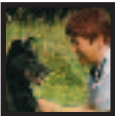
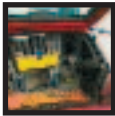
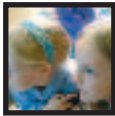


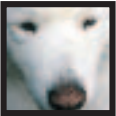
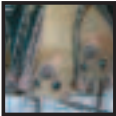
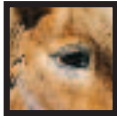
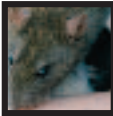
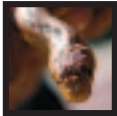
# Animal Welfare Policies

Living for the day when ANIMAL CRUELTY STOPS



# SCOTTISH SPCA

Living for the day when ANIMAL CRUELTY STOPS ■



# **INTRODUCTION**

## **THE SCOTTISH SPCA**

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

## **POLICIES**

### **A) GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **B) AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS**

- 1. Keeping and Rearing of Agricultural Animals**
    - 1.1. General Principles
    - 1.2. Housing Standards in Intensive Rearing Systems
    - 1.3. Pigs
    - 1.4. Cattle
    - 1.5. Sheep
    - 1.6. Poultry
    - 1.7. Farmed Fish
    - 1.8. Rabbits
    - 1.9. Deer
  - 2. Breeding of Agricultural Animals**
  - 3. Mutilations of Agricultural Animals**
    - 3.1. General Principles
    - 3.2. Tail Docking
    - 3.3. Castration
    - 3.4. Other Mutilations and Surgical Procedures
  - 4. Sale and Resale of Agricultural Animals**
  - 5. Transport of Agricultural Animals**
    - 5.1. General Principles
    - 5.2. Transport of Agricultural Animals for Slaughter
    - 5.3. Transport of Agricultural Animals for Further Fattening
    - 5.4. Training and Certification
    - 5.5. Farmed Fish
  - 6. Slaughter and Killing of Agricultural Animals**
    - 6.1. General Principles
    - 6.2. Farmed Deer, Ostriches etc
    - 6.3. Casualty Animals
    - 6.4. Training
    - 6.5. Farmed Fish
-

## **C) COMPANION ANIMALS**

### **7. Keeping and Rearing of Companion Animals**

- 7.1. General Principles
- 7.2. Responsible Ownership
- 7.3. Children and Companion Animals
- 7.4. Neutering of Companion Animals
- 7.5. Exotic Animals
- 7.6. Feeding of Live Prey
- 7.7. Unwanted, Abandoned and Stray Companion Animals
- 7.8. Tethering of Horses
- 7.9. Training Aids

### **8. Breeding of Companion Animals**

### **9. Mutilations of Companion Animals**

- 9.1. General Principles
- 9.2. Tail Docking
- 9.3. Couping and Asymmetric Shoeing of Horses
- 9.4. Other Mutilations and Surgical Procedures

### **10. Sale and Resale of Companion Animals**

- 10.1. General Principles
- 10.2. Giving of Live Animals as Prizes

### **11. Transport and Movement of Companion Animals**

### **12. Killing and Euthanasia of Companion Animals**

- 12.1. Euthanasia of Owned Animals
- 12.2. Equines
- 12.3. Abandoned, Stray or Unwanted Animals

## **D) WILD ANIMALS**

### **13. General Principles**

### **14. Transport and Movement of Wild Animals**

### **15. Killing and Trapping of Wild Animals**

- 15.1. Snares and Traps
- 15.2. Poisoning
- 15.3. Culling
- 15.4. Seafish
- 15.5. Lobsters and Crayfish
- 15.6. Whaling

### **16. Management of Wild Deer**

## **E) ANIMALS USED IN EXPERIMENTS**

### **17. General Principles**

### **18. Pain and Suffering in Experiments**

---

- 
19. **Alternatives**
  20. **The “Three Rs”**
  21. **Unnecessary Experiments**
  22. **EU Reach Proposals**
  23. **Care of Animals in Experimental Establishments**
  24. **Ethical Review Process**
  25. **Breeding and Supply of Experimental Animals**

## **F) GENETIC ENGINEERING**

26. **Genetic Engineering**

## **G) ANIMALS IN EDUCATION**

27. **Companion Animals in Schools**
28. **Dissection of Animals in Schools**
29. **Animals in Higher Education**
30. **Education in Zoos and Aquaria**
31. **Visiting Animal Schemes**

## **H) ANIMALS IN EXHIBITION, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT**

32. **General Principles**
33. **Exhibition**
  - 33.1. **Animals in Captivity**
34. **Entertainment**
  - 34.1. **General Principles**
  - 34.2. **Entertainments Based on Cruelty**
35. **Sport**
  - 35.1. **Horse Racing, Showjumping, Eventing and Dressage**
  - 35.2. **Common Rides**
  - 35.3. **Greyhound Racing**
  - 35.4. **Hunting with Dogs**
  - 35.5. **Game Shooting**
  - 35.6. **Other Types of Weapon**
  - 35.7. **Angling**

## **I) MISCELLANEOUS**

36. **Consumers**
  37. **Cosmetic Interventions**
  38. **Fur**
  39. **Recordings of Animal Cruelty**
-

## THE SCOTTISH SPCA

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in 1839. The Scottish SPCA's main objectives are to prevent cruelty to animals and promote kindness and humanity in their treatment.

The Inspectorate acts as its front line in policing animal welfare legislation, forwarding cases of animal neglect or unnecessary suffering to the Procurator Fiscal service, rescuing animals in distress, and providing advice and guidance to those in charge of animals. Inspectors are authorised by the Scottish Ministers to enforce Scotland's animal welfare legislation.

The Animal Welfare Centres offer refuge to injured, abused and neglected pets, farm animals and wildlife.

The Education Department provides a fully integrated education programme in schools, colleges and universities and provides information to the wider community.

The Press, Parliamentary and Publications Departments work to raise awareness of animal welfare through the media, the Society's own publications, and through campaigns. The Society seeks to support and promote legislation within Scotland, the United Kingdom and the European Community that will improve the conditions of all animals.

The Business Development Unit works to raise funds to meet the annual running costs of the Society. This is done through the Scottish SPCA's fundraising branches, through reaching out to members and supporters, and through fundraising initiatives, including events, door-to-door recruitment, direct mail appeals and corporate sponsorship.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The term “**animal**” includes all sentient creatures and may be taken to mean any non-human mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and fish, and certain decapod crustaceans and cephalopods capable of feeling, independent movement and possessing responsive sensory organs. As research and development advances, the Scottish SPCA will review the need to include additional species that fit these criteria.

The term “**animal welfare**” refers to the state of the individual animal in relation to its environment, in particular, its response to both pleasant and unpleasant stimuli. Animal welfare thus encompasses an animal’s health and general physical condition, its psychological state, its biological fitness and its ability to cope with the environment in which it finds itself.

The term “**companion animal**” refers principally to animals commonly known as “pets”. However, it covers not only those animals that actually share living space with humans, but it also refers to the relationship that humans enjoy with animals that otherwise mainly have a utilitarian role, such as horses. It includes rabbits, cage birds, exotic species, invertebrates and fish.

The term “**wild animal**” refers to species which are living free, including feral animals. The term refers to both indigenous and non-indigenous species which live and breed successfully in the wild.

The term “**agricultural animal**” follows the definition of “livestock” in the Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, which refers to animals “kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for use in the farming of land”. The definition covers cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and other

species, such as rabbits, ostrich and deer. It also applies to a horse or a dog when used in the farming of land.

The term “**duty of care**” refers to the ethical responsibility an animal owner or keeper has towards its animal. This includes the responsibility to provide for an animal’s basic welfare needs, which may be defined according to the “Five Freedoms”.

The term “**mutilation**” includes any procedure carried out with or without instruments or anaesthetic, which involves interference with the sensitive tissue or bone structure of an animal.

A “**sentient creature**” is one to whom feelings matter. Such a creature has the ability to experience conscious sensations such as pleasure, pain and distress, and will, if given the opportunity, take steps to respond to such stimuli. This may include avoiding painful stimuli or seeking out pleasurable stimuli. If a sentient creature is prevented from taking these steps, it may experience both mental and physical suffering.

The term “**exotic animal**” refers to an indigenous or non-indigenous animal not commonly domesticated in the British Isles, which requires specialist knowledge, expertise and equipment in its keeping.

## The “Five Freedoms” of animal welfare are:

***Freedom from hunger and thirst*** – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;

***Freedom from discomfort*** – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;

***Freedom from pain, injury and disease*** – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;

***Freedom to express normal behaviour*** – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind, where appropriate;

***Freedom from fear and distress*** – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.



## A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The statements of policy contained within this document include all aspects of animal welfare, relating to all species of animal. In some cases UK or Scottish legislation has been introduced which prohibits practices already opposed by the Scottish SPCA. The policy is nonetheless retained in these cases when these practices are known to occur in other countries.

