

LIVESTOCK MARKETS 200 YEARS ON

**A report by the
Humane Slaughter Association
following a survey of 24 livestock markets
in England and Wales
carried out between February 2017 and July 2018**

C W Mason and S E Richmond

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Humane Slaughter Association

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts
AL4 8AN UK

t: +44(0) 1582 831919 w: www.hsa.org.uk

e: info@hsa.org.uk

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1. Introduction

The first purpose-built livestock marketing facility in Great Britain opened in Hawick in 1817. The year 2017 was, therefore, the two-hundredth anniversary of this significant date in the British meat and livestock industry. To mark this anniversary, the Livestock Auctioneers' Association (LAA) commissioned the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) to carry out a survey of a representative sample of livestock markets in England and Wales.

The primary purpose of the survey was to provide a 'snapshot' of animal welfare at UK livestock markets in the 21st century. It will also be a very useful reference for anyone involved in the planning and development of future facilities and for anyone involved in drafting new, or revising existing, animal welfare legislation.

The HSA has been involved in assessing livestock markets for many years and it was instrumental in bringing about the construction of permanent livestock marketing facilities in many provincial towns across the UK, following an extensive survey carried out in the 1920s. The current Technical Director comes from a livestock marketing background and has carried out assessments of facilities on behalf of the HSA for the last 30 years.

In addition to the assessments carried out by the HSA in recent years, the RSPCA, through its inspectorate, carried out surveys in 1997 and 2005. These comprised a basic questionnaire, as used by the HSA, and the inspectorate – full-time Inspectors and part-time Special Market Inspectors (SMIs) – carried out the surveys during a given week in the chosen years. By 2017 there were very few, if any, SMIs operating in England and Wales. Similarly, only a small number of full-time RSPCA Inspectors now regularly visit livestock markets. Consequently, the RSPCA input into the 2017 survey was limited to some initial consultations on the updating of the management questionnaire and data sheets.

Between 2005 and 2007 the HSA carried out a Defra-funded survey of 24 livestock markets in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the welfare of cattle and sheep passing through livestock markets, with a view to identifying stress events and producing a draft protocol for best practice when handling cattle and sheep in livestock markets. The results of that survey are in the public domain and can be found using the following link: <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=13761#RelatedDocuments>. The management questionnaire and facilities-assessment data sheets from this survey were used as the basis for the 2017 survey.

2. Materials and Methods

Market Selection

Twenty-four markets across England and Wales were selected for inclusion in the project, representing approximately 20% of the total. Markets in Northern Ireland and Scotland were not included, simply because the LAA only represents operators of markets in England and Wales and it commissioned this report. The data collection period spanned one year and four months: the first visit took place on the 28th February 2017 and the last on the 2nd of July 2018.

It was important to ensure the markets selected were representative of markets in England and Wales, therefore there were four criteria to consider when selecting markets: species and class of animals handled, annual throughput, location and market age.

Criterion 1: Species and Class of Animals Handled

In England and Wales the most commonly marketed livestock are adult cattle, sheep, calves and pigs. The species and classes of animals included in this project can be found in Table 2.1 below. Facilities for goats or birds were not included in this project.

Table 2.1 Species and classes of animals included in this project.

Species and class	Definition
Adult cattle	Cattle over the age of six months. Includes bulls, fat and store beef and dairy animals. This also includes calves when at foot with dam.
Sheep	All sheep including breeding stock, prime lambs and lambs at foot.
Calves	Calves aged less than six months, without dam. As defined in <i>The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 – (WAMO)</i>
Pigs	All pigs including breeding stock, fat, growers and weaners.

Facilities for the species listed in Table 2.1 were only assessed when the relevant animals were present, e.g. if the market handled adult cattle, sheep and calves, but there were no calves present on the day of the data collection, only the adult cattle and sheep facilities were assessed. Pigs were only present at two markets during visits, thus data were collected on pig facilities twice, which is not sufficient for statistical analysis. Therefore, although pigs were included in the project, findings related to them are not included in this report.

Criterion 2: Throughput

During the selection process, markets across England and Wales were categorised into three groups: high, medium and low-throughput. This categorisation was based upon their throughput (heads of each species sold) in the 2016 calendar year. The thresholds for high, medium and low-throughput for each species and class were selected in consultation with the LAA.

The throughput categories for adult cattle, sheep and calves and the number of markets included in the project are shown below in Table 2.2. In some cases markets were classed as high-throughput across the board, i.e. high-throughput for adult cattle, sheep and calves, whereas others were considered high-throughput for one species or class, e.g. adult cattle, but low-throughput for another class such as sheep.

Criterion 3: Location

To ensure the markets selected for this project were representative of markets in England and Wales, a geographical spread was necessary. The locations of markets in this project can be seen in Figure 2.1



Figure 2.1 Locations of markets selected for inclusion in this project.

Map obtained from www.zeemaps.com



Table 2.2 Species and classes of animals, and number of markets in each throughput category.

Species / Class	Adult cattle			Sheep			Calves		
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low
Throughput category threshold (heads/year)	>12,000	< 12,000 to >5,000	< 5,000	> 100,00	< 100,000 to >50,000	< 50,000	> 6,000	< 6,000 to >1,000	< 1,000
Number of markets included in project by throughput category	9	9	4	11	4	7	2	3	5
Number of markets included in project by species/class	22			22			10		

Criterion 4: Market age

The final criterion, market age, was an important consideration during the market selection process. Some markets are very old (almost 200 years of age) and many of these retain the back-bones of their original designs with some later additions. Since their creation, much has changed with regard to animal handling techniques, transportation and our understanding of animal welfare. In some cases, the animals themselves have changed, as smaller British cattle breeds have been replaced with larger European breeds which may differ in temperament and behaviour.

The locations of markets have also changed over the years. Older markets tend to be located in town centres, often near to railway facilities, a reminder of how the animals used to be transported. It is common for older livestock markets to be bought for redevelopment, e.g. supermarkets or housing. The modern facilities are often built away from the town centre, on the outskirts of the town or within industrial estates.

When selecting markets for inclusion in this project it was important to include a cross-section of markets in England and Wales operating in 2017. The facilities selected for inclusion in this project ranged in year-of-origin from the 1800s to 2017.

Market Participation

When a list of suitable markets had been drawn up, each potential market was contacted by the LAA and the HSA by letter. A small number of the original markets contacted did not participate for various reasons, such as changes to sale dates, or imminent closure and/or redevelopment. When new markets were selected to replace them in the project, care was given to maintaining consistency in terms of throughput, geographical spread and market age. The markets which took part in this project will also receive a detailed account of their own facilities. The data and results provided in this report are anonymised.

Data Collection and analysis

Survey Design

As for any research project, it was vital that the data obtained were valid (providing relevant insight in to markets in 2017) and the data collection methods feasible.

A two-part survey was devised. Part A was a questionnaire for the market manager and Part B was a visual observation of the livestock facilities. The layout of this two-part survey was based on the previous (2005–2007) research project, referred to in the introduction of this report, with modifications to ensure the questionnaire was relevant to markets in 2017.

The questions in Part A focussed on staff training and management policies relating to animal welfare, standard operating procedure (SOP) protocols and animal handling practices. The questions were phrased to provide binary 'yes/no' answers with a separate comment section to allow for further clarifications, if necessary. Figure 2.2 shows the data sheet used for Part A. This part of the survey was designed to be a face-to-face interview between HSA staff and the market management. The questionnaire was created to be relatively short so it could be completed with minimal disruption to market staff while providing sufficient information for analysis.

Part B of the data collection protocol was an assessment of the livestock facilities, conducted by HSA staff. Animal handling facilities were grouped in to 12 zones: vehicle reception area, unloading docks/bays, holding pens, weighing/grading/ID stations, gangways, penning, isolation pens, sorting/drafting races, sale rings, milking facilities and field lairages when present. Each zone had between six to 13 features which were assessed independently. An additional section 'protection from weather', focussed on the situation of the market and whether the animals were protected from climatic factors. Figure 2.3 shows the data collection sheet for Part B.

