughter, emergency killing or transport of farmed animals.

The 2021 scholarship applications were both plentiful and of a very high standard. For this reason, the award panel decided to give no less than five scholarships to ensure that these talented students would be able to carry out their proposed projects. The restrictions caused by the pandemic led to many projects taking the form of surveys and one of these received funding to investigate what methods are used to cull poultry on farm. This type of information is necessary to ascertain if the best methods are used for different situations. Two projects will investigate the welfare of salt-water fish and chickens in Hong Kong wet markets, and a third is concerned with the development of a prototype for automatic pithing of non-salmonid fish. The HSA also funded one of the first studies of cattle transport in Uganda, where there are over 14 million cattle.

## Mentoring Scheme pilot

One recipient of an HSA scholarship was mentored as part of a mentoring scheme piloted by our sister charity the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW). The HSA will launch its own mentoring scheme for the next scholarship season. Mentors (early career researchers with a strong background in animal welfare science) will be paired with students or trainees interested in carrying out animal welfare research in areas of interest to the HSA, guiding the student in the early stages of project planning to ensure their research has a solid scientific foundation. We are particularly keen to use this scheme to allow students from parts of the world with limited capacity or expertise in animal welfare science to participate in our scholarship scheme.



Photo credit: Andriani/Pixabay

## Recognition for one of the first Chilean researchers to work in animal welfare and her pioneering work to benefit livestock

The HSA has announced the winner of its 2021 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 Dr Carmen Gallo in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication and commitment to enhancing livestock welfare in Chile and Latin America.

Dr Gallo has been a pioneer in this field and her greatest contribution to animal welfare has been the successful transfer of animal welfare research to the meat industry. Her research has been concentrated on animal welfare and consequent meat quality, with the focus on the welfare of animals during transport, at market and slaughter.

Most significantly, Dr Gallo's work and her experience has laid the groundwork for animal welfare legislation in Chile. She is one of the first Chilean researchers to work in animal welfare, leading it nationwide. From 1978 until last year, she was a Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the Universidad Austral de Chile and, as Director of the Veterinary Medical School there, she drove a major modification of the undergraduate curricula, including animal welfare as part of the mandatory courses.

In 2007, Dr Gallo created and directed the Animal Welfare Programme of the Universidad Austral de Chile – the first of its kind in the country and a reference centre for livestock welfare in Chile and Latin America. She is also the founder and co-ordinator of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre (Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems) in collaboration with Uruguay and Mexico. This centre is now a reference point for regional livestock welfare issues. Additionally, she was part of the OIE working group on animal transport and a constant collaborator with stakeholders of different countries in the region and beyond.

Dr Gallo has also been instrumental in driving forward improvements to animal welfare by developing accredited guidelines and training programmes for meat certifiers and official veterinary inspectors who work in markets and slaughterhouses in Chile, as well as developing livestock handling and welfare training programmes for farmers, veterinarians, technicians, and others working directly with animals.

Professor (Emeritus) of Animal Welfare at Cambridge University, Donald Broom, who supported Dr Gallo's nomination said: *“Dr Gallo's influence as a source of scientific and practical information of good quality has been substantial and she has been influential on World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other international committees in the area of transport and slaughter.”*

Dr Gallo's stakeholder and outreach work has also been exemplary, showing leadership and tenacity - especially at the beginning of her career, when society and stakeholders didn't consider the welfare of livestock of high enough importance to make changes. Her published work includes more than 100 research articles directly related to animal welfare and she has mentored many undergraduate and postgraduate students who are today working in Chile and Latin America.

HSA's Chief Executive Huw Golledge said: *“I'm delighted that the HSA has recognised Dr Gallo's pioneering work to promote humane slaughter and transport of livestock species. Dr Gallo's evidence-based, pragmatic approach to bringing about real-world improvements in animal welfare very much mirrors the HSA's. I'm very much looking forward to hearing details of her work at the online award ceremony which we will be holding in October.”* The award will be presented to Dr Gallo at a webinar to be held on the 12th October 2021 at 1500BST ([hsa.org.uk/awardwebinar](https://hsa.org.uk/awardwebinar)) where attendees will also be able to hear Dr Gallo summarise her work to promote animal welfare in Latin America.