The Scottish SPCA recognises that the concepts of pain and suffering are abstract concepts that are difficult to measure. The Scottish SPCA follows scientific evidence that suggests that vertebrates and some invertebrates are capable of experiencing painful and unpleasant stimuli and can thus experience pain and suffering.

Where doubt exists as to the capacity of an animal to experience pain and suffering, the Scottish SPCA believes that the precautionary principle should apply – the animal should be given the benefit of the doubt.

The Scottish SPCA does not consider that economic reasons alone justify the infliction of suffering to an animal.

The Scottish SPCA believes that it is neither possible nor desirable to assess welfare by herd, litter or flock. Animal welfare concerns the individual animal, thus a “herd visit” that ignores a single suffering animal is not providing good welfare.

The Scottish SPCA believes that every person who owns or keeps an animal owes it a duty of care.

Within this document, in stating an ethical position, and in offering a view on suitable courses of action, the Scottish SPCA has aimed to apply a cost/benefit test for welfare. For example, while there is both scientific and public support for a reduction in the journeys undertaken by animals travelling to slaughter, it would be counterproductive to be unduly prescriptive. Animal welfare would be better served by allowing a single journey that might technically exceed the maximum duration, rather than insisting that a transport should stop, unload and reload, all of which imposes stress on the animals and prolongs their final journey.

As an organisation specialising in hands-on rescue, care and protection of individual animals, of every species, every day, throughout Scotland, the Scottish SPCA acknowledges the need for pragmatism – and that will be reflected throughout the following pages. The Society’s Inspectors work within the law to prevent cruelty to animals. Nonetheless, the Society is firm in its view that animal welfare must continue to be measured and improved, and these policies are intended to promote best practice in animal welfare.

## B. AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS

### 1. **Keeping and Rearing of Agricultural Animals**

#### 1.1. **General Principles**

1.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to all forms of farming which cause unnecessary distress or suffering or deprive animals of the opportunity to perform their natural behaviour.

1.1.2. The Scottish SPCA agrees with the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) “that we have a moral obligation to each individual animal that we use”. This obligation includes never causing any unnecessary harm to animals and, when deciding on our actions, endeavouring to balance any other harms against benefits to humans and/or other animals.

1.1.3. The Scottish SPCA considers that every agricultural animal should enjoy the Five Freedoms (see above).

1.1.4. The Scottish SPCA believes that good stockmanship is an essential adjunct to the Five Freedoms and believes that all employers involved in agricultural animals must have a responsibility to ensure that their employees have a sound knowledge and understanding of animal welfare.

1.1.5. The Scottish SPCA believes that all farmers and stockmen must adhere to statutory

codes for animal welfare, and that employers involved in agricultural animals have a responsibility to ensure that their employees are familiar with the content of such codes.

1.1.6. The Scottish SPCA believes that Scottish and UK producers should not knowingly supply any livestock for further rearing to countries or companies which do not comply with the same welfare standards as those required of the UK farming industry.

#### 1.2. **Housing Standards in Intensive Rearing Systems**

1.2.1. All buildings should be so constructed to ensure that husbandry and welfare requirements are met.

1.2.2. Fire and emergency precautions should be established to the relevant provisions of British Standards 5502. Adequate fire containment systems and fire/smoke alarms should be installed.

1.2.3. Slatted floors are considered unsuitable for all cloven hoofed animals, but where such floors are used, they should be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise discomfort, distress or injury. All animals should have access to a solid lying area, and no animal should be permanently housed on totally slatted flooring.

1.2.4. Excessive heat loss or gain should be prevented by the use of adequate bedding, roof, floor and wall insulation, and the effective ventilation of all buildings.

1.2.5. An alarm system, independent of the mains electricity supply, must be installed to warn of automatic equipment failure, and an alternative system must immediately be available to ensure that correct temperature, air flow, humidity, etc. are maintained.

1.2.6. The farmer, stockperson or other responsible person should be living on site and immediately available at all times.

1.2.7. The Scottish SPCA believes that the size of accommodation should always be appropriate to the size, number and type of animals it contains.

### **1.3. Pigs**

1.3.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to systems of pig husbandry where no form of bedding is provided or in which lighting is inadequate. Straw or similar material should be used to meet the pigs' natural rooting and foraging instincts, thereby reducing injury and eliminating some behavioural abnormalities.

1.3.2. The Scottish SPCA opposes the close tethering of pigs except on a temporary basis,

for example to allow veterinary examination.

1.3.3. The Scottish SPCA opposes the weaning of piglets at less than three weeks of age, which is known to be contrary to the behavioural patterns of the sow and her offspring.

1.3.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of stalls for dry or pregnant sows in which they are unable to turn around. It is strongly recommended that alternative systems are used which meet the animals' exercise and behavioural needs.

### **1.4. Cattle Veal Calves**

1.4.1. The Scottish SPCA opposes the export of veal calves to countries where the use of veal crates is still permitted.

*The Scottish SPCA considers that it is cruel to inflict conditions on young calves such as:*

- 1. Individual cubicles or crates which severely restrict movements;*
- 2. Failure to give access to roughage. The traditional milk diet, intended to produce a whiter meat, is in fact deficient in the iron required for health;*
- 3. Inadequate lighting;*
- 4. Totally slatted floors;*
- 5. Permanent tethering;*
- 6. Stocking density that*

*prevents uninhibited movement. The Scottish SPCA recommends the use of loose-housed systems, where the more natural and instinctive behaviour of calves is possible.*

### **Dairy Cattle**

- 1.4.2. The Scottish SPCA considers that dairy farmers and the dairy industry must continue to seek ways to control mastitis and chronic lameness.

*The financial state of the dairy industry must never be allowed to have an impact upon the welfare of the individual animal.*

- 1.4.3. The Scottish SPCA considers that zero grazing systems are only acceptable when there is a high level of stockperson competency, with extra attention given to the potential welfare problems associated with this system.

*The zero grazing system involves the year round housing of high yield dairy cattle. Such systems can lead to increased lameness and higher instances of knee swelling.*

### **1.5. Sheep**

- 1.5.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that all sheep should be regularly inspected, given supplementary feed, where appropriate, over winter and at lambing time, and treated

promptly for any health problems or injuries.

*Scotland's extensively reared sheep flock enjoys a relatively natural lifestyle compared with other species, but such animals are nonetheless susceptible to poor welfare. Even in an extensive system, interventions such as dipping, supplementary feeding if required, and regular checking by shepherds or stockmen are essential to reduce these welfare problems.*

- 1.5.2. Sheep kept in fields must have access to a dry lying area.

- 1.5.3. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the early weaning and intensive rearing of lambs, except as required by multiple births.

- 1.5.4. The Scottish SPCA believes that every effort must be made by farmers and livestock keepers to eradicate endemic disease, which not only affects the value of livestock but also can cause immense suffering.

*The Society encourages any farmer who has livestock with an endemic disease such as sheep scab to seek veterinary advice and ensure treatment as soon as possible, and to immediately notify all appropriate neighbouring units, so they may take the necessary preventative measures.*

*The Scottish SPCA welcomes government initiatives requiring the keepers of sheep to maintain and regularly review a flock health plan in conjunction with their veterinary surgeon.*

## **1.6. Poultry**

### **Laying Hens**

1.6.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the battery cage system for egg production, or variations of that system which do not fulfil the health and welfare needs of the hens.

1.6.2. The Scottish SPCA is in favour of systems in which the welfare of the bird is fully protected, and in which a nest, scratching and/or dustbathing areas, and a perch are provided, with a stocking density and colony size appropriate to the needs of the hens, according to the best scientific evidence available.

*The Scottish SPCA considers that further research is needed into caged systems for laying hens, and also into the provision of dust-bathing material in such systems, which can result in severe respiratory problems.*

1.6.3. The Scottish SPCA advocates further research to improve bone strength and vigour in laying hens.

*The Scottish SPCA recognises that the welfare of individual*

*laying hens may be compromised by continuous egg production in modern intensive systems, causing potential osteoporosis and painful bone fractures.*

1.6.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of forced moulting to increase egg production.

### **Broiler Chickens**

1.6.5. The Scottish SPCA believes that the welfare of broiler chickens (chickens kept for meat production) can be severely compromised in intensive rearing systems.

*Broiler chickens reach their target slaughter weight from six to eight weeks of age. Selective breeding programmes and nutritional factors create such rapid growth. This results in serious welfare problems, including cardiovascular problems, serious leg weakness and joint problems.*

1.6.6. The Scottish SPCA believes that greater attention by the broiler industry should be given to the health and fitness of broilers, with the target of eliminating or dramatically reducing leg and other problems associated with fast growth and intensive production. This may be achieved through the use of slower growing strains.