The features on which the markets were scored were considered to be desired by the HSA as they provide benefits to animal welfare and/or human safety. Their presence or absence was noted using a binary system (present/absent). Some features (e.g. the floor), had two or three criteria (e.g. well-maintained, drained and non-slip), and therefore it was possible for these to receive a point for each feature present (trinary or quaternary scoring system). On the data entry sheet the number of points available for these features are noted in brackets.

Data Preparation and Analysis

Data were collected using the paper sheets shown in Figures 2.2 and 2.3. The raw data for each market was typed up and entered in to Microsoft Excel 2010. To answer the questions of interest, when applicable, the data were analysed using tests for analysis using Minitab V18 (Minitab Ltd, UK).

To investigate the relationship of facility scores and market age (both continuous variables), a Pearson correlation was performed. When analysing grouped data, an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used. If these findings proved to be statistically significant, the ANOVA was followed by a post-hoc Tukey Test.

MANAGEMENT INTERVIEW DATA-SHEET

Market code:

Date:

HSA staff:

Built/opened:

Interviewee:

Throughput category:

Species/type present on day:

Additional species:

QUESTION	YES	NO	DETAILS
Does the market have a written animal welfare policy?			
Are all staff aware of it and do they understand it?			
Are there named AHWOs?			
Are they clearly identifiable?			
Are all drovers identifiable?			
Is there a formal staff training programme in place?			
Are details of Animal Health Offices prominently displayed?			
Are LAA/HSA posters used in the market?			
Are there written procedures for dealing with escaped animals?			
Are there written procedures for dealing with sick and/or injured animals?			
Are there written procedures for dealing with fractious or distressed animals?			
Are there written procedures for dealing with lactating dairy stock?			
Are appropriate handling aids used? *			
Is there a policy on public access?			
Is there a policy on dogs in the market?			
Are animals ever held overnight?			
Is potable water freely-available in pens?			
Is there regular veterinary attendance?			
Is there local authority AHO attendance?			
Do you have CCTV or webcams anywhere in the animal areas?			
Overall rating			

Figure 2.2 Part A data collection sheet for the market management interviews.

FACILITY-RATING DATA-SHEET

Market code:

Species/class:

Date:

HSA Staff:

Weather:

FACILITY	CRITERIA	
Vehicle reception area	Large enough to accommodate waiting vehicles Readily accessible to all types of vehicle Protected from inclement weather Escape-proof if protocol followed correctly Level, well-maintained surface (2)	
Unloading/loading docks/bays	Suitable for all types of vehicle Protected from inclement weather Escape-proof if protocol followed correctly Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors (3) Suitable for animals passing through Level loading and unloading	
Unloading/loading pens	Appropriate height for species Free access to water Variable capacity (can alter size) Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors (3) No bruising or contact points Suitable for animals being held Protected from escape (s)/jumping injuries (c) (1)	
ID/grading	Appropriate height for species Appropriate width for species Drafting gates Safely accessible to market personnel No bruising or contact points Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor (3) No shadows or contrasts to cause baulking	
Gangways	Appropriate height for species Appropriate width for species Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors (3) No bruising or contact points No right-angled bends or dead ends No shadows or contrasts to cause baulking Steady, uninterrupted flow of stock	
Gateways	Wide enough for species Well-lit, do not amount to 'dead-ends' Protection from jumping injuries No bruising or contact points Hinges and latches well-maintained Baffled to reduce noise No shadows or contrasts to cause baulking	

General pens	<p>Appropriate height for species</p> <p>Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors (3)</p> <p>Variable capacity (can alter size)</p> <p>Interlocking, double entry/exit gates</p> <p>No bruising or contact points</p> <p>Protected from escape (s)/jumping injuries (c) (1)</p> <p>Suitable for animals being held</p> <p>Free access to water</p> <p>Stocking densities displayed</p> <p>Covered/protected from elements</p>	
Isolation pens	<p>Clearly Marked</p> <p>Located close to unloading area</p> <p>Totally enclosed pen (solid walls and gates)</p> <p>Isolated drainage facilities</p> <p>Are animals easily observed (e.g. hatch)</p> <p>Ready for immediate use</p> <p>Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor (3)</p> <p>Dry bedding available</p> <p>Free access to water</p> <p>Dedicated exit for carcasses</p>	
Sorting/drafting race	<p>Appropriate height for species</p> <p>Appropriate width for species</p> <p>Drafting gates</p> <p>Gates baffled to reduce noise</p> <p>No bruising or contact points</p> <p>Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor (3)</p> <p>No shadows or contrasts to cause baulking</p>	
Sale-ring	<p>Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor (3)</p> <p>Non-slip material on floor</p> <p>Suitable height to prevent attempts at escape</p> <p>Inward curving top rail</p> <p>Good movement around the ring</p> <p>Clearly visible (to animal) exit gate</p> <p>Gates baffled to reduce noise</p>	
Protection from weather	<p>Fully enclosed and covered market</p> <p>Sited against the prevailing wind</p> <p>Forced ventilation systems</p>	
Field lairages (W/A)	<p>Shelter belts</p> <p>Availability of water</p> <p>Appropriate, well-maintained fencing</p>	
Milking facilities (W/A)	<p>Appropriate for species and numbers</p>	
Overall facility rating		

Figure 2.3 Part B data collection sheet for the facilities assessment.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Project

The study had six aims:

- 1) To evaluate the animal welfare provisions currently established at English and Welsh livestock markets. This includes resources available to the animals (e.g. clean and appropriately placed drinkers) and management practices (e.g. implementation of a specific animal welfare policy and standard operating procedures).
- 2) To identify specific features which may have particularly positive or negative impacts upon the welfare of the animals in the markets.
- 3) To compare these findings with those from the 2005–2007 study to assess whether any progress has been made in order to improve the welfare of the animals going through markets in England and Wales.
 - a) In the final report of the 2005–2007 study, specific recommendations were listed e.g. selling in sheep holding pens instead of a sale-ring. However, we were unaware if they had been taken on board by the industry.
- 4) To build upon the data collected during the 2005–2007 study and create a longitudinal database which could be added to in future to track trends and developments in livestock markets in the UK.
- 5) To identify particular areas of concern that could become the focus of a research project in the future.
- 6) To disseminate the information obtained in order to improve the welfare of animals in markets in the future.

Specifically, **four questions** were asked of the data:

- 1) What is the current state of play for markets in England and Wales in 2017?
- 2) What has changed since the previous study in 2005–2007?
- 3) Are there relationships between market results and
 - a) market age?
 - b) market throughput?
- 4) Do some species/classes of animals generally have access to better facilities than others?
 - a) What percentage of markets have desired features?
 - b) How many desired features are available in a typical market?

4. Results

4.1 What is the current state of play for markets in England and Wales in 2017?

The markets visited during the study were specifically selected to be representative of those in England in Wales in terms of the species handled, location, throughput and age. From this it was possible to obtain a 'snapshot' of livestock market facilities in 2017.

One hundred percent of markets were members of the Red Tractor Assurance for Livestock Markets and Collection Centres Scheme.

When taking into account the journeys of all animals passing through the markets, the average market catchment area was found to be 70.5 miles. However, the majority of journeys were shorter local journeys.

The oldest markets visited during this study dated from the 1800s. Those markets have had renovations of varying degrees, but some of the infrastructure of the original markets is still standing e.g. penning, sale-rings and boundaries. The newest markets in this study were built in the 21st century – the most recent opened in 2017.

Tables 4.1.1 and 4.2.1 show the results from the market management questionnaire. CCTV was found to be present in animal areas in 50% of the markets (Table 4.1.1). The reasons for installing CCTV systems varied. The reasons given were to improve animal welfare and handling, to deter theft and improve general security while a small number used it to broadcast sale footage. Even if it was not their initial concern, all market managers interviewed in the study noted the possibility of using CCTV to improve animal welfare.

