

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England's Forward Work Plan for 2012

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Revised: 22 May 2012*

Key objectives

What we want to achieve

- Trust developed within a working partnership on animal health and welfare.
- Good health and welfare of kept animals, generating related benefits for industry and wider society, including safe food and improved competitiveness and sustainability.
- Leadership on innovation, alternative approaches and best practice to achieve maximum value for money.
- Redefinition of the roles and responsibilities for implementing and funding action to improve animal health and welfare in the face of increasing pressure on government resources.

Strategic vision

How we want to work together to achieve our key objectives

We are committed to reducing the risk and costs of disease outbreaks for all kept animals - including farmed animals, horses and pets - whilst promoting high welfare standards in England. We are committed to helping enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the food chain, and ensuring a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply.

We recognise that the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England is a new way of working for both those making policy and those experiencing the delivery of that policy. We will place more influence in the hands of people and communities, so that they become self reliant. We are committed to making it work.

We will come to the table with ideas and suggestions, which have been sparked and shaped by animal keepers and other relevant stakeholders. We will strive to find solutions and deliver practical, successful outcomes.

We will be open in our work and will not be afraid to challenge or be challenged. We will not shy away from tackling difficult issues, having difficult conversations, or giving difficult messages, if necessary.

We recognise that it will take time to build trust and relationships and we aim to build a better understanding by all of the practices that collectively, and cost effectively, reduce disease risk and maintain high welfare. We recognise that resources are diminishing: we will work to ensure that available funding is utilised to maximum effect.

We will work as one team. We will make sound recommendations to Ministers to assist them in making decisions and we will ensure that those decisions are delivered with determination. Our recommendations will be based on the best available evidence. We will seek consensus wherever possible but lead when necessary.

Action Plan

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Co-opt new non-executive members of AHWBE	November 2011	February 2012
Agree guiding principles for animal health and welfare in England	December 2011	December 2012
Scrutinise the Defra animal health and welfare budget	November 2011	December 2012
Review animal health surveillance	December 2011	May 2012
Review charging for AHVLA services	November 2011	June 2012
Agree criteria for evaluating the AHWBE	May 2012	July 2012
Review the EU's proposed Animal Health Law	January 2012	December 2012
Agree the implementation programme for the guiding principles for animal health and welfare in England	June 2012	December 2012

Note: The Forward Work Plan is subject to regular review by the Board will be modified in the light of emerging priorities.