



The Association of Meat Inspectors (G. B.) LTD

General Secretary
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With reference to the footage filmed covertly at Simply Halal, Norfolk, <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/halal-horror-house-undercover-video-7871779> the Association of Meat Inspectors would seek to express its abhorrence at the malpractices demonstrated in the footage.

We note that the footage was shot over a period of eight days and that the Food Business Operator (FBO) stated that an Official Veterinarian (OV) and two meat inspectors (MHI's) were a permanent presence on site, and that they would tell them if 'there was a problem'.

We would like to think that OV's and MHI's would be very robust should they identify animal welfare issues in any approved premises, but, it should be noted that with the other duties that they perform, it is not possible to provide 100 percent supervision at the slaughter point. It is incumbent upon the FBO and the premises Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) to identify any problems and to rectify them. It is they who should be informing the OV of any such issues. It is down to the FBO to run their business in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Clearly, in the footage shown this was not the case and the AMI welcomes the robust stance taken by the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers in refusing to 'defend the indefensible' and in terminating this particular FBO's membership from their organisation.

The footage shown, however it might be obtained, does favours to none of us and the AMI fully supports the Food Standard Agency's 'one team' approach. We appreciate that the MHI's time on line is tight and taken up with PM duties, but we would ask that you 'go the extra mile' to ensure that the stunning area is visited frequently throughout the course of the day. The FSA have given assurances that they will be robust in the defence of MHI's acting to preserve animal welfare, so we would urge MHI's to be peerless and fearless in this respect.

Ian Robinson

General Secretary; for and on behalf of AMI