*The Scottish SPCA is aware that alternative systems do*

## I. MISCELLANEOUS

### 36. Consumers

- 36.1. The Scottish SPCA strives to educate consumers to make informed animal welfare decisions regarding the products they buy and encourages members of the public to be aware of the source of any animal product that they purchase.
- 36.2. The Society recommends that members of the public purchase produce that is supplied through a recognised, independently monitored, quality assurance scheme. Produce should not be purchased from countries which do not have the equivalent UK welfare standards.

### 37. Cosmetic interventions

- 37.1. The Scottish SPCA considers that it is inappropriate to make a practice of applying artificial enhancements to animals, such as the dyeing of feathers or fur, or the application of eye gel or glitter spray. This refers to practices used in a competitive or exhibition context

### 38. Fur

- 38.1. The Scottish SPCA is absolutely opposed to the abhorrent and unnecessary practice of farming and trapping animals for their fur.
- The farming and trapping of animals for fur causes*

*immense suffering. The Scottish SPCA considers that the fur trade is based on non-essential luxury products and is therefore unnecessary. The Scottish SPCA is particularly concerned by the import of dog and cat fur from China and Eastern Europe to the European Union, and urges the European Commission to ban the import of such fur.*

### 39. Recordings of Animal Cruelty

- 39.1. The Scottish SPCA is shocked by the increase in filming of acts of cruelty and the distribution of such films for pleasure, intimidation or promotion. The Scottish SPCA would welcome legislation making it an offence to possess recordings of animal cruelty.
- Videos of animal fights are often used to promote fights or animals involved in them. The Scottish SPCA can see no reason why an individual would require to possess such a recording.*
- Short video clips of deliberate acts of cruelty have proliferated with the development of mobile telephones.*

*not offer a straightforward improvement on the intensive rearing of chickens for meat production. Without lower stocking densities, excellent management, suitable perches, pop-holes and nest boxes, the birds are unlikely to benefit greatly from alternative systems. However, in many cases, such steps can and do provide better welfare conditions.*

### **Turkeys**

1.6.7. The Scottish SPCA believes that the welfare of turkeys kept for meat production can be severely compromised in intensive rearing systems.

1.6.8. The Scottish SPCA advocates further research into alternative humane methods to address the issue of feather-pecking in turkeys.

*Farmed turkeys are often kept under very low light levels to overcome the problem of feather-pecking. Such conditions may cause visual impairment, thereby compromising the welfare of the bird.*

### **Ducks and Geese**

1.6.9. The Scottish SPCA believes that the welfare of ducks and geese kept for meat production can be severely compromised in intensive rearing systems.

*Intensive rearing systems for ducks deprive them of*

*their aquatic lifestyle and the opportunity to perform natural behaviours.*

1.6.10. The Scottish SPCA believes that ducks and geese reared for meat production should have access to water.

1.6.11. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the force feeding of geese and ducks for the production of foie gras.

*Although the production of foie gras is illegal in the UK, the Scottish SPCA believes consumers should refrain from buying imported foie gras because of the severe welfare problems it causes.*

## **1.7. Farmed Fish**

1.7.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that, as fish are sentient creatures, fish farming should be recognised as an intensive rearing system, and should be subject to the same level of welfare regulation and scrutiny as other livestock farming.

1.7.2. The Scottish SPCA advocates the development of statutory welfare codes for the welfare of farmed fish.

*As scientific knowledge advances, the Scottish SPCA wishes to see such codes encompass more specific detail regarding water quality parameters, direction of*

*flow, food withdrawal periods, stocking densities and humane slaughter.*

- 1.7.3. As with all other types of livestock production, the Scottish SPCA views the training and competency of stockpersons in fish farms as essential to ensuring good welfare.

## **1.8. Rabbits**

- 1.8.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the intensive rearing of rabbits in wire-floored cages.

## **1.9. Deer**

- 1.9.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the intensive rearing of deer with no access to pasture in the summer, and the harvesting of antler “velvet” from live deer.

## **2. Breeding of Agricultural Animals**

- 2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the breeding of agricultural animals which produces changes in bodily form or function which are detrimental to the animal’s health, welfare or quality of life.
- 2.2. The Scottish SPCA considers that the achievement of good welfare should be of paramount importance in breeding any species of animal. *The Scottish SPCA recognises the welfare benefits that can*

*arise from the use of sorted sexed bovine semen to pre-select the gender of calves via artificial insemination of dairy cattle. This can alleviate the potential surplus of male dairy calves.*

*The Scottish SPCA considers that it would be valuable to create a Standing Committee to provide advice for Government and for the industry on the complex matters that relate to animal breeding and associated technologies.*

- 2.3. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the genetic selection of animals for greater muscularity in excess, such as in some beef cattle, and to the genetic selection of animals for accelerated growth rates, when the health and welfare of the progeny is adversely affected.

*Selection for greater muscularity in cattle encourages enlargement of muscular fibres and hindquarters and thus an oversized foetus, which inhibits the normal process for calving and leads to multiple Caesarean births.*

*The selection of animals for accelerated growth rates (such as broiler chickens) may inhibit normal activity and cause metabolic and skeletal defects, chronic lameness and pain.*



### **3. Mutilations of agricultural animals**

#### **3.1. General Principles**

3.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to all procedures that compromise animal welfare and are carried out for cosmetic reasons or purely to suit the convenience of humans.

#### **3.2. Tail Docking**

3.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the tail-docking of any agricultural animal except on the grounds of veterinary need.

*The Scottish SPCA considers tail docking of pigs an undesirable mutilation and one that should be avoided by herd management and provision of enrichment materials such as straw and earth. It should never be a matter of routine.*

*Tail docking in pigs is routinely carried out to stop / minimise aggression, but this is generally due to boredom or inappropriate mixing of individuals.*

*Tail docking in lambs should be carried out only if failure to do so would lead to subsequent welfare problems because of dirty tails and potential fly strike.*

*Observation studies of tail-docked lambs have provided evidence that the procedure causes lasting pain, and should*

*be avoided. Where regarded as essential, the procedure must be carried out in accordance with current legislation.*

#### **3.3. Castration**

3.3.1. The Scottish SPCA opposes the castration of piglets destined to be killed before the age of sexual maturity.

*Castration, which is carried out to avoid taint of the pig meat once the animal has reached maturity, is clearly painful and stressful for the piglet. As pigs tend to be slaughtered well before maturity in the UK; this procedure is unnecessary.*

3.3.2. In lambs, castration should not be undertaken routinely, but only when it can be justified on the basis that it is essential for the welfare of the animal.

*Castration is unlikely to be necessary where lambs will be finished and sent to slaughter before reaching sexual maturity. The procedure should only be carried out when lambs are likely to be retained after puberty and where it is necessary to avoid welfare problems associated with the management of entire males.*

#### **3.4. Other mutilations and Surgical Procedures**

3.4.1. The Scottish SPCA is specifically opposed to the infliction of the following mutilations:

- Beak-trimming of birds
  - Dubbing (removal of comb) of cockerels
  - Devoicing of mules, asses, cockerels
  - Desnooding of turkeys
  - Routine teeth clipping in pigs
  - Pinioning of game birds
- 3.4.2. The Scottish SPCA opposes the injection of enzymes (for tenderising meat) into cattle prior to slaughter.
- 3.4.3. Other procedures which may have a therapeutic role should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon, and only with a view to protecting welfare.
- 4. Sale and Resale of Agricultural Animals**
- 4.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the sale of animals destined for slaughter at livestock markets.
- 4.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that, wherever possible, all animals should travel direct from farm to farm or from farm to slaughter.
- For livestock destined for slaughter, there are now alternatives to sale at markets such as electronic or satellite auctions. The Society has concerns that such methods would result in other associated welfare issues, such as increased journey times and multiple pick-ups.*
- 4.3. The Scottish SPCA discourages the sale of orphan lambs at markets, preferring the use of off-farm sales for such situations.
- 4.4. The Scottish SPCA has concerns regarding the potential of markets to be sources of disease spread, and places where significant stress can be caused to the animals present. The Scottish SPCA therefore welcomes the statutory licensing of such markets backed up by routine monitoring.
- 5. Transport of Agricultural animals**
- 5.1. General Principles**
- 5.1.1. The Scottish SPCA considers that all transport in vehicles is capable of creating a degree of distress for the animals involved.
- 5.1.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that all animals should be protected as far as possible from the welfare risks that are inherent in transport.
- There are particular risks associated with agricultural animals travelling in groups and over long distances, such as excessive heat or cold, hunger, thirst, injury, stress due to overcrowding or mixing with unfamiliar animals, fear of loading and unloading, bad handling and cruel treatment. The Scottish SPCA wishes to*

*see these risks reduced and, where possible, eradicated.*

5.1.3. The Scottish SPCA advocates that wherever possible the following principles should protect the welfare of all animals in transit:

- a) *Animals should be in good health*
- b) *No animals should be transported in a way which is likely to cause suffering*
- c) *Animals should not be transported for commercial purposes in the last third of pregnancy. The Scottish SPCA accepts the need to move animals late in pregnancy for management purposes*
- d) *All animals should be transported in suitable containers*
- e) *All journeys should be as short as possible in terms of time and distance travelled*
- f) *Advanced transit planning and proper labelling of vehicles and containers are essential*
- g) *All animal carrying crates, compartments and transportation tanks must be regularly maintained.*
- h) *Any vehicle carrying animals should carry appropriate fire extinguishers.*
- i) *All vehicles should carry food and water where appropriate,*

*and should carry essential supplies at all times*

## **5.2. Transport of agricultural animals for slaughter**

5.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the extended transport of live food animals for slaughter, and advocates slaughter as close as possible to the point of rearing. This should ultimately lead to a “carcase-only” trade over long distances.

