

RSPCA Turkey Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting

14th June 2023

Meeting Summary Notes

Feather pecking behaviour

The group discussed trialling some data collection on feather pecking, beak trimming and the behaviour of turkeys on the scheme. Sharing relevant data already collected on farms and at abattoirs was also considered.

Welfare Outcome Assessment

The RSPCA would like to introduce a formal Welfare Outcome Assessment procedure for turkeys, similar to those used for other species. The group discussed measures of interest, including: engagement with enrichment, use of the ranges, activity and flightiness. Further consideration is needed around the logistics of carrying out assessments and data interpretation.

Enrichment

The use of rope as a type of enrichment was raised. The group discussed whether rope was the most suitable type of enrichment. The RSPCA will reevaluate this standard.

Verandas

The group discussed the use of verandas, which the RSPCA advises. Further discussion is required to determine what might be achievable for different housing systems.