



Media Release

4th March, 2008

For Immediate Release:

Slaughter of ‘minority’ species included in new publications from the HSA

A new Technical Note on the ‘*Slaughter and Killing of Minority Farmed Species*’ is among several new publications produced recently by the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) which also include ‘*Best Practice Guidelines for the Welfare of Ducks and Geese in Processing Plants*’, a Technical Note on ‘*Humane Harvesting of Halibut*’ and new editions of two HSA Fact Sheets for the general reader on transport of animals and on the history of the HSA.

Over recent years significant numbers of livestock farmers have diversified into the rearing of species not indigenous to the UK, including Asian water buffalo, North American bison, ostrich and camelids, or which lived here in historic times, such as wild boar, and deer. When slaughtering or killing these animals it is highly likely that the slaughterman or vet will be presented with a number of challenges not normally experienced with domesticated livestock. The new Technical Note provides legislative information and technical advice on ensuring the humane slaughter of these species.

‘*Humane Harvesting of Halibut*’ discusses the legislative and welfare requirements for the practical harvesting of farmed halibut, while ‘*Ducks and Geese in Processing Plants*’ provides a set of best practice standards of use to all involved in developing and running assurance schemes and processing plant policies related to these birds.

HSA Technical Notes are available for free download from www.hsa.org.uk or at £1.00 each from the HSA office. Best Practice Guidelines can be obtained from the HSA office at £10.00 each. Fact Sheets are available free as single copies from the HSA office or free download from the HSA website. For a complete list of HSA publications or to order contact the HSA at The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Telephone 01582 831919, fax 01582 831414, email info@hsa.org.uk.

-ENDS-

Media contacts:

Dr James Kirkwood, HSA Chief Executive. Tel: 01582 831919, email kirkwood@hsa.org.uk

Charles Mason, HSA Technical Director. Tel: 01582 831919, email charlie@hsa.org.uk

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

The Humane Slaughter Association
The Old School, Brewhouse Hill
Wheathampstead, Herts. AL4 8AN
Tel: 01582 831919
Fax: 01582 831414
Email: info@hsa.org.uk
www.hsa.org.uk