5.2.2. Farm animals travelling to slaughter should be transported for one planned journey of no more than eight hours or 500 kilometres, unless it is impossible to reach the abattoir or staging point within that time. *Animals may tolerate, for relatively short periods, conditions that would cause suffering if undergone for longer. In certain cases, journeys should be extended by the amount of time that is reasonable to allow arrival at the destination. The benefit to the animal of reaching its destination in a single journey may outweigh the cost of having to be unloaded and reloaded prior to a comparatively short completion journey.*

5.2.3. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the import and export of all live animals for slaughter.

**5.3. Transport of animals for further fattening**

- 5.3.1. The Scottish SPCA acknowledges the need to move young animals for further fattening, but this should be conducted under humane conditions and kept to the minimum.

**5.4. Training and Certification**

- 5.4.1. The Scottish SPCA recommends the establishment of a formal independent certification procedure for the drivers of vehicles involved in long distance road transportation of animals. Such certification should be based on the possession by drivers of an adequate knowledge of the types, species and handling methods of animals in their care.

**5.5. Farmed Fish**

- 5.5.1. Fish should normally be loaded and unloaded without being put into air, provided with high oxygen availability in the water and maintained at a stocking density which allows their needs to be met.
- 5.5.2. Fish should be regularly inspected and inspected immediately on arrival at destination, with prompt removal of any dead fish.

**6. Slaughter and Killing of agricultural animals****6.1. General Principles**

- 6.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed

to the slaughter of any animal without rendering that animal insensible to pain and distress until death supervenes.

*The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 state that all animals slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard must be:*

*Instantaneously slaughtered by means of a mechanically operated instrument; or  
Stunned by means of a mechanical instrument or an instrument for stunning by electricity, provided that they are instantaneously rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes; or*

*They may be slaughtered by any other means specified in the regulations, provided that the animals are again rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes.*

*The Regulations exempt the Jewish method of slaughter, Shechita, and the Muslim method of slaughter, Halal, from the requirement of stunning prior to pithing or sticking (bleeding).*

*While respecting all religious beliefs, the Scottish SPCA opposes these exemptions on welfare grounds.*

- 6.1.2. Until slaughter without pre-stunning is banned outright,

the Scottish SPCA wishes to see all meat from animals killed in this way clearly labelled so that consumers opposed to the practice do not inadvertently purchase the product.

**6.2. Farmed deer, ostriches etc**

6.2.1. Non-domesticated species such as ostrich are not suited to slaughter in a conventional slaughterhouse. As long as such species are farmed, they should be slaughtered on-farm by a trained and equipped specialist operative.

6.2.2. Farmed deer are not temperamentally suited to transportation or to handling within slaughterhouse systems. They should be humanely shot on-farm by persons possessing the appropriate marksmanship skills.

**6.3. Casualty animals**

6.3.1. Farm animals that have to be slaughtered due to serious physical injury or disease must be immediately and humanely slaughtered on site by a person possessing the appropriate knowledge and expertise.

6.3.2. Where an animal becomes ill or injured on farm it must receive veterinary treatment on site or be certified as fit to travel by a veterinary surgeon to go for immediate veterinary treatment or slaughter.

6.3.3. Where an animal becomes ill or injured during transport it must be immediately taken to the nearest place for veterinary treatment or slaughter.

**6.4. Training**

6.4.1. The Scottish SPCA supports the requirement that all slaughtermen must be properly trained and licensed to practise following successful completion of a course of instruction, together with the necessary practical experience.

*The Scottish SPCA considers that, as animals are likely to suffer when stunning and killing are carried out hurriedly, abattoir workers should not be employed on a piece-work basis.*

**6.5. Farmed fish**

6.5.1. The Scottish SPCA supports the development of technologies that allow for swift despatch of farmed salmon and trout, using hydraulic stunners (salmon) and electric stunning in water (trout) both of which methods effectively kill the fish instantly.

6.5.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the older practice of allowing trout to die in air.

## C. COMPANION ANIMALS

### 7. The Keeping and Rearing of Companion Animals

#### 7.1. General Principles

7.1.1. The Scottish SPCA supports the keeping of companion animals, believing that, in general, the relationship is beneficial for animals and humans alike.

*The Scottish SPCA acknowledges that human failure to ensure appropriate care for companion animals leads to immense avoidable suffering or even cruelty. However, this state is by no means a normal consequence of the human-companion animal relationship and cannot be considered in the same context.*

7.1.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to any confinement of animals which is likely to cause distress or suffering, such as confinement in small cages or barren tanks that do not provide sufficient space or opportunity to perform natural behaviours.

7.1.3. The Scottish SPCA considers that every companion animal should enjoy the Five Freedoms.

#### 7.2. Responsible ownership

7.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to keeping of animals by those who do not have the time, facilities, financial means or level of interest necessary to ensure a satisfactory standard of care for their animal.

7.2.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to a “latchkey” approach to dog ownership and believes that dogs should not be allowed to

roam unsupervised.

*A “latchkey” dog is one that is routinely left to roam freely without supervision. This exposes the dog to a number of dangers, including road traffic accidents, unwanted pregnancies and spread of disease. Such a method of dog ownership also presents potential risks to the public.*

#### 7.3. Children and Companion Animals

7.3.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the sale of pets to under 16s, and believes that legal responsibility for an animal should rest with the parent or guardian of a child under 16.

*The Scottish SPCA believes that children and young people should be encouraged to play a full part in the care, feeding and exercise of companion animals: however, to protect animals from suffering, the Scottish SPCA does not believe that unaccompanied children under 16 should be permitted to purchase, or otherwise obtain, pets from any establishment.*

#### 7.4. Neutering of Companion Animals

7.4.1. The Scottish SPCA strongly supports the neutering of cats, dogs and other companion animals, subject to veterinary advice, at as early an age as possible.

*Although the Scottish SPCA generally promotes the welfare of the individual animal, it is*

*known that control of dog and cat populations is a powerful overall welfare measure. Neutering not only prevents the production of unwanted litters which may themselves be at risk, but may also have a beneficial effect on the individual animal.*

**7.5. Exotic Animals**

- 7.5.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the keeping of exotic animals as companion animals where they cannot be provided with an environment appropriate for their physical and behavioural needs.
- 7.5.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the keeping of primates as pets.

**7.6. Feeding of live prey**

- 7.6.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the feeding of live vertebrate prey to captive animals.  
*The feeding of live vertebrates to captive animals is illegal in the UK, but is believed to continue in some contexts. Leading zoo collections, however, no longer regard the practice of live feeding as a necessity, and many specialist texts recommend the feeding of dead prey. Apart from the distress caused to the prey animal, the predator is also vulnerable to harm from the process of catching and ingesting the prey in an unnatural environment.*

**7.7. Unwanted, abandoned and stray companion animals**

- 7.7.1. The Scottish SPCA strongly

supports the increased use of identification schemes to allow the return of stray dogs to their owners.

- 7.7.2. The Scottish SPCA considers that microchipping is currently the most reliable permanent means of identification for dogs, cats, horses and other companion animals.

*The Scottish SPCA supports the establishment of a statutorily recognised national dog registration scheme, using permanent identification by microchipping.*

*Permanent identification of animals facilitates the investigation of offences such as abandonment or unlawful killing, where it is essential to establish the most recent owner of the animal.*

**7.8. Tethering of Horses**

- 7.8.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the tethering of horses and ponies over protracted periods, particularly where no shelter is provided to protect against extreme weather.

**7.9. Training aids**

- 7.9.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that any device that can inflict pain on an animal, from which it has no means of escape, as a means of training or control should not be used or offered for sale.

*Where training aids are used, it must be as part of a structured training programme, and this should be made clear on accompanying literature and at the point of sale.*

7.9.2. The Scottish SPCA opposes the sale and use of electric shock collars and invisible fencing.

## **8. Breeding of Companion Animals**

8.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the breeding of companion animals which produces changes in bodily form or function which are detrimental to the animal's health, welfare or quality of life.

