



fork, ensuring. They also play a unique role in international trade which is recognised around the world. The involvement of veterinary surgeons

Any discussions on the removal of quarantine that would allow free access to pet animals would raise very significant concerns about diseases which are endemic in other countries.

- 15) It is imperative for mechanisms beyond the TAC to be developed to give due regard to the impact of trade deals on animals which will be considered sentient beings under legislation currently before Parliament i.e., beyond agriculture and aquaculture sectors. Engagement with the veterinary profession will be vital for government to meet this duty.

pre-stunned before slaughter. Effectively stunning before slaughter is essential as this renders animals unconscious and therefore insensible to pain, distress, fear and suffering

- 32) While it is a statutory requirement for all animals to be effectively stunned before slaughter in the UK, there is a derogation in place to permit slaughter without stunning for slaughter in accordance with religious rites which provides for non-stun slaughter where food is intended for the consumption of Jews and Muslims.
- 33) For meat to be considered halal, Islamic scholars must be satisfied that the animal is alive at the point of slaughter and that the stunning method does not cause death. In the UK there are differences of opinion between Islamic scholars and, in turn, Halal certification bodies as to whether they will accept pre-slaughter stunning. Where Islamic scholars and Halal certification bodies do accept stunning,¹⁰ only methods that deliver an effective recoverable stun are accepted, ie. a stunning method that renders the animal unconscious and insensible to pain but does not kill the animal before neck cutting.
- 34) Ultimately, we would like to see an end to all non-stun slaughter.¹¹ However, where non-stun slaughter is permitted, the supply of meat from non-stunned animals should meet the demand of the religious communities in the UK. Therefore, the export of meat from non-stunned animals should be prohibited in law.