In 2013 the LAA and HSA created a seven part poster series, *Recommendations for Handling Animals in Markets*. One of the questions in the market management questionnaire related to the use of these in the markets. Twenty-five percent of markets used these posters within their market, either on display around the market or in staff training (see Table 4.1.1). Laminated sets of these posters were provided to participating markets at the time of the visit to encourage their use. These posters can be downloaded free of charge from the HSA website <https://www.hsa.org.uk/publications/technical-information-posters>.

Written procedures for dealing with escaped animals, sick and/or injured, fractious or distressed animals and lactating dairy stock were found in the majority of markets (Table 4.1.1). All markets used handling aids which are considered to be acceptable to the HSA, as described in Table 4.1.2.

As shown in Table 4.1.1, 75% of markets had policies on public access, most commonly prohibiting access to animal facilities during sale times to protect human and animal safety. Eighty-seven point five percent of markets reported holding animals overnight if necessary; however, this was a rare occurrence for many. If drinkers were not usually available to animals in the market, they could be provided for overnight stays using portable receptacles. Ninety-one point six seven percent of markets reported having frequent attendance by the local Animal Health Office, most commonly Trading Standards. Only 45.83% of markets reported having regular veterinary attendance, but all had arrangements with veterinary practices which they could contact in the case of an emergency.

Table 4.1.1 Results from Part A, market management questionnaire.

Question	% of Markets answered Yes
LAA/HSA posters used in the market	25.00
Written procedures for dealing with escaped animals	95.83
Written procedures for dealing with sick and/or injured animals	95.83
Written procedures for dealing with fractious or distressed animals	83.33
Written procedures for dealing with lactating dairy stock (where applicable)	61.53
Appropriate handling aids used	100.00
Policy on public access	75.00
Animals held overnight	87.50
Potable water freely available in any pens	70.83
Regular veterinary attendance	45.83
Local authority AHO attendance	91.67
CCTV or webcams in animal areas	50.00

Table 4.1.2 Handling aids considered appropriate by the HSA for adult cattle, sheep and pigs.

Species	Handling aids
Adult cattle	Sticks, rattles, plastic bags, occasional use of electric goads adhering to legislation
Sheep	Sticks, plastic bags and rattles
Pigs	Sticks, rattled, plastic bags, pig boards, occasional use of electric goads adhering to legislation

4.2 What has changed since the previous study in 2005-2007?

Part A

In the previous report, lambs were categorised as fat or store; however in this report sheep facilities were assessed as a singular group. A specific recommendation made in the previous report stated that in order to reduce stress and injury for the animals, sheep should be sold in their pens rather than a ring. In the previous study, 17 of the 24 markets sold fat lambs in their pens (70.83%), with the remaining seven (29.15%) selling through a sale-ring. Of the 12 markets that sold store lambs, eight sold the animals in their pens (66.66%) and four (33.33%) in a ring

In the current study 22 markets sold sheep, of these 16 (72.72%) sold sheep in their pens and six (27.28%) sold sheep in the ring. This shows a slight increase in markets selling sheep in pens rather than in a sale ring. As noted in the reports from previous study, the sale of sheep through a sale-ring occurs much more frequently in the north of England than the south and Wales. Figure 4.2.1 shows the distribution of markets selling sheep in their pens or in the ring.

There have been improvements in some aspects of market management since the previous study as shown in Table 4.2.1. In both studies it was found that 100% of markets employed Animal Health and Welfare Officers (AHWOs), but in the current project they were found to be more clearly identifiable, e.g. wearing a different coloured smock from the rest of the handlers. Formal training of stock handlers has increased in 2007 as has their identifiability (e.g. smocks, jumpers etc).

However, some aspects have shown a reduction, e.g. the display of animal health office details and policies on dogs in the stock area (see Table 4.2.1). Many local authority and APHA animal health offices have closed since the 2005/06 survey, so contact details are often not available. The decline of policies of no dogs in stock areas may be due to changes in handling methods and markets may no longer consider such a policy necessary. In the current study, only one market reported drivers from a haulage company using a dog to load or unload its wagons.



Figure 4.2.1 Markets included in the study selling sheep in sale-rings (blue) and pens (yellow).

Map obtained from www.zeemaps.com

Table 4.2.1 Market management features results for present and previous studies.

Market Management Feature	Results 2007 Study (% Yes)	Results Current Study (% Yes)
Named AHWO	100	100
AHWO clearly identifiable	70	83
Formal training for stock handlers	83	86
Stock handlers clearly identifiable	75	92
Animal Health Office details displayed	92	83
Written policy on dogs in stock areas	67	50
Animal welfare policy supporting documents	83	100
Stand-alone animal welfare policy document	N/A	21

Part B

Data and results on calf-handling facilities were not reported in the previous 2007 study, therefore only findings relating to the features available to adult cattle and sheep are reported in this section. Table 4. shows the percentage of markets with

each feature available to adult cattle and sheep in both studies; differences of greater than 15% are highlighted in yellow.

Table 4.2.2 Features available to adult cattle and sheep in previous and current projects.

— indicates data from 2005-2007 project not available.

Facility	Feature	% Yes Adult Cattle 2007	% Yes Adult Cattle 2017	% Yes Sheep 2007	% Yes Sheep 2017
Vehicle reception area	Large enough to accommodate waiting vehicles	72	96	92	88
	Readily accessible to all types of vehicle	94	96	92	92
	Protected from inclement weather	5	4	4	4
	Escape proof	78	96	67	88
	Level, well-maintained surface	83	96	87	92
Unloading/loading bays	Suitable for all types of vehicle	100	100	92	92
	Protected from inclement weather	33	35	33	46
	Escape-proof if used properly	100	100	92	92
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors	89	100	87	83
	Level loading and unloading	72	82.6	75	58
	Suitable for animals held	—	74	—	79.1
Unloading/loading pens	Appropriate height for species	94	96	100	92
	Free access to water	18	13	9	8
	Variable capacity (can alter pen size)	53	65	65	79
	Well-maintained and drained non-slip floors	100	78	91	70
	No bruising or contact points	76	87	65	92
	Protection from jumping injuries	35	96	18	75
	Suitable for animals held	—	61	—	88



Facility	Feature	% Yes Adult Cattle 2007	% Yes Adult Cattle 2017	% Yes Sheep 2007	% Yes Sheep 2017
ID/grading	Appropriate height for species	100	87	100	92
	Appropriate width for species	94	91	100	92
	Drafting gates	65	56	52	67
	Easy-to-use facilities	100	83	95	92
	No bruising or contact points	53	78	68	75
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	82	83	100	71
Gangways	Appropriate height for species	100	100	100	92
	Appropriate width for species	100	100	100	88
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors	82	91	96	80
	No bruising or contact points	78	91	75	91
	No right-angled bends or dead ends	72	96	75	83
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	72	87	79	75
	Steady, uninterrupted flow of stock	78	100	96	92
Gateways	Wide enough for species	100	100	100	88
	Well-lit, do not amount to 'dead-ends'	100	100	92	92
	Protection from jumping injuries	22	43	21	50
	No bruising or contact points	83	91	71	67
	Hinges and latches well-maintained	94	100	87	92
	Baffled to reduce noise	0	17	0	21
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	72	100	87	88
Holding / normal pens	Appropriate height for species	100	100	96	92
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floors	94	83	92	75
	Variable capacity (can alter size)	39	78	37	50