*The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the irresponsible breeding of puppies or kittens, for example in unlicensed puppy or kitten farms, and of other mammals or exotic animals in either commercial or domestic settings*

8.2. The Scottish SPCA considers that the achievement of good welfare should be of paramount importance in breeding any species of animal.

8.3. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to breeding programmes which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or damage to either parent or offspring.

8.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the hybridisation of wild species with domestic species for the purpose of creating new types of companion animals.

## **9. Mutilations of Companion Animals**

### **9.1. General Principles**

9.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to all procedures that compromise animal welfare and are carried out for cosmetic reasons or

purely to suit the convenience of humans.

### **9.2. Tail Docking**

9.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the tail-docking of any companion animal except on the grounds of immediate veterinary need.

### **9.3. Couping and asymmetric shoeing of horses**

9.3.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to cosmetic shoeing styles that may cause suffering.

*The Scottish SPCA recommends that any intervention that has no therapeutic value may pose a welfare risk and should be avoided. The Scottish SPCA sees no justification for shoeing horses in an extreme style simply to improve stance in the show ring or maintain a historic style, and recommends that such practices should be banned by breed standards.*

*The Society accepts however that asymmetric shoeing can properly be used to correct a defect that may cause suffering.*

9.3.2. Horseshoeing should only be performed by a qualified farrier or veterinary surgeon, or a farrier or veterinary surgeon in training. Horse owners should be aware of the potential risks of adopting alternative methods of hoof care.

### **9.4. Other mutilations and surgical procedures**

9.4.1. The Scottish SPCA is specifically opposed to the infliction of the following mutilations:

- Ear cropping of dogs



- Declawing of cats
- Debarking of dogs

*Other procedures which may have a therapeutic role, such as the removal of dogs' dew claws, and the rasping of horses' teeth should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or other qualified person, and only with a view to protecting welfare.*

## **10. Sale and Resale of Companion Animals**

### **10.1. General Principles**

- 10.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops

*The Scottish SPCA advocates that all puppies and kittens should be acquired from the place where they were born, or from a reputable Animal Welfare Centre. All pet shops selling exotic animals should have at least one member of staff who has attended a training course in the care of the specific species being sold.*

- 10.1.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to dealing in young companion animals which involves their acquisition by third parties prior to resale to the permanent owner.

*Any young companion animal that is sold from a place other than its place of birth or a pet shop should have been resident in that place for at least one week prior to sale, unless inimical to the welfare of the animal; should be vaccinated, health checked by a veterinary surgeon and*

*microchipped, and should be accompanied by documents confirming its origins.*

### **10.2. Giving of live animals as prizes**

- 10.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the giving of live animals as prizes, except in a family setting.

## **11. Transport and Movement of Companion animals**

### **11.1. General Principles**

- 11.1.1. The Scottish SPCA considers that all transport in vehicles is capable of creating a degree of distress for the animals involved.
- 11.1.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that all animals should be protected as far as possible from the welfare risks that are inherent in transport.
- 11.1.3. The Scottish SPCA welcomes the development of the Pet Passport Scheme as an alternative to quarantine. The Scottish SPCA supports the need for controlled entry to protect against the introduction of rabies to the UK, and welcomes any initiative which reduces the need for quarantine.
- 11.1.4. The Scottish SPCA does not encourage the taking of pet animals abroad to accompany their owners on short holidays, except in the case of assistance animals for disabled people.
- Travelling overseas with a pet places unnecessary stress on the animal as well as exposing it to potential novel diseases as other dangers.*

- 11.1.5. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to any trade in young companion animals which involves extended travel, with or without their mothers. For the purpose of this policy, this means puppies or kittens of less than eight weeks old.

*Commercial transport of companion animals, especially puppies being brought to Scotland for resale by dealers, has been shown to cause extremely poor welfare. While companion animals in commercial transit are protected by the same legislation as farm livestock, the Scottish SPCA believes that it is essential to monitor these transports rigorously and apply the law appropriately.*

## **12. Killing and Euthanasia of Companion Animals**

### **12.1. General Principles**

- 12.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the killing of any companion animal without rendering that animal insensible to pain and distress until death supervenes and recommends that euthanasia of owned animals should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or other certified competent person
- The Scottish SPCA considers that an owner has a responsibility to endeavour to provide a companion animal at the end of its natural life, or that is sick or injured, with a*

*humane death in as stress-free an environment as possible. However, euthanasia should not be used as a means of disposing of a healthy animal that is no longer wanted, except in the very last resort.*

### **12.2. Equines**

- 12.2.1. Where privately-owned equines require to be put down, the Scottish SPCA believes that wherever possible this should be done on site, to avoid the stress of transport.

*The Scottish SPCA believes responsible horse ownership must include comprehensive planning on how to dispose of a horse at the end of its life, and recommends that horse owners consider this issue carefully before taking on the responsibility of an equine. Horse owners, like all companion animal owners, should use Section 12.1.1 as a guide when considering disposal.*

### **12.3. Abandoned, stray or unwanted animals**

- 12.3.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the euthanasia of healthy animals but accepts that humane destruction may at times be necessary.

*The Society strives to ensure that no animal is humanely destroyed in any of its Animal Welfare Centres without veterinary or expert advice that such destruction would be in the animal's best interest or for reasons of public safety*

## D. WILD ANIMALS

### 13. General Principles

- 13.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the unnecessary taking or killing of wild animals, or the infliction of any suffering upon them.
- 13.2. The Scottish SPCA strongly urges that, under the law, all wild animals should be afforded protection from unnecessary cruelty.
- 13.3. Since the Scottish SPCA is concerned with the welfare of wild animals, it deplores changes to the environment which may jeopardise the welfare of wildlife living in the area.

Such changes include:

- a) *Interference with or the unnecessary destruction of habitats e.g. the removal of hedgerows and the destruction of wetland.*
- b) *Pollution of land, air or water by chemical substances, common waste products etc causing either direct suffering to wildlife or having a more indirect effect through damage to the environment itself.*
- 13.1. The Scottish SPCA will only treat and rehabilitate wildlife where there is a realistic probability of the animal being returned to, and thriving in, its natural habitat.

*Where a sick or injured animal cannot be rehabilitated, the*

*Scottish SPCA considers that euthanasia is justified to prevent extended stress and suffering. No-one should attempt euthanasia unless they have genuine reason to believe that they can humanely destroy the animal quickly and efficiently. The Scottish SPCA recognises that land managers consider it necessary to control certain species which may otherwise prey on farm livestock or game, or may consume or damage crops or other resources. Such control must always be carried out within the law, humanely and with acknowledgement that the target animal is an individual and capable of suffering.*

### 14. Transport and Movement of Wild Animals

- 14.1. No territorial animal should be moved from its home territory unless the relocation is carried out in compliance with International Union for Conservation (IUCN) guidelines.
- 14.2. Wild animals should never be transported unless for their own benefit, such as the translocation of badgers or other animals under strict welfare conditions or, for a sick or injured animal, to receive veterinary attention.

*Any person attempting to transport an animal for treatment should consider whether the*

*likely outcome of treatment will be of sufficient benefit to outweigh the cost in stress to the animal. In many cases this decision will depend on whether there is any humane, practical and legal way to reduce or end an animal's suffering.*

- 14.3. The Scottish SPCA is in principle opposed to the import of wild animals and to the import of products derived from wild animals.

*The trade in wild animals causes distress, suffering and death to large numbers of animals and is, in most instances, against all principles of conservation.*

*The risk of introducing diseases which are dangerous to human beings or other animals is increased considerably by importation.*

## **15. The Killing and Trapping of Wild Animals**

### **15.1. Snares and Traps**

- 15.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the manufacture and use of all snares and any trap which causes suffering, including leghold traps, pole traps and glue traps/ rodent boards.

*The Scottish SPCA welcomes the development in recent years of a range of humane traps that can be used to take large and small mammals*

*without injuring them. However, such traps must be inspected at intervals of 1-12 hours depending on the species and trap concerned and any animal found therein must be removed and either humanely despatched or set free.*

### **15.2. Poisoning**

- 15.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of poisons as a method to kill wild animals, which cause suffering, and is concerned about the widespread agricultural and commercial use of chemical substances which are potentially lethal to wild, farm and domestic animals.

- 15.2.2. In particular, the Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of strychnine as a method of controlling moles. One potential consequence is the inadvertent poisoning of protected species.

- 15.2.3. The use of hydrogen cyanide, while legal under the Control of Pesticides Regulations, is of concern to the Scottish SPCA, and the use of alternative methods is to be encouraged.

### **15.3. Culling**

- 15.3.1. The Scottish SPCA recognises that circumstances can arise in which populations of wild animals may need to be

controlled by culling. This should be a solution of last resort and should be periodically reviewed.

- 15.3.2. Any control measures must be humane and Scottish SPCA Inspectors should be allowed planned unrestricted access to the control area.

