# Minutes of the Twenty Second Meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

**Venue:** Wellington Room, Merrion Hotel, Dublin.

Date: 5th October 2006.

Present: P Fottrell (Chairman), K Kinsella (IFA), B Bent (WSPCA), M A Bartlett (CIWF), M Blake (DAF), S O’Laoide (Vet. Ireland), T O’Donnell (DAF), J Terrington (DARDNI), T Doyle (ICOS), A McCarthy (ISPCA), J Bryan (IFA), R Kennedy (IFA).

**Apologies:** C Connor, (DARDNI) represented by J Terrington, D Sparrow (Vet. Ireland),

B Earley (TEAGASC), A Hanlon (UCD), L McCabe (ICMSA), S Foley (CILDEHS). **Secretary:** T O’Halloran.

Chairman welcomed all members.

1. **MINUTES**

Minutes adopted with five amendments.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

***Electro-Immobilisation (EI)***

It was agreed to request access to EI Report via FAWAC webpage from Chairman of Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare.

It was also agreed that that enquires would be made re. further response from Minister for Agriculture and Food to letter issued in July from Council.

***Halal Slaughter***

CIWF expressed the view that ‘Halal’ meat should be identified with a specific label.

***Broiler Welfare Directive***

DAF briefed Council on current developments. Following discussion, it was agreed to invite a speaker to address Council on perceived link between economics and welfare and how the value of stock can impact on the type of welfare standards applied.

***Programme for 2007***

It was agreed that Avian Flu and Pink Veal items be included in the 2007 programme.

1. **REPORT FROM EUROPEAN FORUM OF FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCILS (Euro-FAWCS)**

S O’Laoide attended this forum on behalf of Council on the 18th and 19th of September in Berlin, Germany. He provided a brief report of events to Council. Minutes to be made available to Council when agreed. It is proposed that Euro-FAWCS meet again in Sweden on 8th and 9th May 2007. Ireland has been asked to present a paper on our methodologies at the next meeting. It was agreed that S O’Laoide would attend on behalf of Council.

1. **FARM ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION GUIDELINES**

Chair of this subgroup reported that a meeting is scheduled for next week to prepare a ‘Best Practice for Transport of Animals’.

1. **WORKING GROUP ON CO-OPERATION (EWS)**

Chair of this subgroup reported that four regional meetings are arranged for mid-November and it is also proposed that the Steering Group meet too. Steering Group met with representatives from An Garda Síochána, Local Authority Veterinary Representatives and Veterinary Ireland. It is felt that the Garda Síochána may have a bigger role to play and the response from them has been very positive to date. EWS will continue to engage with them.

There is a view that the possibility of short supply of fodder may cause welfare problems, however this may be alleviated by the positive cattle trade at present, However it is noted that social problems associated with welfare cases would not be alleviated by extra fodder.

1. **TRANSPORT**

DAF briefed Council on current developments as regards the animal transport Regulation coming into force on 1st January 2007. CIWF sought clarification on recognition of experience of farmers and it was agreed that DAF and CIWF would engage directly on the matter. ISPCA noted that registration of transporters of horses is exempted for the regulation with regard to satellite tracking.

1. **FUR FARMING (SLAUGHTER OF MINK AND FOXES)**

Secretary had circulated a paper outlining position of Scandinavian fur industry. CIWF presented a discussion paper which was debated by Council. It was agreed that Chairman would draft a letter for issue to the Minister for Agriculture and Food outlining Councils concerns. Letter to be circulated to Irish Fur Breeder’s Association, to afford them the opportunity to submit their views on the concerns raised.

1. **EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER – AVIAN FLU**

Council received a video presentation and report from DAF on the ‘Real-Time Exercise in the “Whole House” Carbon Dioxide Gassing Technique for the Humane Killing of Poultry in a Disease Emergency’. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Presentation circulated to all members.

1. **2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

It was agreed that Council representatives would consult with their colleagues regarding permission to publish their pictures and names in the report and that publication could go ahead if no objections had been lodged one week from date of this meeting.

**10. AOB**

Welfare & Economics

It was agreed that Secretary would liaise with IFA with regard to identifying someone to address Council.

DARD NI Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to Animal Welfare Legislation in Northern Ireland

It was agreed that Chair of Education sub-group would invite N. Ireland representative, Mr J Terrington to address the group. It was also agreed that the consultation document be circulated in advance to the group who would then submit a view.

ISPCA enquired if the proposed legislation takes account of Exotic/Dangerous Wild Animals? Welfare of Horses

ISPCA expressed concern about the welfare of horses. With regard to micro-chipping as a means of identification, concern was expressed that when the owner listed to the chip was contacted, they would pass off responsibility for the animal by stating that they had sold it on. There is a need for the horse industry to take responsibility for thoroughbred horses that are being found abandoned in woods. Animal welfare organisations are left to rescue these animals at their own expense. It was felt that Council may need to write to the Minsiter for Agriculture and Food again to remind her of Councils concerns and/or write to or invite representatives of the thoroughbred horse industry to address Council.

Programme for 2007

It was agreed that Council would review suggested programme.

**Next meeting 14th December 2006.**