

**RSPCA Turkey Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Friday 15th June 2016**

Meeting Summary Notes

Lighting standards

The group discussed the current lighting standards, with particular reference to the light and dark period's including issues related to seasonal variation, lighting patterns during the brood period and the provision of natural light via new technologies. The lighting standards would be considered further.

Beak trimming and injurious feather pecking

Whilst the RSPCA would ultimately like to see a phase-out of beak trimming, it recognised the challenges and welfare issues associated with injurious pecking (IP). The group discussed IP, including the provision of pecking objects, the impact of differences in strains of turkeys and the draft infra-red beak trimming standards which Freedom Food is currently permitting under derogation. This would be considered further.

Environmental enrichment

The group discussed environmental enrichment, including the provision of natural cover on the range, straw bales and rope/pecking devices. The importance of providing suitable enrichment items was discussed, including the provision of a variety of different pecking objects and the rotation of these to prevent boredom. This would be considered further.

Stocking density for indoor reared turkeys

The RSPCA had previously investigated the space requirements for indoor reared turkeys at different liveweights. The current stocking density of 25kg/m² is considered prohibitive to the uptake of the standards for commercial indoor production. If the development of stocking densities for indoor reared turkeys could encourage uptake of year round production to RSPCA welfare standards, then the RSPCA would like to undertake further work on this issue.

Alternative killing methods: CO₂ and LAPS

The RSPCA is aware of alternative killing methods for poultry, including CO₂ only gas killing which is not currently permitted in the standards. Anyone considering installing systems not currently covered by the standards should contact the RSPCA Farm Animals Department first.

Welfare outcome assessment (WOA)

The RSPCA would like to develop WOA for turkeys in the future.