Facility	Feature	% Yes Adult Cattle 2007	% Yes Adult Cattle 2017	% Yes Sheep 2007	% Yes Sheep 2017
	Interlocking, double entry/exit gates	67	74	29	29
	No bruising or contact points	89	96	75	83
	Protection from jumping injuries	33	65	29	75
	Free access to water	0	17	0	0
	Suitable for animals held	—	100	—	92
	Are 50% or more covered?	—	70	—	54
Isolation pens	Located close to unloading area	88	74	85	75
	Totally enclosed pen with solid walls and gates	76	61	45	58
	Isolated drainage facilities	53	35	30	17
	Inspection hatch or easily observable	67	87	63	71
	Ready for immediate use	76	74	90	83
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	100	91	95	79
	Appropriate dry bedding available	93	96	94	88
	Free access to water	43	70	37	54
	Dedicated exit for carcasses	8	30	0	21
	Dedicated pen	—	87	—	63
	Clearly marked	—	74	—	54
Sorting race (figures account for those that use it)	Appropriate height for species	100	100	—	100
	Appropriate width for species	100	100	—	100
	Drafting gates	83	84.2	—	100
	Gates baffled to reduce noise	0	10	—	0
	No bruising or contact points	83	90	—	75
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	89	80	—	50
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	94	100	—	100

Facility	Feature	% Yes Adult Cattle 2007	% Yes Adult Cattle 2017	% Yes Sheep 2007	% Yes Sheep 2017
Sale-ring (figures account for those that use it)	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	100	91.3	—	67
	Appropriate non-slip material on floor	89	96	—	100
	Suitable height to prevent attempts at escape	100	100	—	100
	Inward curving top rail	89	91	—	n/a
	Good movement in ring	—	100	—	100
	Clearly visible (to animal) exit gate	94	96	—	100
	Gates baffled to reduce noise	5	9	—	50
Protection from weather	Fully enclosed and covered market	61	57	54	50
	Sited against prevailing wind	93	65	77	71
	Forced ventilation	—	4	—	4

Many improvements have been made for both species in multiple zones across markets. Protection from jumping injuries increased for adult cattle and sheep in unloading pens (64% and 57% respectively), gateways (21% and 29% respectively) and general penning (32% and 46% respectively). Figure 4.2.2 below shows an example of built-in protection from jumping injuries for adult cattle.



Figure 4.2.2 An example of built-in protection from jumping injuries for adult cattle in a UK livestock market.

More vehicle reception areas are escape-proof for both adult cattle (18%) and sheep (21%), an example of which is shown in Figure 4.2.3. There has been an increase in the number of markets installing dedicated carcass exits in the isolation pens: an increase of 21% for adult cattle and 22% for sheep facilities. A dedicated carcass exit prevents exposure of dead animals to live ones in the market, reducing the risk of contamination if disease or illness is present.



Figure 4.2.3 An example of escape prevention (cattle grid) in a UK market.

Note the wide gates, tall fencing and cattle grid. (Picture taken on a non-market day; when livestock is present, the cattle grid is fully uncovered).

The absence of bruising or contact points also improved in the time between the studies for both species, but in different zones: for sheep this improved at unloading pens (27%) and at the grading/sorting/ID area (25%). For cattle the biggest improvement in absence of bruising or contact points was seen in gangways (24%). An example of a bruising or contact point is shown in Figure 4.2.4. The large rusty bolt is at shoulder height for adult cattle and could scrape the animal as it passes; it may also cause severe injury to the face if contact was made. If possible, the protruding end of the bolt should be removed and the remaining stub filed down and rounded to create a smooth surface.



Figure 4.2.4 Protruding bolt which is a risk for contact or bruising in a UK cattle market.

Improvements have also been made in the grading/weighing/ID sections of the markets, but in different ways for adult cattle and sheep. For adult cattle there have been improvements to aspects relating to human safety, e.g. having a raised platform with gates controlled from above the animals, rather than at floor level. The presence of these features has increased by 17%. Sheep facilities have improved with the addition of drafting gates, a 15% increase, making sorting the animals easier and reducing stress for both animals and staff.

Gangways have improved for adult cattle in three ways. The number of facilities in which the animals have to navigate multiple right-angled bends, and perceived dead-ends, while passing through the market has decreased by 24%. Markets have improved lighting to prevent shadows; 15% more facilities do not have shadows in gangways which may cause baulking and there has been an increase of 22% in 'good flow of stock'. 'Good flow of stock' was defined as animals moving forward calmly and smoothly through the handling system with no need for force. Figure 4.2.5 shows an example of a gangway which has straight passageways, with few right-angled bends or dead-ends, and is well lit with no shadows which could cause baulking.



Figure 4.2.5 Gangway without right-angled bends or shadows in a UK cattle market.

Both general penning and isolation penning facilities have improved in markets across England and Wales for adult cattle. The ability to adjust general pens to allow for variable capacity has increased by 39% since 2007, while water availability has increased by 17%. The ability to safely check on adult cattle in their designated isolation pens has increased by 17%, with increases in the provisions of viewing hatches.

Flooring was the only area in which facility scores fell throughout markets, with decreases in all three aspects: well maintained, drained and non-slip. At the unloading pens, flooring meeting these three criteria has fallen by 22% for adult cattle and 21% for sheep. For sheep this reduction continued in the grading/sorting/ID areas (29%), gangways (16%), general penning (17%) and isolation pens (16%). Figure 4.2.6 shows an example of a floor which is well maintained and non-slip, but not well drained as there is standing water in a gangway. The decline in floor condition may be caused by general wear and tear, wearing down of the non-slip surface, or drains becoming blocked. Regular maintenance and resurfacing of flooring is recommended to prevent slips and associated injuries.



Figure 4.2.6 An example of flooring in a modern UK livestock market.

The flooring meets the criteria of well-maintained and non-slip, but not well-drained.

4.3 Are there relationships between market results and a) market age?

A very weak negative association was found between market age (years) and total facility (Part B) score ($r=-0.02$). Figure 4.3.1 shows there was a slight tendency for older markets to receive a lower facility score than newer markets, but in some cases older structures (over 60 years of age) received higher scores than their modern counterparts (under 20 years of age).

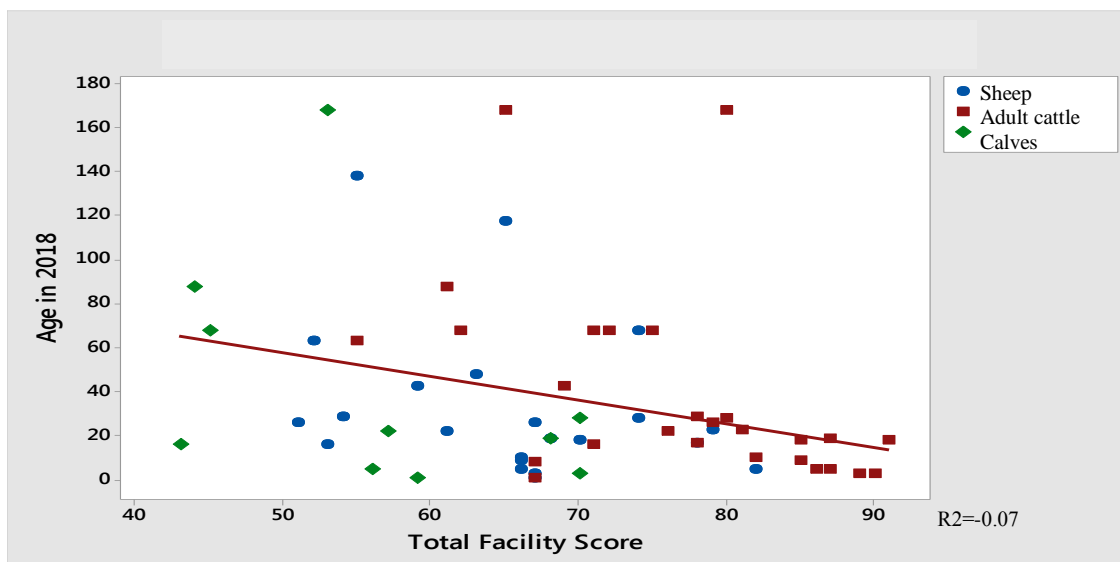


Figure 4.3.1 Scatter plot of age in 2018 (continuous) vs total facility score

When grouped into three age categories; 1 to 15 years, 15 to 49 and 50+ years of age, markets below 15 years of age were found to have significantly higher total facility (Part B) scores than those aged 50+ years ($F(2,56)=5.06, P=0.01$), as shown in Figure 4.3.2. No significant differences were found when comparing markets aged 15–49 with those either built before or after ($P>0.05$).



