

**RSPCA Chicken Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting  
on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Proposed changes to the standards**

The group discussed proposed amendments to the standards relating to automatic ventilation systems for inclusion in the next revision of the standards due to be published in 2017. These would be taken forward for further consideration.

**CO<sub>2</sub> Gas killing**

Following an extensive literature review and observations of gas killing systems, the RSPCA concluded that CO<sub>2</sub> gas killing systems can be considered acceptable from a welfare perspective if the systems being used are operated and managed appropriately. CO<sub>2</sub> gas killing is not permitted in the current version of the RSPCA welfare standards for chickens. The group considered proposed standards relating to the use of CO<sub>2</sub> gas killing systems for inclusion in the next revision of the standards. These would be taken forwards for further consideration.

**Broiler breeds update**

Two new broiler breeds had been developed for use under the standards. One of the breeds had been accepted for use in both indoor and free range systems, whilst the other breed would be accepted under derogation at present. A third breed could be developed in future.

**Welfare Outcome Assessment (WOA)**

The AssureWel project is a collaborative project led by the University of Bristol, the RSPCA and the Soil Association which aimed to develop welfare outcome assessment protocols for inclusion within farm assurance scheme assessments. The broiler chicken welfare outcome assessment protocol had been under development for two years. The protocol had been piloted throughout 2016 by both Freedom Food and the Soil Association. The group discussed the protocol and the proposed standards, including data collection and the provision of antimicrobial usage data. These would be taken forward for further consideration.

**New Wild Animal Control Standards**

The RSPCA cares about the welfare of all animals that have the ability to suffer, and as such had further developed guidance surrounding the control of wild animals. The group discussed the proposed amendments to the standards. These would be taken forward for further consideration.