

**RSPCA Turkey Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting  
on Wednesday 22nd February 2017**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Proposed new and amended standards**

The group considered proposed changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for turkeys for inclusion within the next revision of the standards, scheduled for September 2017. The proposals related to many areas of the standards including lighting, water quality testing, environmental enrichment, beak trimming and protection from other animals.

**Gas killing standards**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas only killing is not permitted in the current version of the RSPCA welfare standards for turkeys. Following a review of the literature on CO<sub>2</sub> and observations of the current CO<sub>2</sub> gas killing systems the RSPCA had drafted revised gas killing standards which include requirements relating to the use of CO<sub>2</sub> gas only systems. The proposed standards had been sent to experts in gas killing, system manufactures and Freedom Food approved poultry abattoirs for consultation. The RSPCA were considering comments received and would finalise the standards in due course.

**Avian Influenza**

The group considered the Avian Influenza outbreak in Europe and the recent housing order from Defra, discussing the associated challenges including increased litter pressure the extra biosecurity measures and the challenges faced by farms close to an outbreak. Increased environmental enrichment provision was one tool used to help alleviate boredom in flocks and reduce the risk of injurious pecking. Members discussed the importance of contingency planning at both industry and farm level.