Figure 4.3.2 Interval plot of age (categorical) in 2018 vs mean total facility score

* indicates statistically significant difference.

4.3 Are there relationships between market results and b) throughput?

Part A

Markets in the high-throughput category (relative to their species, using thresholds as defined previously in the Market Selection section), received significantly higher scores for the market management questionnaire (Part A), than those in the low-throughput category ($F, (2, 21)=5.16, P=0.015$), as shown in Figure 4.3.3. No significant differences were found when comparing Part A scores for medium-throughput markets with those in either the high- or low-throughput categories ($P>0.05$).

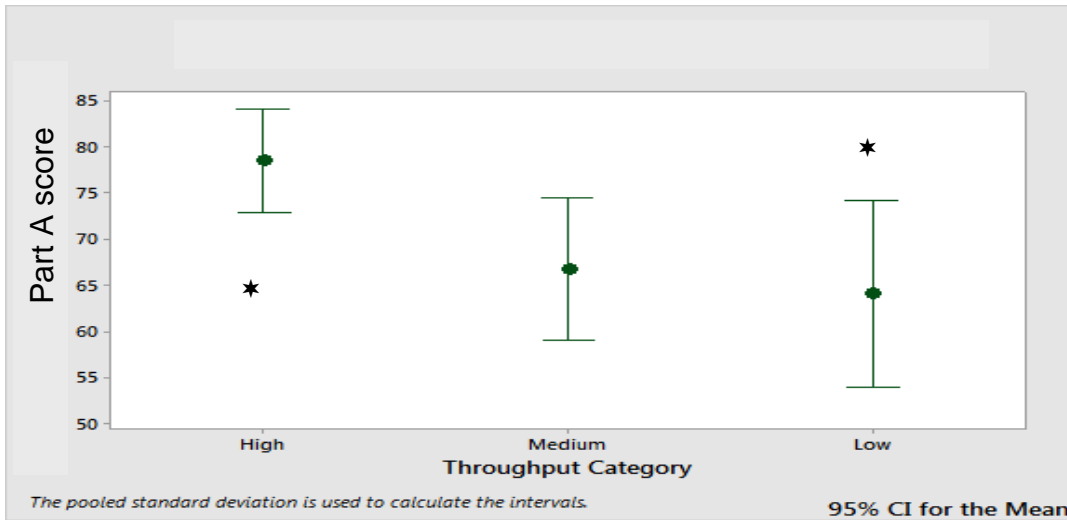


Figure 4.3.3 Interval plot showing average Part A score vs throughput category

* indicates statistically significant difference.

Part B

Markets in the high-throughput category (relative to their species, using thresholds as defined previously in the Market Selection section), also received significantly higher scores for the facility assessment (Part B) than those in the low-throughput category ($F, (2,38)=4.10, P=0.024$), as shown in Figure 4.3.4. No significant differences were found when comparing Part B scores for medium-throughput markets with those in either the high- or low-throughput categories ($P>0.05$).

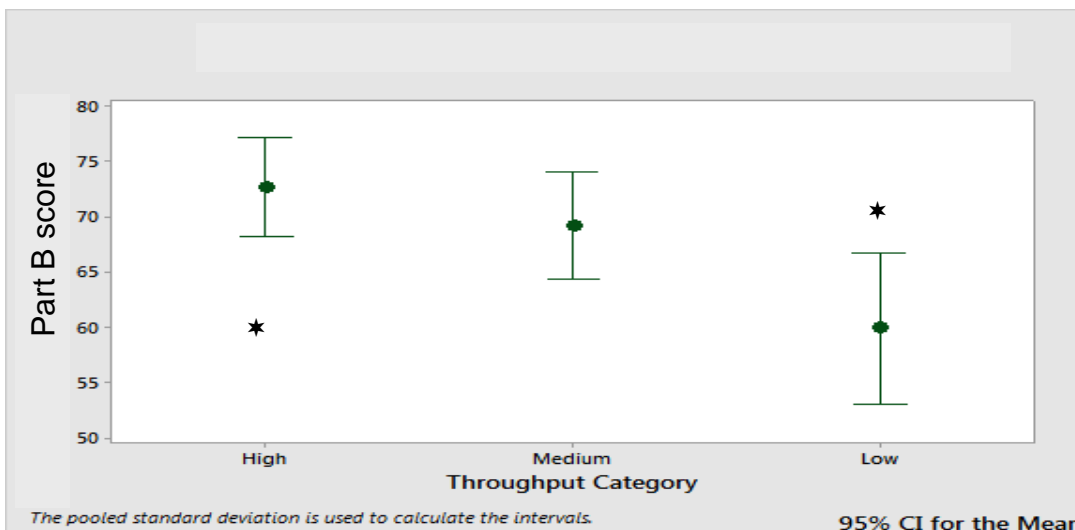


Figure 4.3.4 Interval plot showing average Part B score vs throughput categories

* indicates statistically significant difference.

4.4 Do some species/classes of animals generally have access to better facilities than others?

a) What percentage of markets had desired features?

Table 4.4.1 shows the percentage of adult cattle, sheep and calf markets with desired features. Differences of greater than 15% are highlighted in yellow in the table and described in the text below. Only a few markets regularly selling dairy cows had milking facilities and only a small number had field lairages, making comparisons meaningless, therefore these data are not reported here.

Desired features were found at a higher percentage of adult cattle markets than sheep or calf markets. Sixteen features were found at a higher number of markets handling adult cattle, than sheep markets. Fifteen features were found at more adult cattle markets than calf markets, most commonly these were features within the isolation pen zone.

Some features were found at a higher percentage of sheep markets than adult cattle or calf markets. Four features (variable capacity in unloading/loading pens, unloading pens being 'suitable for animals held', drafting gates present in the sorting race and baffled gates at the sale-ring) were found at more sheep markets than adult cattle markets. Nine features were found at a higher percentage of sheep than calf markets. Five of these features were located in the sale-ring: appropriate non-slip material on floor, suitable height to prevent attempts at escape, good movement in ring, exit gate clearly visible to animals and gates baffled to reduce noise.

Some features were present at more calf markets than either adult cattle (nine features) or sheep markets (13 features). These features were mainly found in the unloading/loading bays: well maintained, drained and non-slip flooring, level loading and unloading; and the unloading pens: variable capacity, well maintained and drained non-slip floors and suitable for the type of animals held.

More calf markets were also found to have protection from climatic conditions, than adult cattle or sheep markets: 70% of calf facilities were fully enclosed and covered, and 90% were sited against the prevailing wind. Whereas only 57% and 50% of adult cattle sheep and markets were fully enclosed and covered (respectively), and 65% and 71% (respectively) were sited against the prevailing wind.

According to *The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990* (WAMO): 'It shall be the duty of the market authority of every market in which any calves... less than 4 weeks old are kept... to provide covered accommodation in the market for such animals'. The calves in this study had a large age range (from one week to six months of age), as defined in Table 2.1. Therefore, markets without a fully-enclosed and covered calf section were not selling calves younger than four weeks old.

Compared to adult cattle and calf markets, fewer sheep markets had level unloading at the loading bays (adult cattle 83%, calves 80%, and sheep 58%). Well-maintained, drained and non-slip flooring was also present in fewer sheep markets than adult cattle or calf markets in the following areas; unloading pens (adult cattle 78%, calves 100% and sheep 70%), gangways (adult cattle 91%, calves 100% and sheep 80%), normal pens (adult cattle 83%, calves 100% and sheep 75%) and in the sale-ring (adult cattle 91%, calves 80% and sheep 67%). A comparatively lower percentage of sheep markets were also found to have dedicated isolation pens (adult cattle 87%, calves 89% and sheep 63%) and an absence of bruising or contact points in gateways (adult cattle 91%, calves 100% sheep 67%).

