

**RSPCA Pullet Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Thursday 22nd October 2015**

Meeting summary notes

Proposed changes to standards/information boxes

The group considered proposed changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for pullets for possible inclusion in the next revision of the standards in 2016. The proposals related to a number of areas of the standards including lighting, environmental enrichment, stocking density, multi-tier systems, management, air quality and thermal environment and environment. There was also a discussion on multi-tier rearing aviaries. These would be taken forwards for further consideration.

Perch space requirements in litter and MT systems

There was a discussion on the feasibility of providing more perching space for pullets, including the benefits and purposes of providing perches in rear and the concerns. This would be taken forwards for further consideration.

Transport (timings, daytime vs night-time)

The positives and negatives of transporting pullets during the day and night were discussed. The RSPCA would be concerned about pullets being held in the modules on trucks and in a non-environmentally controlled area. The standards do not prohibit transporting pullets at night. Further information would be provided to the RSPCA to enable this to be taken forwards for further consideration.

Feed & water space in first 5 weeks

The group discussed current practices around supplying feeders and drinkers up to five weeks, including the provision of supplementary feeders and drinkers, and concerns regarding any requirement for further provision.