Photo credit: Carmen Gallo

## Consultations

**The HSA is one of the NGOs regularly asked by governments and other organisations, including industry, to scrutinise and comment on various subjects; the main ones being new legislation, proposed changes to existing legislation and welfare at slaughter standards. Responding to these consultations is some of the most important work undertaken by the HSA, albeit low-profile compared to other efforts.**

**It gives the HSA the opportunities to reach, inform and influence decision-makers which, in turn, may result in real improvements to animal welfare between the farmgate and slaughter. During the last twelve months the HSA has submitted written responses to the following:**

1. Review of the Red Tractor Standards.
2. DEFRA consultation on improvements to animal welfare in transport.
3. Scottish Government consultation on improvements to animal welfare in transport.
4. EU/EFSA consultation on the transport of live animals.
5. Animal Welfare Committee updating of opinion on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing.

## HSA advises on finfishes' welfare at food business events

After viewing Technical Officer Jade Spence's talk on improving the slaughter of finfishes, crustaceans and cephalopods at The Humane League UK's international *virtual Aquatic Animal Welfare Conference* in November 2020, Compassion in World Farming's (CIWF) Food Business team invited Jade to give a presentation on improving the humaneness of slaughter for finfishes at CIWF's February 2021 webinar *Humane Slaughter for Aquaculture Fishes*. (The event was the final installment in a series on farmed finfishes' welfare, with previous sessions including guidance for food companies on writing a fish welfare policy, enrichment and predator control.)

The audience was mostly European and UK-based producers, processors, manufacturers, certification schemes and retailers, with a particular focus on salmon, trout, *Pangasius*, European sea bass, gilthead sea bream and carp. Jade discussed the importance of welfare in relation to product quality, potential stressors during killing and related procedures, good practices during pre-slaughter handling, the principles of more-humane slaughter and available stunning and killing techniques and their associated costs. Jade also highlighted a research project recently awarded funds by the HSA to further investigate humane in-water electrical stunning, including the potential of a novel type of stunning known as SPUC (single pulse ultra-high current); read HSA's previous annual report for more information. The webinar also hosted presentations from New England Seafood International and Tesco regarding humane slaughter within specific supply chains.

In June 2021 Jade was invited to the online conference and workshop *Aquaculture: Disease Prevention and Animal Welfare*, supported by the EC, and run by the 'French competitiveness cluster' Pole AQUIMER, which is 'focused on the valorisation of aquatic products' and 'assists companies in their innovation and development projects' via their network. The event gathered stakeholders to discuss challenges and solutions regarding nutrition, enrichment, disease management, slaughter, and certification to recognise good practices, and aimed to build a proposal within the framework of the Horizon Europe call for projects. The HSA is following up on enquiries resulting from the workshop.

For more information about farmed fishes' welfare, towards the bottom of the HSA home webpage you can watch the HSA's finfish welfare at slaughter video, which describes why fishes' welfare is important and what consumers can do to help. The video is also available to watch in nine other languages at: [hsa.org.uk/publications](https://hsa.org.uk/publications)

## Challenges of Animal Protection and Welfare in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic

On the 8th January 2021 the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) ran a virtual conference entitled *Challenges of Animal Protection and Welfare in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. This conference was part-funded by the HSA's sister charity the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the HSA was invited to provide a speaker to cover the subject of on-farm slaughter or killing of livestock within the context of the pandemic; for example, it may become necessary to kill animals on-farm when slaughterhouse capacity is reduced due to COVID-19 outbreaks amongst abattoir staff. The HSA's Technical Director, Charlie Mason, presented the subject from the UK perspective. A lengthy question and answer session followed the talks, which were attended by 31,700 people.



Photo credit: Akyurt/Pexels

## Mobile abattoir initiative

In January 2020, the HSA's Technical Director was invited to meet with the two principal directors of a project to build and operate a mobile, or pop-up, abattoir based in the Cotswolds. The HSA provided advice on potential handling and lairage systems to be used in conjunction with the abattoir and a letter of support highlighting the animal welfare advantages concomitant with shorter journeys and smaller throughputs. The driving force behind this project is Lady Jane Parker, who runs Fir Farm Ltd near Stow-on-the-Wold and produces extensively reared, exclusively grass-fed beef and lamb from British native breeds. In May this year a mobile abattoir, fabricated in Sicily by Cogemat, was delivered to Fir Farm and is currently undergoing trials and licensing operations. Once through this, it will operate as a fully-licensed abattoir, providing a service to livestock producers within the vicinity of its locus. This is an exciting development in terms of animal welfare, potentially reducing the journey times for many animals, with which the HSA is delighted to be associated.

