RSPCA Cattle Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Wednesday 19th September 2018

Meeting Summary Notes

Last meeting action points
The action points were briefly updated from the last meeting with particular discussion on calf feeding.

Collection centres and livestock markets
Members considered the positive and negative welfare implications of these aspects of the cattle industry and whether they had a place within the RSPCA welfare standards for dairy or beef cattle.

Shooting Bull Calves
The group discussed the welfare aspects of banning shooting of bull calves on farm and the provision of alternative options to prevent unshot calves ending up living a life in a system with poor welfare.

Bovine Tuberculosis
The group was updated briefly on the latest research on-farm and discussed specific biosecurity measures relating to bTB.

Shackles/Hobbles
Consideration was given to the proper application of these and the necessity of regular veterinary review to ensure suitable humane end-points are determined and that use of shackles happens minimally and for as short a time as necessary.

Oesophageal tubing
Members discussed the requirements for oesophageal tubing of calves relating to training of stock-keepers as well as the frequency and the reasons for the use of tubing as a feeding method.

Trough Space
Trough space was discussed, looking at what animal measures could be used to assess whether feed intake is being maximised alongside the given trough space.

Pasture Access
The standard relating to pasture access was discussed, including the rationale underpinning the RSPCA requirement for the minimum number of days that animals had to have access to pasture.