



Animal Welfare Policy



Background

At ASDA, we care about animal welfare, and we know our customers do as well. Animals used in the production of ASDA products must be treated humanely and well. We recognise that the management of farm animals is integral to our customers, our business, and our stakeholders.

Approach

ASDA takes animal welfare seriously, therefore making improvements across our supply chain to make sure livestock is treated properly at every step of the process across all species and geographical regions in our Own Brand fresh meat products as explained in this animal welfare policy.

We use the framework of the “five freedoms” to define our animal welfare and sourcing policies (to find out more visit the FAWC website <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/farm-animal-welfare-committee-fawc>).

We assure that 100% of own brand meat sold in ASDA stores is assured to a minimum of the Red Tractor standard or equivalent standard.

ASDA are committed to improving animal health and welfare throughout the supply chain by being part of projects and research with suppliers, growers and producers, Vets and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). We are working closely with farmer groups and suppliers to share best practice and help them gain access to the knowledge and tools they need for efficient, sustainable farming. For more

information visit: <https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/better-planet/farming-and-nature>

Governing and Managing Animal Welfare

ASDA wants to improve the health and welfare of the animals used in the production of our products. We have colleagues who have specific responsibilities for animal production including welfare who work closely with the industry to ensure high welfare standards are implemented and maintained across all species. Our animal welfare policy is agreed through the ASDA Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Steering Committee which is chaired by ASDA Executive Board members. The Asda technical team have regular meetings with our supply base, where animal welfare is discussed and high on the agenda. On top of this, Asda actively encourage our supply base to continually improve animal welfare standards where possible. The Asda technical team also carry out supplier audits to ensure adherence to our policies and rely on third party audits, such as BRC & Red Tractor to provide further confidence to supplier adherence to policies.

We expect all suppliers to adhere to our animal welfare standards and apply them throughout the entire production process and require traceability of their supply chain. Our suppliers must meet the requirements laid out in the policy, legislation, and assurance schemes. Should any supplier be non-compliant to any part of the policy or approval scheme, they are expected to notify Asda immediately. All non-compliances should be resolved by the supplier, with appropriate corrective action plans which address and resolve the non-compliance in question. It is a requirement for our suppliers to be able to complete a full traceability of all raw materials back to origin upon request.

Our suppliers must provide the necessary training required to all individuals who are directly involved with the handling of animals and records of such training should be available to review upon request.

Animal slaughter

At ASDA, we stipulate that 100% of our ASDA Own Brand fresh meat must be stunned pre-slaughter. We are always working with our suppliers to make the slaughter process better; our suppliers are investing in their facilities to deliver high standards of animal welfare to ensure animals are humanely treated prior to slaughter. Across all our supplier sites we require them to have animal welfare officers and ensure staff have the required Certificates of Competence including designated Animal Welfare Officers to work with the Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS), ensuring compliance with regulations, safeguarding the welfare of animals.

CCTV

Where CCTV is used in slaughterhouses; footage is to be reviewed for animal welfare compliance on a weekly basis. This should be no less than 15 minutes of footage at random times of the day covering all shifts and shall be recorded.

Animal testing

We are opposed to testing on animals and do not conduct or commission such tests on our own brand beauty, toiletry, or household products. We do not commission our suppliers or any other third party to carry out such test. We operate a fixed cut-off for

animal testing of ingredients of 31st December 2009 for cosmetic products and 31st December 2015 for cleaning products. Where animal testing is required by law (e.g., for food safety purposes), we require that these be carried out in line with applicable regulation.

Antibiotics

ASDA does not allow the routine preventative use of antibiotics in livestock rearing and production. Where it is necessary to treat an animal with antibiotics, it must be done under the supervision with the vet deciding what is appropriate. All uses must be recorded appropriately and reviewed by both farmer and vet. We are actively working towards reducing antibiotics in our supply chain through our farmer groups, best practice, and supplier partnerships.

ASDA does accept products that use artificial or hormonal growth promoting substances when rearing animals. Feed for all species is designed specifically for them with additives and materials permitted by law and must meet Red Tractor scheme or equivalent standards.

ASDA is proud to be a member of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA), and through the British Retail Consortium, the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), working across the food sector on this important topic.

Routine Mutilations/confinement

At ASDA we stipulate that our suppliers must avoid the use of any species that undergo routine activities/mutilations in the ASDA supply chain such as tail docking, teeth clipping/grinding on pigs, beak trimming on poultry and tail docking on cows unless permitted by a veterinary surgeon within a health plan. We do not permit stall/and tethering in our pork supply chain. We have committed to stop sourcing eggs from caged hens by 2025. Fin clipping of fin fish and mulesing in lambs are not permitted in our supply chains.

Enrichment

ASDA recognises the importance of enrichment for animals to perform natural behaviours, therefore we stipulate that all species must be provided with species specific enrichment through building designs, bedding and objects. For more information please visit: <https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/better-planet/farming-and-nature>

Animal Cloning and Genetic Modification

No animals across ASDA's supply base are subject to any genetic modification. We specify to all our suppliers that across all our products we will not use any genetically modified or cloned livestock.

Transportation

ASDA keeps transportation times to a minimum and is committed to all species being transported for no more than 8 hours. This is the same for all species imported from outside of the EU. Livestock hauliers must comply with all farm assurance schemes.

Textiles

Feathers

All relevant products that contain feathers must meet the legal requirements of EU/142/2011 and the UK Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 concerned with the use of animal by-products. Suppliers must only use feathers that are a by-product of the commercial food industry within our non-food products. Recovery of feather products must be from slaughtered birds, and live plucking is not accepted. We require all feathers to come from a source where no poultry has been subject to force-feeding. We will use risk assessment and testing programmes to make sure suppliers are compliant.

Fibres of Animal Origin

Wool

We require all suppliers to keep a copy of and or provide the following: Proof of country-of-origin documents for all wool products sourced. If virgin wool is sourced from Australia, the Australian wool testing authority (AWTA) test certificate must be submitted to the relevant department garment technologist pre-production, which states the wool is 'Non Mulesed' or 'Ceased Mulesed'. We do not accept products containing: Angora, Mohair, Alpaca Fur.

Faux fur

At Asda / George we do not allow animal fur in our products. Any product that looks like fur is clearly labelled with information stating that it is not real fur. Asda / George do not allow cat or dog fur to be mixed with fake fur products. Any garments or other fashion items that are made from textiles that imitate animal skins or pelts must be labelled with the fibre content, clearly stating faux fur on the care label. The use of Karakul lamb pelts (also known as broadtail, Persian lamb, Astrakhan or Krimmer) is strictly forbidden in any Asda / George products.

To find out more about ASDA's commitments and work:

<https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/better-planet/farming-and-nature>

