

**RSPCA Pig Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting  
on Tuesday 26th April 2016**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Issues and queries relating to the standards**

The group discussed general issues and standards-related queries, including the publication of new standards on welfare outcome assessment (WOA), the difficulties surrounding the tail docking of replacement gilts on outdoor units, breakdowns at abattoirs and use of emergency lairages and the process for requesting permission to carry out mutilations. These would be taken forward and used to inform the next standards revision as appropriate.

**Proposed new and amended standards**

The group considered the proposed changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for pigs for possible inclusion in the next revision of the standards, scheduled for November 2016. The proposals related to many areas of the standards including food and water, health, the environment, management, transport and slaughter/killing. These would be taken forwards for further consideration.

**Loading ramps**

The group discussed the accepted angle of loading ramps. The RSPCA welfare standards require the incline/decline of loading/unloading ramps to be no more than 11 degrees.

**Pig Wider Consultation Group (WCG)**

A WCG for pigs is being developed by the RSPCA to add another layer and a greater range of knowledge and expertise to the consultation process for the development of the standards. Retailers, processors and experts from other countries have been invited, and members would receive a minimum of one communication every six months.

**Changes in personnel within the RSPCA Farm Animals Department**

Julia Wrathall has changed role, and is now Assistant Director - Science. Marc Cooper has taken over as the Head of Farm Animals.