Photo credit: HSA



## Advice for seasonal poultry producers

In November 2019, as a result of numerous enquiries from existing and prospective producers, the HSA produced guidance aimed at small-scale and/or seasonal poultry producers and processors. Small-scale and seasonal slaughter is subject to animal welfare legislative requirements in a similar way to large-scale, commercial poultry producers and processors. However, in relation to welfare at the time of slaughter, the application of certain requirements, such as licensing, is dependent on the nature and scale of the operation. Small-scale and seasonal slaughter is also subject to regulations additional to those relating to animal welfare at slaughter. These include registration with the environmental health department of the relevant local authority, to ensure compliance with animal health, animal by-product licensing and collection and disposal requirements. The guidance, which is in the latest in the series of HSA Technical Notes, highlights and explains the particular requirements applicable to producers and processors in the UK, but may also be useful to producers elsewhere. It can be downloaded from [hsa.org.uk/TN27](http://hsa.org.uk/TN27).

## Small-scale poultry slaughter advice

In October 2020 HSA Technical Officer Jade Spence, provided advice on *Small-Scale, Humane Slaughter of Poultry*, at the virtual *Scottish Smallholder Festival*. Jade's presentation discussed how hobbyists and small producers can protect the welfare of their poultry at the time of killing, whether culling sick or injured individuals or if choosing a method of on-farm slaughter for year-round or seasonal meat processing. The 2020 festival talks are still available to watch online, free-of-charge, at: [2020.ssgf.uk/talks/](http://2020.ssgf.uk/talks/) (Information within Jade's talk is also applicable in other constituent countries of the UK.) For smallholders who also keep pigs, goats or sheep etc, the talk highlights guidance for small-scale slaughter of mammalian livestock, including home slaughter for personal domestic consumption.

# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

## Finance and Accounts

The summarised accounts set out overleaf 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 and signed on its behalf on 21st July 2021.

The gross income of the Association was £495,750. Unrestricted income was £494,159, 63% came from legacy income at £312,545. Unfortunately, legacy income is very unpredictable. The income from lecture fees and publication sales decreased to £7,243, which can be attributed to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Investment income at £112,916 was also decreased from the previous year.

At the end of 2019 we were delighted to receive further funding from Open Philanthropy to manage a scoping exercise in the stunning of wild caught fish. This year a grant of £165,989 was awarded to Harper Adams University. This grant, and the outstanding liabilities of the major grants awarded last year can be seen clearly on the balance sheet.

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 13th October 2021.

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

## 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 Trustees 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 21st July 2021.

**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 31st March 2021.



21st July 2021

**S Munday FCA** (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young (East Limited) 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



## HSA Summary of Financial Activity Year Ended 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds 2020/2021 £	Designated Funds 2020/2021 £	Total 2020/2021 £	Total 2019/2020 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Voluntary Income	374,000	-	374,000	148,865
Charitable Activities	7,243	-	7,243	27,148
Investment Income	112,916	1,591	114,507	147,966
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>494,159</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>495,750</b>	<b>323,979</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Costs of Generating Funds	51,773	-	51,773	53,740
Charitable Activities	202,732	165,989	386,721	2,173,910
Other Resources Expended	68,422	15,790	84,212	99,236
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>322,927</b>	<b>181,779</b>	<b>504,706</b>	<b>2,326,886</b>
<b>Net Operational incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>171,232</b>	<b>(180,188)</b>	<b>(8,956)</b>	<b>(2,002,907)</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains &amp; Losses:</b>				
Net Gain on Property Revaluation	-	-	-	27,498
Net Realised Gain on Investments	43,179	-	43,179	97,115
Unrealised Gains (losses) on investments	881,905	-	881,905	(641,489)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>1,096,316</b>	<b>(180,188)</b>	<b>916,128</b>	<b>(2,519,783)</b>
Balance Brought Forward	4,563,222	839,003	5,402,225	7,922,008
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>	<b>5,659,538</b>	<b>658,815</b>	<b>6,318,353</b>	<b>5,402,225</b>

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on the 21st July 2021.



