

## **Pig Standards Technical Advisory Group Meeting Summary Notes**

### **10:00 am Wednesday 2nd October 2024**

#### **Action points from the last meeting**

Action points from the last meeting included topics such as space allowances, provision of pain relief, mortality thresholds and water quality testing.

#### **Split sexing**

The group discussed the benefits and practicalities of split-sexing, including age bands and the need for clear guidance for members.

#### **Space allowance**

Space allowances in relation to scrape-through/partly slatted systems and the benefits of additional space for pigs were discussed, including topics such as tail biting and hygiene. The RSPCA emphasised the need for additional information on current practices through a survey to members.

#### **Slaughter and transport**

The incoming requirement for the use of RSPCA Assured slaughterhouses and hauliers for sows and boars was discussed. Additional topics, including the use of carbon dioxide gas and the duration of storage of slaughterhouse CCTV footage, were discussed. The group explored the topic of transporting piglets.

#### **RSPCA standards**

The RSPCA is also conducting a review of all the RSPCA welfare standards, with the aim of reducing ambiguity and increasing consistency across species, where appropriate. The group discussed the clarity of information boxes within the RSPCA welfare standards, and suggestions for improvements were noted.

#### **RSPCA Assured**

On-farm assessments were discussed, including proposals for improving the ease of audits, reviews and member support. The independent review (Crowe review) of RSPCA Assured farms was also highlighted, which concluded that the scheme is operating effectively; recommendations from the review are being addressed.