

**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.