More adult cattle and sheep markets had desired features in the sale-ring, compared to calf markets. These were non-slip material on floor (adult cattle 96%, sheep 100%, calves 60%), height (adult cattle 100%, sheep 100%, calves 80%) and good movement (100% adult cattle, 100% sheep, calves 60%).

The biggest difference between the percentages of markets with a given feature was 60%. In the sale-ring, the feature 'exit gate clearly visible to animals' was found to be present in 100% of sheep markets and 96% of adult cattle markets, but only 40% of calf markets.

A difference of 60% was also found when looking at features in general pens, and the criterion 'free access to water'. Markets selling calves had the highest availability of water with 60% of markets providing water to animals in general pens, but only 17% of adult cattle markets did this, and 0% of sheep markets. It is worth noting here that, although water was not available to animals in general penning during sales, it was made available using portable buckets and troughs if livestock was remaining in the market overnight, as required by WAMO.

Table 4.4.1 Percentage of markets with desired features available.

Zone	Feature	Adult Cattle	Sheep	Calves
Vehicle reception area	Large enough to accommodate waiting vehicles	96	88	100
	Readily accessible to all types of vehicle	96	92	100
	Protected from inclement weather	4	4	10
	Escape proof	96	88	80
	Level, well-maintained surface	96	92	90
	Average score for vehicle reception area	78	73	76
Unloading bays	Suitable for all types of vehicle	100	92	100
	Protected from inclement weather	35	46	40
	Escape-proof if used properly	100	92	70
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	100	83	100
	Level loading and unloading	83	58	80
	Suitable for animals held	74	79	80
Unloading pens	Appropriate height for species	96	92	100
	Free access to water	13	8	0
	Variable capacity (can alter pen size)	65	79	100
	Well-maintained and drained non-slip floor	78	70	100
	No bruising or contact points	87	92	88
	Protection from jumping injuries	96	75	57
	Suitable for animals held	61	88	100
ID/grading	Appropriate height for species	87	92	N/A
	Appropriate width for species	91	92	N/A
	Drafting gates	56	67	N/A
	Easy-to-use facilities	83	92	N/A
	No bruising or contact points	78	75	N/A
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	83	71	N/A
Gangways	Appropriate height for species	100	92	100
	Appropriate width for species	100	88	100
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	91	80	100
	No bruising or contact points	91	91	89
	No right-angled bends or dead ends	96	83	89
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	87	75	100
	Steady, uninterrupted flow of stock	100	92	100
Gateways	Wide enough for species	100	88	100
	Well-lit, do not amount to 'dead-ends'	100	92	88
	Protection from jumping injuries	43	50	38
	No bruising or contact points	91	67	100
	Hinges and latches well-maintained	100	92	100
	Baffled to reduce noise	17	21	0
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	100	88	100
	Appropriate height for species	100	92	90



Zone	Feature	Adult Cattle	Sheep	Calves
Normal pens	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	83	75	100
	Variable capacity (can alter size)	78	50	50
	Interlocking, double entry/exit gates	74	29	30
	No bruising or contact points	96	83	80
	Protection from jumping injuries	65	75	60
	Free access to water	17	0	60
	Suitable for animals held	100	92	90
	Are 50% or more covered?	70	54	70
Isolation pens	Located close to unloading area	74	75	75
	Totally enclosed pen with solid walls and gates	61	58	44
	Isolated drainage facilities	35	17	22
	Inspection hatch or easily observable	87	71	64
	Ready for immediate use	74	83	89
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	91	79	89
	Appropriate dry bedding available	96	88	89
	Free access to water	70	54	44
	Dedicated exit for carcasses	30	21	22
	Dedicated pen	87	63	89
	Clearly marked	74	54	56
Sorting race (figures accounting for those that use it)	Appropriate height for species	100	100	N/A
	Appropriate width for species	100	100	N/A
	Drafting gates	84	100	N/A
	Gates baffled to reduce noise	10	0	N/A
	No bruising or contact points	90	75	N/A
	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	80	50	N/A
	No shadows or contrasts to cause balking	100	100	N/A
Sale-ring (figures accounting for those that use it)	Well-maintained and drained, non-slip floor	91	67	80
	Appropriate non-slip material on floor	96	100	60
	Suitable height to prevent attempts at escape	100	100	80
	Inward curving top rail	91	N/A	N/A
	Good movement in ring	100	100	60
	Clearly visible (to animal) exit gate	96	100	40
	Gates baffled to reduce noise	9	50	20
	Protection from climatic conditions	Fully enclosed and covered market	57	50
Sited against prevailing wind		65	71	90
Forced ventilation		4	4	10

As Figure 4.4.1 shows, when the percentage of markets with features across all zones are averaged, more cattle markets had desired facilities than sheep or calf markets. However, this variation was not statistically significant ($P>0.5$).

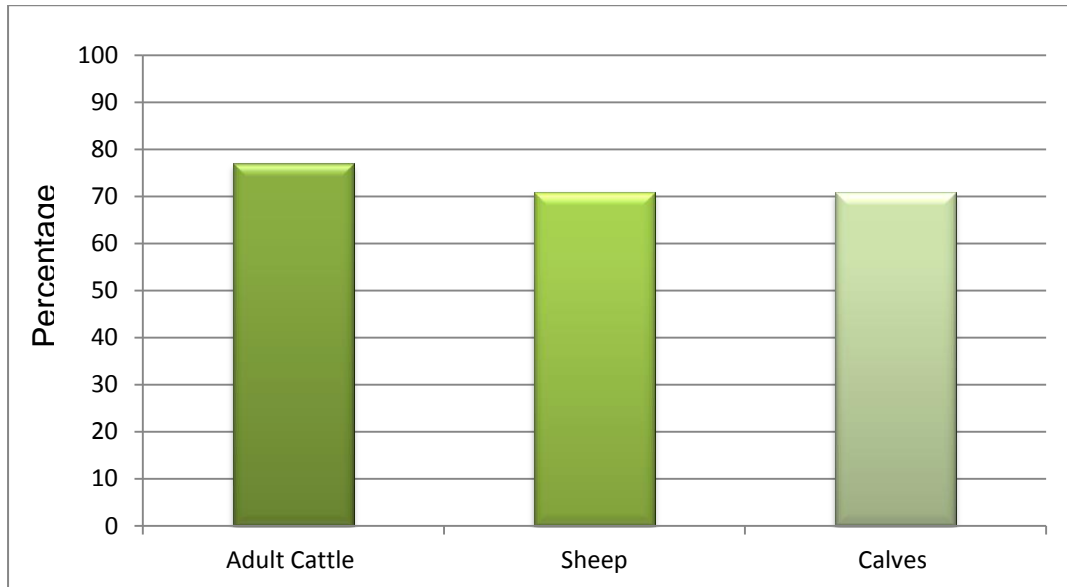


Figure 4.4.1 Bar graph showing average mean percentage of markets with desired facilities.

b) How many desired features are available in a typical market?

Overall, as shown in Figure 4.4.2, adult cattle have the highest percentage of desired features available to them while passing through markets. As shown in Table 4.4.2, compared to sheep and calves, adult cattle have the highest average percentage of desired facilities in the unloading bays, grading systems, gangways, normal penning, isolation penning, sorting race and sale-ring. This may be due to the size and strength of adult cattle with their welfare being intrinsically linked to human health and safety.

Sheep have the highest percentage of desired facilities in the vehicle reception area and gateways. Sheep and calves have the highest percentage of desired facilities in the unloading pens compared to adult cattle.

