



22 January 2018: For immediate release

Bowood slaughterhouse staff plead guilty to animal cruelty offences

Three slaughtermen and one former company director have today pleaded guilty to various offences relating to causing unnecessary suffering to animals at Bowood Yorkshire Lamb slaughterhouse in Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

The case follows undercover filming by Animal Aid at the end of 2014, which revealed numerous shocking incidents of animal cruelty. The trial took place today at Northallerton Magistrates Court. The case has now been adjourned until March 2, when the defendants will be sentenced at Leeds Magistrates Court.

Says Animal Aid Director Isobel Hutchinson:

'We are heartened to hear that this long-running case, which involved appalling animal abuse, has finally moved towards a conclusion. However, we would urge the public to remember that this is not an isolated case. Over and over again, Animal Aid has filmed lawbreaking inside UK slaughterhouses. Whether stun, non-stun or even so-called "higher-welfare" establishments, we have repeatedly found vulnerable animals being subjected to illegal abuse. And even when laws are being followed, which often they are not, there is no such thing as a humane death at the slaughterhouse. These are brutal, bloody and terrifying places. We would urge anyone who cares about animals to stop supporting this terrible suffering and go vegan.'

Editors' notes

- The charge against the fifth defendant was dropped.
- See the original investigation: <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/extreme-cruelty-inside-yorkshire-slaughterhouse-exposed/>
- For more information or interviews, please phone 01732 364 546 ext 225 or 07786 159934.
- See our statement on stun vs non-stun slaughter: <https://www.animalaid.org.uk/animal-aid-statement-non-stun-slaughter/>