

RSPCA Pig Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting

on 27th May 2015

Meeting Summary Notes

Indoor Free Farrowing standards

The RSPCA have for some time been looking at developing standards for indoor free farrowing (IFF) and have been gathering information from researchers, equipment manufactures and producers with IFF systems, including existing Freedom Food members. In the last revision of the standards (dated November 2014) an information box (below E 5.2.2) was included providing further information on IFF and highlighting the areas being considered. The RSPCA is intending to publish these IFF standards as an amendment sheet to the current version of the standards in late 2015. The group discussed the complexities around developing IFF standards, possible implications for FF members and the detail of the proposals put forward by the RSPCA. This would be taken forwards for further consideration.

Minor standards proposals

The group considered some minor standard amendment proposals, for possible inclusion in the next full revision to the standards, scheduled for late 2016. These would be taken forward for further consideration.

Areas for future consideration

This section of the meeting was to enable members to consider areas of the standards likely to be progressed in the foreseeable future. Issues raised included: feeders; tail docking, teeth clipping and nose ringing permissions; Welfare Outcome Assessment project/[AssureWel](#); journey times; developing a list of so-called 'core' standards; disease and biosecurity; management of large litters.

PHWC welfare sub-group

The RSPCA is a member of the Pig Health and Welfare Council welfare sub-group, which discusses various issues including farrowing and tail docking. An overview of the latest discussions at this sub-group was relayed to the STAG for information.

Free sow project

A project with SRUC and Sainsbury's is currently being undertaken to look at the best mothers for indoor free farrowing. Details can be found on the [Sainsbury's](#) website and [SRUC](#) website.

Mushroom compost (information box below E 4.2)

Issues regarding the legality of using mushroom compost were raised. This would be taken forward for further consideration.