As well as it being more common for calf markets to have protection from climatic conditions compared to markets selling adult cattle or sheep (see previous results section 4.4 a), calves also have the highest average percentage of features giving them protection from the weather.

Table 4.4.2 Average percentage of desired facilities available across all markets.

Zone	Feature	Adult Cattle	Sheep	Calves
Vehicle reception area	Average score for vehicle reception area	80.40	82.59	80.00
Unloading bays	Average score for unloading bays	92.93	86.06	85.02
Unloading pens	Average score for unloading pens	79.29	83.33	82.53
ID/grading	Average score for grading system	91.00	89.39	N/A
Gangways	Average score for gangways	95.16	94.44	87.77
Gateways	Average score for gateways	80.12	77.27	75.71
Normal pens	Average score for normal pens	72.82	67.42	65.83
Isolation pens	Average score for isolation pen	74.91	70.27	70.03
Sorting race	Average score for sorting race	85.18	75.00	N/A
Sale-ring	Average score for sale-ring	86.47	79.62	62.50
Protection from climatic conditions	Average score for protection weather	42.02	45.45	56.60
All zones	Average	80.03	77.35	74.00

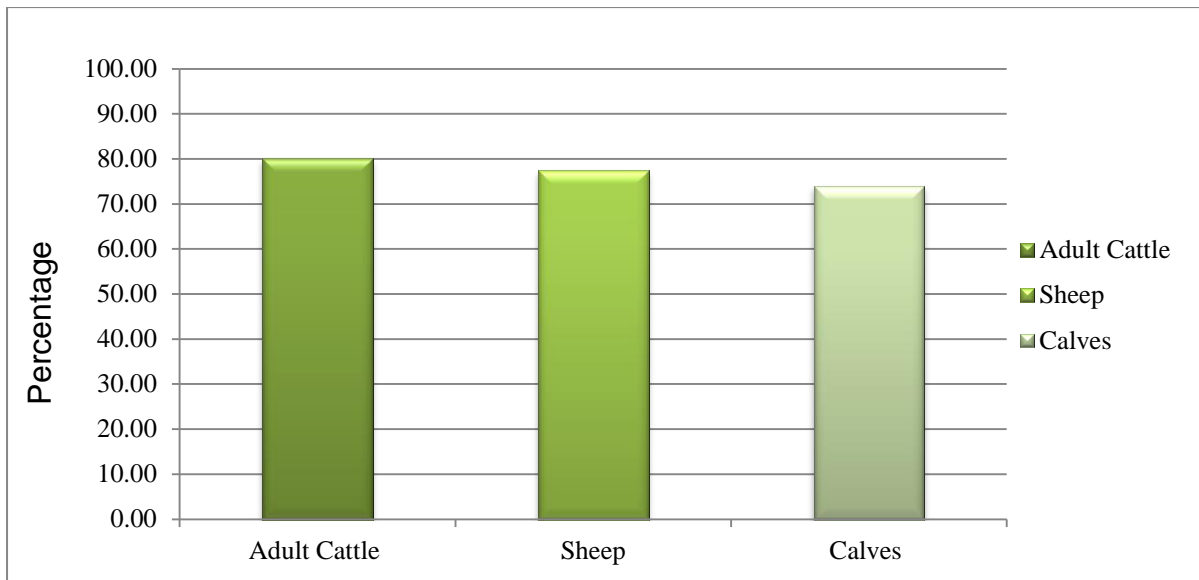


Figure 4.4.2 Bar graph showing average facility score for adult cattle, sheep and calves.

5. Features of note

During the survey, in addition to the structured questionnaire and facilities assessment, a note was made of any facilities and practices seen to benefit animal and/or human welfare. It is hoped that, by highlighting these features in this report, they will be considered for inclusion in any future improvements to existing facilities and in plans for new-build markets. Of particular note were the following four features:

- Poldenvale 360° gate (calves, sheep and pigs).
- Calf loading gates and mobile calf-ring (calves).
- Protection from jumping injuries (adult cattle and human health and safety).
- Roller bars on corners of gangways and races (cattle, sheep and pigs).

Poldenvale 360° gate



Figure 5.1 Poldenvale 360° gate installed in a UK market.

Figure 5.1 shows the Poldenvale 360° gate in a market. This feature is particularly useful when moving animals (calves, sheep and pigs) through successive, adjacent pens. The gate is lifted and opened into the empty pen, the animals moved through and the gate simply pulled back into the now empty pen and brought round through 90° behind the animals and secured. There is also a variation on this, which uses two gates revolving around a common hanging post, and is pictured below in Figure 5.2. This idea makes moving animals through successive pens much easier.



Figure 5.2 Variation of the Poldenvale 360° gate installed in a UK market.

Calf loading gate

Figure 5.3 shows a calf loading gate. This wrap-round feature was seen at a number of more recently-built markets, but could be added to existing facilities. Its use facilitates the secure unloading and loading of calves, at ground level, through side-entrances to the calf building. Where seen, these were in addition to raised loading docks sited along the open side of the markets.



Figure 5.3 Wrap-round, calf loading gate installed in a UK market.

Mobile calf-ring

Mobile calf-rings have been in use for a number of years now, but are not common. When designed and used properly, they minimise movement of calves through the system. Figure 5.4 overleaf is the view of a mobile calf-ring, in a modern market, from the auctioneer's position on the rostrum. The ring is situated between two lines of pens, one of which will house the calves to be sold and the other will be empty of stock prior to the sale. When the sale starts, calves are moved from their pens into the ring and, once sold, out of the ring to the empty pens on the other side. The ring is moved on casters along the lines of pens so, in effect, calves move straight across with the minimum of turning and handling.

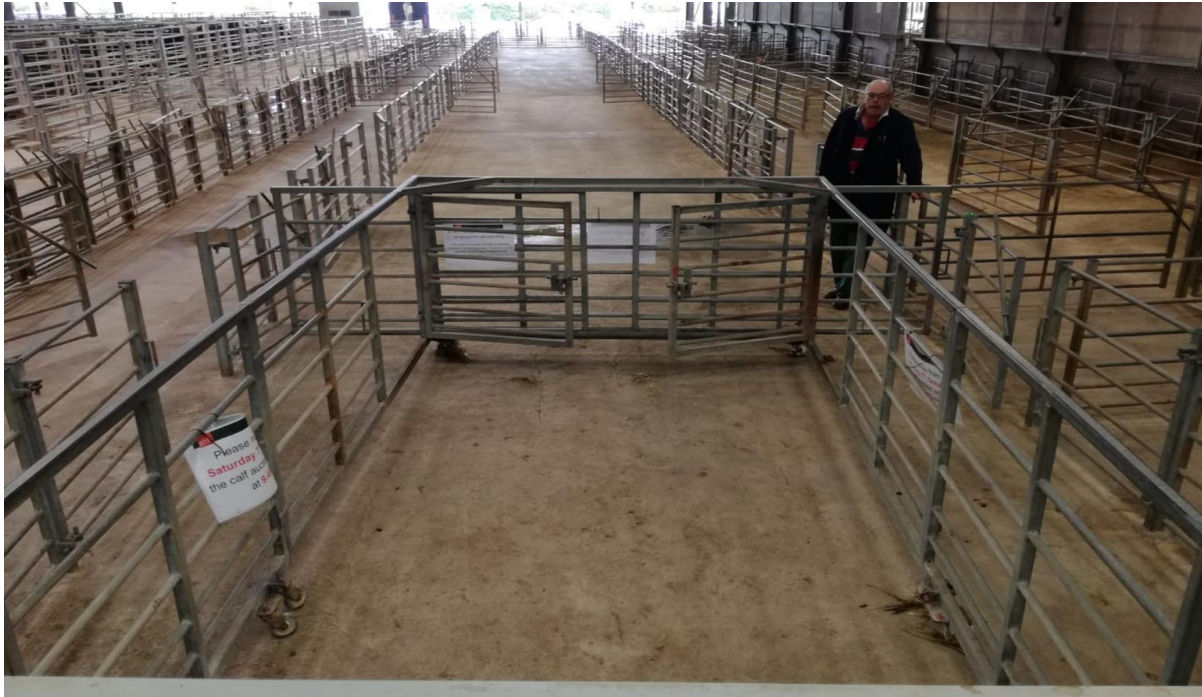


Figure 5.4 Mobile calf-ring in a UK market – view from the rostrum.