#### **15.4. Seafish**

- 15.4.1. The Scottish SPCA considers that the available means of killing seafish caught in nets – allowing them to die in air without any humane intervention – falls far short of the welfare requirement for any other species. The Society regrets that this anomaly will continue for as long as large numbers of fish continue to be taken by traditional methods: however, it calls upon fishermen to minimise the suffering of fish as much as possible.

#### **15.5. Lobsters, crabs and crayfish**

- 15.5.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to inhumane methods of killing lobsters, crabs and crayfish.

*Lobsters, crabs and crayfish all have unique nerve structures. The Scottish SPCA encourages research and development into new electronic stunning devices to address this concern.*

#### **15.6. Whaling**

- 15.6.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the hunting and killing of

whales, except where its purpose is the relief of suffering.

- 15.6.2. There is no method of killing hunted cetaceans without causing prolonged and unnecessary suffering.
- 15.6.3. It is occasionally necessary to relieve the suffering of a beached animal by humane destruction, but this should only be attempted by trained and experience personnel using the appropriate veterinary medicines and equipment.

#### **16. Management of wild deer**

- 16.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that any killing of wild deer, including culling for management purposes, must be carried out humanely and respect the instincts and behaviour of the animals.

*The Scottish SPCA believes that the Scottish deer herd is a valuable indigenous resource, particularly susceptible to unnecessary disturbance and stress, and deserving of protection.*

*Unavoidable stress created by deer management operations should never be allowed to escalate so that suffering ensues.*

*The Scottish SPCA acknowledges that there may be conservation and are welfare reasons for reducing the wild deer herd and accepts that, until science proves the efficacy of any non-*

*lethal alternative, this will have to be carried out by segregation or culling. Where the criteria for a cull is based on conservation purposes there should be clear, identifiable welfare benefits.*

*Consideration must always be given to the welfare of pregnant hinds or hinds with dependent young.*

*Fencing policies must contain contingency measures to ensure the welfare of deer is not compromised if the fence is herded in an attempt to access traditional feeding areas.*

*Best practice, which must be observed at any culling operation, should include: strict limits on the duration of shooting operations; the minimum possible use of vehicles in the vicinity of deer; an absolute moratorium on the use of helicopters or other vehicles to drive or hold deer; priority attention to despatching wounded animals. Where helicopters are used for other purposes i.e. camera counts, personnel movement or carcass extraction, the pilots must work to strict guidelines. The Society will endeavour to work with the industry, companies and helicopter pilots to develop such guidelines.*

*The use of helicopters must never be commercially driven, as may have previously been*

*the case in New Zealand, for the purpose of harvesting deer velvet for export – an activity that is banned in the UK.*

- 16.2. Any control measures must be humane and Scottish SPCA Inspectors should be allowed planned unrestricted access to the control area. Working with the industry the Scottish SPCA will supply a number of selected trained Inspectors to assist in the independent monitoring of a percentage of the annual cull.

## E. ANIMALS USED IN EXPERIMENTS

### 17. General Principles

- 17.1. The Scottish SPCA largely supports the current UK regulatory regime imposed by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, but believes that governments and the scientific community should aspire to eradicate the use of animals in experiments as soon as possible.
- 17.2. The Scottish SPCA urges companies to share peer reviewed data in order to reduce duplication of animal tests.

### 18. Pain and suffering in experiments

- 18.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to all experiments or procedures which cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.
- It is important that, as long as animals continue to be used in experiments, every effort is made to prevent suffering. Anaesthesia or other forms of analgesia are essential for the relief of pain, but cannot alone be considered satisfactory solutions to suffering. They do not, for example, address the problem of fear, hunger and other forms of distress.*
- The whole complex question of the prevention of pain, the relief of suffering and the minimising of distress must*

*be kept under constant review by those responsible for authorising, monitoring and carrying out experiments under United Kingdom legislation.*

### 19. Alternatives

- 19.1. The Scottish SPCA wishes to see an increased commitment on the part of governments and the scientific community towards developing and validating non-animal tests.
- 19.2. The Scottish SPCA wishes to see greater government commitment to research and evaluation of the efficacy of animal experiments, and the alternatives.

*For the time being, the Scottish SPCA acknowledges that animal testing is currently required before essential medicines can be made available to relieve suffering in humans and animals, and that techniques for replacing all animal testing have not yet been developed and validated. The Scottish SPCA welcomes the limited progress that has been made towards replacing animal testing, but urges UK and European governments to increase the pace of replacement.*

*The law states that living animals must not be used in experiments if there is a suitable alternative that can achieve the same aims;*

and the UK government has accepted that this applies even where regulators elsewhere take a different scientific view. However, where animal tests are done to satisfy existing regulatory requirements, it is extremely hard to gain acceptance for alternative methods. The Scottish SPCA believes that the development and validation of alternative tests should be streamlined, and that government, international bodies and industry should be more prepared to challenge the need for animal use.

## 20. The “Three Rs”

20.1. The Scottish SPCA supports the development of techniques that will result in the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal experiments.

*Examples of replacement techniques include cell, tissue and organ cultures; the use of human tissue and human volunteers; the use of epidemiological surveys in human medicine; the use of inanimate models; the use of film, video and interactive computer technology in teaching; and more extensive computer modelling.*

*Examples of techniques leading to reduction in the number*

*of animals used include the setting up of well-designed and comprehensive centralised data banks, accessible to everyone; adequate prior literature research together with and improved experimental design including appropriate statistical methods.*

*Examples of refinement include the use of analgesics and the abolition of the use of extreme adverse effects, including death, as end-points in toxicity and potency tests.*

## 21. Unnecessary experiments

21.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to animal experiments which involve unnecessary repetitions, are for scientifically trivial ends, or which involve techniques for which satisfactory humane alternatives have already been developed.

21.2. The Scottish SPCA is also opposed to the use of animals in the testing of inessential substances, such as cosmetics and toiletries, non-medical products such as garden chemicals, DIY products, pesticides, household products and food additives.

*The case for change is particularly urgent where testing is contemplated for non-essential substances, where experiments are duplicated (possibly due to a systemic*



*failure to share data) or where the aim of the experiment is scientifically trivial.*

## **22. EU Reach proposals**

22.1. The Scottish SPCA has serious concerns regarding the EU reach proposals which if enacted will result in thousands of chemicals and products being re-tested, this may result in countless animals being subjected to further animal research, much of which will already have been undertaken. The Scottish SPCA urges the authorities to allow validated previous research to counter the need to re-test to comply with the Reach proposals.

## **23. Care of animals in experimental establishments**

23.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that, as long as animals continue to be used in experiments, they must be accorded the best possible living conditions, including sufficient space, food and water, environmental enrichment and wherever possible, exercise and companionship.

23.2. The Scottish SPCA supports the provisions of the 1986 Act whereby one or more persons in a scientific procedures establishment must be nominated to have overall

responsibility for day-to-day care of the animals; and that a veterinary surgeon must be appointed to monitor the health and welfare status of the animals.

23.3. The importance of appropriate and rigorous training for prospective licensees and animal technicians cannot be over-emphasised. Such training should cover techniques and procedures, recognition and alleviation of pain and suffering (including analgesia, anaesthesia and euthanasia), knowledge of when to call in an outside vet, and ethical issues surrounding animal use; and should take place before a licence is granted.

*The Scottish SPCA is concerned that laboratory animals often live in confined and barren conditions, and strongly promotes environmental enrichment, including increased space allowances and an environment that will allow the expression of natural behaviour.*

## **24. Ethical review process**

24.1. The Scottish SPCA supports the setting up ethical review committees in industry, research establishments and universities, involving lay members and animal welfare representatives.

24.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that it is of vital importance that all new experimental and testing protocols should be the subject of extensive ethical review before licences are applied for.

**25. Breeding and supply of experimental animals**

25.1. The Scottish SPCA is strongly opposed to the import and export of laboratory animals, particularly non-human primates.

25.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of wild-caught animals of any species.

25.3. The Scottish SPCA encourages the appropriate re-homing of laboratory animals.

25.4. The Scottish SPCA believes that breeding and supplying establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 should be open as a matter of course to inspection by Scottish SPCA Inspectors.

