

**Interim RSPCA Dairy Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting  
29th July 2024**

**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Review of previous action points**

The group discussed the action points from the previous meeting. Key topics include: virtual fencing, encouraging more abattoirs and hauliers to join RSPCA Assured, and procedures for assisting downer cows.

**Proposed amendments**

a) Food and water

The Group discussed water quality testing and the auditability of this standard.

b) Environment

Environment enrichment, bedding and comfort were discussed, and the value of outcome based measures were highlighted. The importance of notifying RSPCA Assured of any alterations to farm buildings or systems was also raised.

**Pasture standards**

Requirements around access to pasture were discussed, including the required number of days and overcoming challenges that some farms may face. Grass quality and weather conditions were raised as key factors, with interest in a calculation tool for ensuring cows get the required amount of pasture access.

**Discussion points**

The Group discussed the potential for breeding to be included in the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan. Calf feeding and health was also a notable topic, with the practicalities of weighing calves and other outcome based measures of welfare being key discussion points.

Automated systems for lameness and body condition were highlighted, with particular interest in technologies that aim to improve welfare.