Protection from jumping injuries

Figure 4.2.2, on page 18, shows in-built protection from jumping injuries for cattle in a recently-built market facility. Figure 5.5 below shows how the operators of an older market have adapted the hanging-posts of pens using a purpose-made, moveable post-topper socket to facilitate the same method of protection.



Figure 5.5 Moveable post-topper socket, providing protection from jumping injuries for cattle in a UK livestock market.

Roller bars on corners of gangways and races

One of the areas where animals are most vulnerable to bruising is when they are being driven through the market, to and from pens, or to and from the sale-ring. Turning corners into raceways, especially if animals are crowded, is probably the most likely situation which may lead to accidental bruising, especially in cattle. The feature shown in Figure 5.6 below was seen in some of the more recently-built markets, but could possibly be added to existing facilities.



Figure 5.6 Corner of gangways in a UK market. Note the roller bar on gatepost.

6. Animal welfare policies

The first question in the management interview data sheet was: does the market have a written animal welfare policy? The majority of the interviewees (70%) answered in the affirmative; however, only five (21%) could produce such a document. All the markets visited were certainly working to an animal welfare policy, as dictated by the documentation required by Red Tractor Assurance. The majority of the interviewees interpreted the written procedures required as the animal welfare policy. A separate animal welfare policy document is currently not a requirement of the Red Tractor Assurance scheme for livestock markets, but there are several good reasons for a market to have one:

- It shows a respect for the animals in its care.
- Poor welfare can lead to poor product quality.
- There is a risk of loss of business for markets which are branded with a poor welfare image.

- It is an indirect requirement of assurance schemes.
- It is a useful first line of defence.

With regard to the final bullet point, livestock markets are a 'shop window' of the meat and livestock industry and tend to attract tourists and people from outside of the farming world. Some people raise concern, in different ways, about the animals passing through live marketing systems and demand to know how their welfare is being protected. Having a written animal welfare policy to show them, or displayed in the market office or elsewhere, is often enough to answer the questions and satisfy those concerned.

An animal welfare policy is a statement of belief or intent, within which there are clear procedures to guide staff and ensure that the policy's aims are achieved. It does not have to be long and/or complicated – the simpler, the better! It is implemented by following written procedures which constitute the supporting documents to the policy and without which the policy document alone is worthless.

An example of a simple animal welfare policy is shown below in Figure 6.1. This was displayed at four locations in one of the markets visited during the survey.



Figure 6.1 Example of an animal welfare policy statement on display in a UK market.

This is an unequivocal statement of intent and to be commended. However, in today's increasingly litigious society, it is suggested that the statement should be amended to read as follows:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The operators of this livestock market strive to implement and maintain the highest standards of animal welfare.

Any person abusing or mistreating animals on these premises will be prosecuted!

The rationale for this suggestion is based on the fact that, should a prosecution for a breach of WAMO be brought against a market displaying the notice as it is at present, the prosecuting counsel will highlight the statement, "this market operates to the highest standards of animal welfare" and claim this is clearly not the case, as a prosecution is in progress.

On the following page is an example of a more detailed animal welfare policy, probably what most people would envisage if asked to write such a policy from scratch. This example mentions supporting documents, such as standard operating procedures (SOPs), which are a requirement of Red Tractor Assurance. This example of a detailed animal welfare policy document is not a substitute for the required SOPs, but a complimentary document which summarises the purpose of the supporting documents.

Ideally, a progressive livestock market will display the simple statement and have a more detailed policy document to hand, if required.

Animal Welfare Policy

- ✓ We endeavour to maintain high standards of animal welfare throughout the entire operation. All staff involved with the handling of animals will be appropriately trained to the highest standards in conjunction with the legislative and company requirements. Training is ongoing and part of a structured training programme.
- ✓ Our aim is to handle all stock as quietly and calmly as possible to minimise stress experienced by the animals. Respect will be shown to animals at all times.
- ✓ All procedures involving animals are listed in the Market Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual which can be found in the Market Manager's Office. Contingency plans can also be found in the relevant sections of the manual.
- ✓ These procedures are understood and followed by the relevant staff. Where procedures are changed, this change will be reflected in the SOP manual immediately and staff notified.
- ✓ All unloading of animals will take place under the supervision of our staff and remedial action taken where necessary.
- ✓ It is our policy to deal with casualty animals immediately; they will be held in a casualty pen until seen by a vet and if further travel is likely to cause suffering, the animal will be killed on site by an appropriately trained slaughterman.
- ✓ All handling aids will be used appropriately and only where necessary. They will not be used with direct force on the animal. Where an electric goad is used this will be only: on the hind quarters of adult cattle or pigs; when the way forward is clear, and within restricted areas of the market. See SOP manual for these areas.
- ✓ These facilities have been designed and developed with animal welfare and natural behaviour in mind. All animals are held securely and comfortably at all times within the market place.
- ✓ All facilities will be maintained and cleaned regularly to ensure effective operation. Any problems arising within the market relating to the facilities will be recorded the relevant feedback form and passed to the Animal Health and Welfare Officer (AHWO) for further investigation.
- ✓ We guarantee that every effort is made to keep all equipment, practices and training up-to-date, to ensure consistently high standards of animal welfare.
- ✓ All of the above actions are of significant importance to everybody involved with livestock and will be consistently followed and improved where necessary.

Signed:

Managing Director

Market Manager

Animal Welfare
Officer

Date:

Review date:

7. Conclusions

All the markets in the survey were members of the Red Tractor Assurance scheme and were complying with the requirements of the legislation and with those of Red Tractor Assurance. One market, however, did not have written procedures for injured or diseased animals.

Some rough handling of sheep and calves was witnessed during the survey, but in each case (1 x calves and 3 x sheep), it was hauliers and/or vendors at fault, not employed market staff. No serious animal welfare concerns were witnessed or raised during the survey visits. However, there were some minor incidents witnessed and these were seen to be dealt with quickly and effectively, following the written procedures in the respective markets' handbooks. Two such examples were:

1. A heifer had attempted to jump out of a pen and had injured her foreleg. The animal was immediately isolated in situ, seen by a veterinary surgeon, certified as fit for health inspection and humanely slaughtered by a fully-licensed slaughterman.
2. A small load of sheep arrived, including one which was holding a foot off the floor. This was spotted by one of the market staff who informed the animal health and welfare officer and the trading standards officer. They discussed the case between them and decided to treat the animal's foot and then license the whole load back home. The rationale behind this decision was based on the animal being tender on one foot only, the others being sound, and the premises from which they came being only four miles away. Had the sheep been tender on two feet, or the distance home been a lot longer, then a different course of action would have been taken.

All markets in the survey were working to an animal welfare policy and had the supporting documents, but only five actually had a specific, stand-alone, animal welfare policy document. Five others used the LAMC/LAA Code of Practice as their animal welfare policy document. A stand-alone, animal welfare policy document is not an actual requirement for Red Tractor Assurance, but the supporting documents are required and are listed in the standards.

In addition to the legislation and Red Tractor Assurance, the future of animal welfare in livestock markets is being further safeguarded by the following:

- An annual lecture by the HSA on animal welfare in livestock markets to students on the Livestock Auctioneers' foundation course.
- Delivery of *Safe Hands* drover training modules developed through Animal-i.
- CCTV is becoming more widely used (50% of markets in survey had coverage in animal areas).

Based on the evidence gathered in this extensive survey, animal welfare was found to be of paramount importance and given high priority by UK market operators.