## F. GENETIC ENGINEERING

### 26. Genetic engineering

- 26.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the manipulation of the genetic constitution of animals which may cause pain, suffering or distress.
- 26.2. There is a need for more detailed analysis of the welfare problems (including mortality rates and longevity) caused during the production of genetically modified animals.
- 26.3. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the patenting of transgenic animals, which is driven by commercial factors, and reduces the intrinsic value of the individual animal.
- 26.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer, which currently poses significant welfare risks to both parent and offspring.
- It is recognised that research into genetically modified organisms has become established and appears likely to increase, rather than decrease, in the foreseeable future. It is also a fact that genetically modified organisms have already been released both accidentally and deliberately into the environment.*
- The Scottish SPCA fully recognises the concern over scientific experiments and the*

*advent of genetically modified animals, and their use, however the Scottish SPCA has equal concern over exporting the issue to other countries. As such, the Society will continue to work with the Home Office Inspectorate to ensure that the conditions of the Animal(Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, are strictly adhered with.*

*There are undoubtedly some applications of the technology that could be of great benefit to humans and animals. However, there are serious animal welfare implications of research into and release of genetically modified organisms.*

*As a member of the Boyd Group on animal experimentation, the Scottish SPCA supports its view that directly modifying an animal's genetic material can produce unpredictable, wide-ranging effects, making the potential harms and benefits of such procedures uncertain. It is therefore especially important that the justification for the work is reassessed as it progresses. To assist in this, the welfare effects – good and bad – of genetic manipulations should be documented in as much detail as possible and efforts should be made to assess success rates in achieving desired phenotypes.*

- 26.5. The Scottish SPCA recognises that it is difficult, if not impossible, to apply adequate controls to research into genetically modified organisms and to monitor and control their release into the environment. Nevertheless, it considers that regulatory legislation must include the following proposals:
- i. All research projects must be submitted to a proper ethical evaluation before being permitted.*
  - ii. All research projects in which research into genetically modified organisms is being conducted must be constructed to ensure against accidental release.*
  - iii. Before any genetically modified organism is released into the environment, there must be an evaluation of the animal welfare implications of that release and, where there is the likelihood of an adverse effect, that release must be prohibited.*
  - iv. The circumstances under which genetically modified animals are released into the environment must be fully assessed so that the welfare of those animals can be ensured during their lifetime. This assessment must include the welfare of their offspring.*
  - v. All regulations concerning genetic engineering should be cross referenced to the regulations concerning animal experimentation and animal welfare.*
  - vi. Products resulting from genetic engineering techniques must be clearly identified.*
  - vii. Genetic engineering likely to produce animals especially prone to disease, injury or other suffering should be prohibited.*

## G. ANIMALS IN EDUCATION

### 27. Companion animals in schools

27.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the keeping of animals in schools, including nursery schools and playgroups, unless proper provision is made, as described below, for their physical and mental well-being.

*The Scottish SPCA recognises that the aims of keeping animals in schools are – or should be – to introduce children and young people to the wide variety of non-human animals in the world; to teach an understanding of animal care; and to foster empathy.*

*The Scottish SPCA believes that animal welfare can be taught in schools without the need to keep animals. Animal welfare should be taught in schools through encouraging the observation of animals in their natural environment.*

*The Scottish SPCA is aware that animals can be neglected or unduly stressed in the school environment, and sometimes both of these. Where animals are kept in schools, especially nursery schools and playgroups, it is essential to safeguard their welfare by ensuring that:*

*i. A nominated member of staff is responsible for the welfare and husbandry of the animals;*

- ii. A suitable environment is provided, including adequate space, environmental enrichment and, where appropriate, companionship;*
- iii. Provision is made for care of the animals in suitable surroundings at all times, including term time, weekends and holidays;*
- iv. Provision is made for veterinary care at all times;*
- v. Contact between pupils and animals is supervised and controlled;*
- vi. Pupils are not permitted to disturb the animals, for example by banging on cages;*
- vii. Animals are given adequate rest periods away from disturbance;*
- viii. Animals are protected from indiscriminate breeding.*

### 28. Dissection of animals in schools

28.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the dissection of dead vertebrate and invertebrate animals in schools. While the Scottish SPCA recognises that dissection of whole animals in Scottish schools has largely ceased, the Society considers that the practice can lead to desensitisation and a lessening of respect for life.

28.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that no pupil should be compelled to perform or watch animal dissection.

28.3. Animal experimentation should not be practised in schools, in any form. Simple observational and behavioural studies are, however, to be encouraged.

### **29. Animals in higher education**

29.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the unnecessary use of animals in any educational or training course which either causes suffering, or for which appropriate alternatives are available.

29.2. The Scottish SPCA acknowledges that in some subjects such as medicine or veterinary medicine, the dissection of animals may still be necessary. In such subjects, the use of animals should be restricted to the absolute minimum, and only practised where alternatives have not yet been found.

29.3. The Scottish SPCA supports those educational establishments which have a policy permitting students to opt out of animal practical work on conscientious grounds, without being penalised.

### **30. Education in zoos and aquaria**

30.1. The use of animals in zoos for educational purposes may be carried out appropriately,

provided the educators have sufficient knowledge of the species involved, observe best practice in exposing the animals to pupils, and sufficient respite is allowed between handling sessions.

30.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that all animal handling sessions in zoos and aquaria must be fully supervised at all times.

### **31. Visiting Animal Schemes**

31.1. The Scottish SPCA has reservations about travelling schemes which may require the frequent transportation of animals, improper housing, poor husbandry practices and the over-handling of animals.

*With fewer schools keeping animals there has been an increase in the number of visiting animal schemes offering their services to schools.*

## H. ANIMALS IN EXHIBITION, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT

### 32. General Principles

- 32.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the infliction of pain, unnecessary suffering or distress on any animal in the name of exhibition entertainment and sport.

*Exhibition, entertainment and sport may place animals in unnatural contexts where a degree of stress is imposed on them. They are activities not connected to long-term welfare or conservation aims, food production, necessary scientific research or companionship. Their principal purpose is to provide transitory enjoyment for humans, many of whom have a genuine interest in animals and their innate inabilities.*

*Some animal welfare problems are peripheral to the main activity, or occur when the activity is taken to extremes, misdirected, abused, or unregulated.*

### 33. Exhibition

#### 33.1. Animals in Captivity

- 33.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to any degree of confinement likely to cause distress or suffering.

*Animals in captivity must be kept in a way that is appropriate for the normal biological requirements of the species, in sufficient space and with the necessary shelter,*

*cover and environmental stimulus to prevent distress and suffering. Pet corners and animal encounter areas provided in establishments such as zoos, garden centres, pet stores and open farms must be strictly controlled and managed at all times to protect animals from stress or harm.*

- 33.1.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the presentation of animals in captivity that have been sourced from the wild.

*Although UK zoos tend to not to source animals from the wild, this practice regrettably still continues in zoos elsewhere and in travelling circuses.*

*The capture, transport and acclimatisation of animals may cause an unacceptable degree of distress and suffering. As there are already large numbers of animals in captivity, and more being bred, further importation from the wild should be prohibited, unless deemed absolutely necessary as part of a controlled captive breeding programme specifically for release back into the wild.*

### 34. Entertainment

#### 34.1. General Principles

- 34.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of animals for any

form of entertainment where distress or suffering is likely to be caused.

34.1.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the exhibition and presentation of animals in circuses and travelling menageries.

34.1.3. The Scottish SPCA considers that any use of animals in films, television programmes, advertisements, photographic shoots or the theatre must be accompanied by proper provisions to ensure that the animals are not caused any suffering or distress.

*The owners of all animals potentially to be used in any form of entertainment should be subject to a form of licensing or registration. It is essential that licensing or registration does not only include "set time" but includes training, home quarters, pre-set accommodation and methods of transport.*

*Any such legislation must ensure that activities which are essentially benign, and founded on the animals' natural behaviour, can continue, while others which are associated with prolonged confinement, stressful environments and frequent transportation should be prohibited. In order to*

*identify the areas for reform, it is fundamentally important to differentiate between a well-cared for individual animal, whose training is based on positive reinforcement and a relationship with its owner or trainer, and an animal that is forced to perform by the use of pain or fear.*

34.1.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to training methods based on fear or punishment which causes either physical or mental distress. The Society believes that training should instead be based on reward and positive association.

Any future legislation must also cover training for performance, as well as the actual acts.

### **34.2. Entertainments based on cruelty**

34.2.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to any entertainment that has no purpose other than the infliction of suffering or death on an animal.

*There is no legal entertainment in the UK that involves overt cruelty to animals, although illegal activities such as dog-fighting and badger-baiting still take place: such activities are deplored by the Scottish SPCA and combated by the work of the Inspectors.*



*Regrettably, however, there are a number of traditional sports and festivities in other countries that the Scottish SPCA campaigns against on the grounds of their cruelty. Examples of these are: bullfighting, including those forms which involve the killing of the bull, and those where it is tormented, but not ultimately killed; “fiestas populares” and carnivals, including bull-running, throwing darts at bulls, decapitation of geese, chicken and turkeys, and the killing of other small animals, and so on; bear-baiting with dogs; and other forms of baiting.*

*The Scottish SPCA has concerns about other forms of entertainment such as rodeos and round-up fiestas, and considers that at the very least, these are circumstances where fear, pain and suffering are likely to occur.*

## **35. Sport**

### **35.1. Horse racing, show jumping, eventing and dressage**

35.1.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to races where the placing of unreasonable or excessive demands on the horse leads to distress or injury.

