

The response reproduced below was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the ethics of research involving animals during October-December 2003. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

The Humane Slaughter Association, UK

The Ethics of Animal Experimentation

We are grateful to Professor Hepple for his letter of 2nd October seeking views on this subject. The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) is concerned with the welfare of livestock animals during marketing and transport, and at slaughter. Research, in the UK and elsewhere, aimed at developing humane methods of transport and slaughter has resulted in significant advances. For example, in the development of modern methods of slaughter that are instantaneous or non-aversive and far more reliable than some of the methods used in the past. This has been to the welfare benefit of very large numbers of animals.

The HSA works closely and shares premises with the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (on behalf of which, as Chief Executive of both charities, I have replied in a separate email). The HSA shares UFAW's commitment to promotion of the 3Rs in research in these areas.

Yours sincerely

HSA