

**RSPCA Cattle Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting  
on Thursday 4th May 2017**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Proposed major amendments to the standards**

The group considered proposed major changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle for inclusion within the next revision of the standards, scheduled for January 2018. The proposals related to areas of the standards including provision of feed and water, access to pasture, lunging space and health.

**Proposed minor amendments to the standards**

Members considered proposed minor amendments to the RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle, including the training of heifers, cow tracks and slaughter standards.

**Calf standards amendments**

The group considered proposed changes to the specific provisions for calves, detailed within the RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle. The proposals included changes to standards relating to food provision, individual housing and slaughter. The RSPCA advised that transport times for calves would need to be considered further in light of new scientific evidence.

**Fully housed beef systems**

Fully housed beef systems were given brief consideration, as there had been a request to grow animals to 18 months in fully housed systems. At present, the only fully housed systems which were allowed are those systems which are utilising dairy bull calves and growing them to around 350 kg.