35.1.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of drugs or treatments to alter the performance of any animal, or to enable it to compete.

35.1.3. In all forms of racing and equestrian sport, the Scottish SPCA is opposed to excessive use of the whip, which causes suffering.

35.1.4. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to competitions where the obstacles are unreasonably difficult.

35.1.5. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the use of training methods which cause distress or suffering.

35.1.6. The Scottish SPCA is concerned that, in certain classes of competitive horsemanship, where success brings considerable income and celebrity, horses may be overtaxed by the frequency of competition.

35.1.7. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the firing of horses for so-called therapeutic reasons.

35.1.8. The Scottish SPCA considers that Society Inspectors should be allowed access to all areas at such events.

### **35.2. Common Rides**

35.2.1. The Scottish SPCA has concerns about the organisation of “common rides”

and believes that procedures should be in place to ensure that horses are not caused distress or injury.

**35.3. Greyhound racing**

35.3.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to races where distress or injury occurs following the placing of unreasonable or excessive demands upon a greyhound.

35.3.2. The Scottish SPCA supports the aims and objectives of the Greyhound Charter, and is opposed to practices non-compliant with the Charter.

35.3.3. The Scottish SPCA would like to see a form of licensing introduced for unofficial or ‘flapping’ tracks. These tracks operate outside the jurisdiction of the National Greyhound Racing Club.

35.3.4. Where dogs are raced at licensed tracks, the Scottish SPCA wishes to see close adherence to the Charter for the Racing Greyhound, a code of practice jointly compiled by greyhound racing authorities and dog welfare groups, including the Scottish SPCA. Of particular importance within the charter are the requirements for:

- i) *permanent identification of greyhounds;*

- ii) *a nominated person to have charge of animal welfare at race tracks;*
- iii) *independent veterinary supervision of dogs, including inspection before racing and during training;*
- iv) *avoidance of over-breeding; and comprehensive provision for the welfare of retired greyhounds.*

35.3.5. All racing greyhound owners should ensure that the greyhound’s trainer complies with all aspects of the Greyhound Charter.

35.3.6. The Scottish SPCA considers that Society Inspectors should be allowed access to all areas at such events.

**35.4. Hunting with dogs**

35.4.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the hunting or baiting of animals with dogs.

*The term “hunting” in this context, means the deliberate chasing of one or more wild animals with one or more dogs, prior to allowing the dog or dogs to kill the quarry animal. It includes the illegal pursuits of hare-coursing, stag-hunting and fox-hunting. Even if the quarry escapes alive, the activity should still be regarded as hunting.*

*“Baiting” means the use of dogs to fight a wild animal that has been captured and has no realistic means of escape.*

### **35.5. Game shooting**

- 35.5.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the cruelty involved in shooting by those who lack the necessary expertise.
- 35.5.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that the issue of a firearms or shotgun certificate should be conditional upon the applicant passing a proficiency test and urges that such a system be established.
- 35.5.3. The Scottish SPCA supports the prohibition of lead shot when shooting over wetlands.
- 35.5.4. The Scottish SPCA considers that the recommendations of the Medway Report into UK shooting and angling practices are still valid. *In 1980, the Panel of Enquiry into Shooting and Angling, convened by Lord Medway, acknowledged that it was the aspiration of all shooters to kill their quarry instantaneously, while recognising that this purpose was not always achieved. The Scottish SPCA has long urged shooters to adopt a code of practice based on the recommendations of the Medway Report:*

*Shooters must be competent at estimating ranges, and aware of their own limitations and those of their equipment, having been subject to an assessment of their competence in handling the firearm and ammunition, and of their ability to fire accurately at an inanimate object;*

*Shooters must be able to recognise legitimate quarry and be fully conversant with protective legislation;*

*Shooters should always be accompanied by, or have immediate call upon, a trained dog to find and retrieve wounded game;*

*Shooters should ensure that they know how, and are suitably equipped, to despatch wounded game properly.*

*More recently, a range of detailed codes of good shooting practice has been produced by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), including a code on Respect for Quarry, which follows similar lines to the Medway Report. BASC stresses that a good shooter will have a sense of personal responsibility for the outcome of each shot he takes.*

*The Scottish SPCA recognises that for some people, the sport*

*of shooting is unacceptable. The Scottish SPCA has reviewed this issue and has concluded that there are only two aspects which are appropriate to comment on: the effect that the activity has on the animals (rather than the motivation or enjoyment of the practitioner); and the welfare of shot animals compared with other forms of slaughter. As the end-product of most shooting is food for human consumption, it is justifiable to argue that the instant killing of an animal at large in its own environment offers superior animal welfare to that of animals transported to an abattoir for slaughter.*

*There are, however, serious concerns over the welfare of pheasant chicks reared for the sporting market, and the Scottish SPCA wishes to see significant improvements in their conditions.*

- 35.5.5. The Scottish SPCA is also opposed to pinioning, brailing, debeaking and the use of spectacles or blinkers on game birds kept in rearing pens. *Pinioning involves the surgical removal of the tip of a wing to prevent flying permanently.*

*Brailing is the taping of the wing to render the bird temporarily flightless. Beak trimming involves surgically cutting back a piece of the upper beak to prevent feather-pecking and cannibalism.*

### **35.6. Other types of weapon**

- 35.6.1. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the shooting of animals or birds with bows of any kind.
- 35.6.2. The Scottish SPCA is opposed to the indiscriminate and illegal use of airguns.

*The Scottish SPCA deals with many animals that have been the target of malicious attacks with airguns or crossbows, often sustaining severe, but non-fatal wounds. The Scottish SPCA supports moves to increase regulation of airguns in particular, believing that these weapons should be subject to licensing or registration provisions.*

### **35.7. Angling**

- 35.7.1. The Scottish SPCA believes that fish are capable of suffering pain and distress and that anyone undertaking sport angling must possess the equipment and the expertise necessary to despatch the fish immediately.

35.7.2. The Scottish SPCA believes that current practices in angling may involve the infliction of pain and suffering on fish.

35.7.3. The Scottish SPCA commends to anglers the following words from the Medway Report, that “every angler should review his perception of the sport in the light of evidence presented on the perception of pain. Panel members believe that many anglers are concerned to promote the welfare of fish and will welcome advice on methods of lessening the likelihood of suffering among fish.”

35.7.4. The Scottish SPCA strongly urges anglers to adopt a code of practice based on the recommendations of the Medway Report:

*The use of double and treble hooks should be avoided, especially when the intention is to return the fish alive to the water.*

*Fish that have swallowed the hook, and those intended for food, must be killed humanely before any attempt is made to unhook them.*

*To assist in removing hooks, all anglers should possess suitable “disgorgers”, appropriate for the size and species of fish they are likely to catch.*

*With pike, the use of unsuitable “gags” to hold open the jaws to facilitate the safe removal of the hook may cause considerable damage to the mouth. Care should be taken therefore to use only gags of appropriate size, and without sharp points.*

*The use of barbless hooks is likely to cause less injury to the fish’s mouth and, being easier to remove, reduce the amount of handling required.*

*If keep-nets are used, fish should be confined for the shortest time possible, to reduce the risk of injury.*

*Great care should be taken when handling fish to minimise damage to the thin protective layer of skin and mucus covering the scales. Damage to this layer will decrease the ability of the fish to survive. A dry cloth should never be used to handle live fish.*

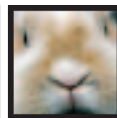
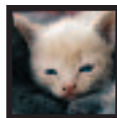
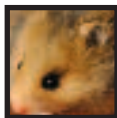
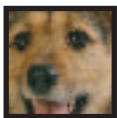
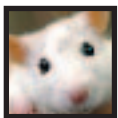
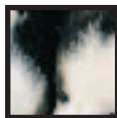
*Prolonged “playing” of fish, especially those destined to be returned to the water, and the use of ultra-fine tackle which necessitates such “playing”, should be avoided.*

*Vertebrate animals must never be used as live bait.*

*In view of the danger posed to wildlife and other animals*

*by discarded fishing tackle, anglers should take the greatest care to ensure that all litter is disposed of safely.*

- 35.7.5. The Scottish SPCA believes that licensing authorities should ensure that the issue of a fishing licence is accompanied by information relating to the welfare of fish.
- 35.7.6. Dissemination of information about the biology of fish and their relationship to other vertebrate animals would encourage a more responsible approach to their welfare.



SCOTTISH SPCA  
Living for the day when ANIMAL CRUELTY STOPS ■



**Scottish SPCA, Braehead Mains, 603 Queensferry Rd, Edinburgh EH4 6EA**  
**Telephone: 0131-339-0222, Fax: 0131-339-4777, E-Mail: [enquiries@scottishspca.org](mailto:enquiries@scottishspca.org)**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee No. SC201401, Scottish Charity No. SC 006467**

**[www.scottishspca.org](http://www.scottishspca.org)**