



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DESK-BASED RESEARCH CALL

Delayed Euthanasia in Livestock

Background:

As knowledge of disease processes increases and clinical records are available for scrutiny through the use of large databases, it becomes easier to provide owners with realistic prognoses. As such, when treating patients suffering from conditions with inevitable terminal outcomes, options for euthanasia may be considered at an earlier stage. Decisions between euthanasia and long-term capacity have a significant bearing on the animal's quality of life, with the aspiration for all decisions to pass elements of the "life worth living" test in line with the concepts outlined by AWC (formally FAWC) when considering livestock.

The project:

A rapid scoping study to explore the possibility of using existing databases and networks to help livestock farmers and their veterinary surgeons to make decisions about potentially terminally ill livestock in a more timely way so as to minimise the interval between first diagnosis and eventual slaughter.

Outputs/Outcomes:

Amongst information we anticipate the project would generate, AWF would wish to be provided with details of where relevant databases reside that have information about case definitions, clinical findings and outcomes in terminally ill production animal species, slaughter dates in relation to described defined conditions, likely value of data from national data sources (e.g. BCMS, national disease surveillance records), likely numbers of animals involved, common reasons for on-farm or emergency slaughter, possible difficulties as a result of SARS-Covid19 and any other production animal industry constraints, and possible mitigating measures.