



# **Foot and Mouth Disease 2001 and Animal Welfare: Lessons for the Future**

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January 2002

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Farm Animal Welfare Council  
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## **FOREWORD**

The year 2001 will surely go down in history as a turning point for British agriculture. From the moment that Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was confirmed in February, it was obvious that the impact would be devastating and

that the welfare implications were far wider than mere consideration of those animals which were unlucky enough to become infected.

From very early in the outbreak, the full support of the Council was offered to Ministers and officials to give advice on the associated animal welfare implications. A special working group was set up to enable the Council to respond to issues rapidly. I ensured Ministers were kept regularly informed of the Council's thinking and, for only the second time in our history, an Extraordinary Council Meeting was convened to address the welfare implications. Many Council members were also directly involved in the control of the outbreak in a personal capacity.

During 2001, we were asked to provide advice on a range of issues including vaccination, the ban on swill feeding, the 20-day standstill period and the impact of the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme. In addition, we provided advice on many other issues including contingency planning, individual identification of animals, resources and the need for a wide ranging review in the aftermath. Most of this advice is available on the FAWC website ([www.fawc.org.uk](http://www.fawc.org.uk)).

Much of FAWC's detailed consideration and advice during and following the outbreak is being incorporated into other major reports which we were already preparing, even in advance of the outbreak. Particularly these include the Report on the Welfare of Farmed Livestock (Red Meat Animals) at Slaughter and the Report on Welfare of Animals in Livestock Markets, both of which will be published in the next twelve months.

However, in order to inform the Government's Inquiry on Lessons Learned, as well as the Royal Society Inquiry into Infectious Diseases of Livestock and the Royal Society of Edinburgh Independent Inquiry into Foot and Mouth Disease in Scotland, and to make our advice more widely available, the Council has gathered together the key aspects of its concerns regarding the 2001 outbreak into this report. In addition, we propose to provide in draft the relevant sections of the above two major reports to all these Inquiries to better inform their deliberations.

Dr Judy MacArthur Clark  
**Chairwoman, FAWC**