A G Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS  
Chairman

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

## HSA Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds 2020/2021 £	Designated Funds 2020/2021 £	Total 2020/2021 £	Total 2019/2020 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Fixed Assets	205,426	-	205,426	209,819
Investments	4,949,502	-	4,949,502	4,037,407
	<b>5,154,928</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,154,928</b>	<b>4,247,226</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	17,751	-	17,751	61,738
Term deposits at bank	513,038	2,360,309	2,873,347	3,159,490
Cash at Bank and in Hand	14,799	-	14,799	10,787
	<b>545,588</b>	<b>2,360,309</b>	<b>2,905,897</b>	<b>3,232,015</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year	(40,978)	(668,776)	(709,754)	(628,269)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>504,610</b>	<b>1,691,533</b>	<b>2,196,143</b>	<b>2,603,746</b>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after more than One Year	-	(1,032,718)	(1,032,718)	(1,448,747)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>5,659,538</b>	<b>658,815</b>	<b>6,318,353</b>	<b>5,402,225</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted	5,659,538	-	5,659,538	4,563,222
Designated	-	658,815	658,815	839,003
	<b>5,659,538</b>	<b>658,815</b>	<b>6,318,353</b>	<b>5,402,225</b>



C L McCann BSc ACA  
Hon Treasurer

## Annual General Meeting 2020

The AGM was held virtually on the 21st September 2020. After careful consideration the council moved the AGM forward by 3 weeks to make use of the legal framework in place to allow such meetings to be held online, limiting exposure to COVID-19 risks. 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 meeting agreed the Minutes of the AGM of 2019 and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2020. 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 UHY Hacker Young (East) Ltd, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to HSA and their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

Dr Jane Downes, Dr Anna Olsson and Dr David Sargan stood down under the rules regarding rotation, all offered themselves for re-election, and were duly re-elected. Dr Ben North also resigned, and was thanked for his dedication to HSA over the years. No new candidate was proposed for election.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Humane Slaughter Association will be held at 12.30pm on 13th October 2021 at the Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AN. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

# LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

## Vice-Presidents

Professor R S Anderson BVMS PhD MRCVS  
Professor P M Biggs CBE DSc DVM FRCPath FSB FRS FRCVS  
L Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FSB MBA FRCVS  
Professor P H Holmes OBE BVMS PhD FRCVS FRSE  
B R Howard BVMS PhD MRCVS  
Professor J E T Jones PhD MRCVS FRCPath  
J H Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS  
G D Sales BSc PhD AKC MSB DipTCDHE

## Trustees

### Chairman

A G Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS<sup>1 2 3</sup>

### Vice-Chairman

M Radford OBE LLB<sup>1</sup>

### Honorary Treasurer

C McCann BSc ACA<sup>1 3</sup>

S Abeyesinghe BSc MSc PhD

Professor R M Bennett BSc MSc PhD<sup>1 2</sup>

J Downes BVSc MRCVS

A Enticknap PhD<sup>2</sup>

Professor A Nolan OBE MVB DipECVA DipECVPT DVA MRCVS

B North MBA MSc PhD<sup>1</sup> (to 21.09.2020)

A Olsson MSc PhD<sup>3</sup>

D Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS<sup>2</sup>

D R Sargan MA PhD<sup>2 3</sup>

## Staff

### Chief Executive & Scientific Director

Huw Golledge BSc PhD

### Charity Secretary

Jane Moorman

### Technical Director

Charles Mason HND MInstM CF ARAGS

### Assistant Director

Birte Nielsen BSc MSc PhD (from 21.09.2020)

### Technical Officers

Jade Spence BSc (Hons) MSc AMRSB

Susan Richmond BSc MSc PhD

### Fundraising/Communications Manager

Tracey Woods MCIPR

### Office staff

Samantha Griffin

Wendy L Goodwin

Tina Langford

<sup>1</sup> Member of the Finance Panel

<sup>2</sup> Member of the Fundraising Panel

<sup>3</sup> Member of the Grant Panel

## Registered Auditors

UHY Hacker Young (East) Ltd, PO Box 501, The Nexus Building, Broadway, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 9BL

## Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 31 Chequer Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4YN

## Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7EG

Wilson's, Summerlock Approach, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7RJ

## Investment Advisers

Smith & Williamson Investment Managers, 25 Moorgate, London, EC2V 5NS

## Offices

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

Tel+44(0)1582 831919

Fax +44(0)1582 831414

Email info@hsa.org.uk

[www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)

If you no longer wish to receive information about the charity's activities or support our work, then please contact the HSA office. (Members should be aware that notification of future Annual General Meetings is provided in the Annual Report).



The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts. AL4 8AN, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44(0)1582 831919 • Fax: +44(0)1582 831414  
Email: [info@hsa.org.uk](mailto:info@hsa.org.uk) • [www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)  
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