



Secret filming reveals shocking suffering in Devon slaughterhouse.

National campaign group Animal Aid, has today released shocking footage taken secretly at PJ Hayman & Sons abattoir in Ottery St Mary, Devon. Yet again, this latest film convincingly disposes of the myth of stress- and pain-free 'humane slaughter'. Animal Aid placed hidden cameras inside the slaughterhouse for two days in July of this year.

The footage shows:

- Several animals being beaten with piping about the body and one struck in the face.
- A cow being threatened and losing her footing on the slippery floor as she tries to escape the slaughterman.
- Increasingly distressed animals left for significant periods in stun boxes or in head restraints prior to being slaughtered.
- A gate being closed on the face of one frightened animal.
- Slaughterhouses are supposed to make sure that stunning pens restrict animals' movements, so that they can be accurately stunned. This was certainly not the case here.
- Cattle like to be able to see ahead of themselves – unfortunately the animals were forced to turn a corner in order to enter the stun box

The damning footage was handed over to the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the body that regulates slaughterhouses. We understand that they are now carrying out an investigation, and that a prosecution could follow.

According to Farming and Slaughter campaign manager Tor Bailey:

*'PJ Hayman & Sons is a small slaughterhouse, which some people may think is more humane, but we were deeply shocked and saddened by what we filmed there. This included a cow being beaten on the way to her death, and the already horrific slaughter process being worsened by blatant incompetence.'*

*'PJ Haymans is the fifteenth slaughterhouse which Animal Aid has investigated. Time and time again we have revealed shocking scenes that dispel the "humane slaughter" myth. We would urge anyone who feels moved*

*by the footage to consider going plant-based as this is the only way to be assured of animal welfare.*

*'It has never been easier to go vegan, with new vegan options coming to supermarket shelves, coffee shops, independent shops, health food shops and restaurants seemingly on a daily basis.'*

#### Notes for Editors

- Animal Aid conducted undercover filming at PJ Hayman & Sons, Raxhayes Farm, Holcombe Lane, Ottery St Mary, Devon, EX11 1PQ between 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> July.
- Animal Aid has a strict investigations policy which adheres to biosecurity measures, obtains access to premises without causing any damage to property and seeks to ensure that no stress is caused to animals at sites visited.
- Images are available upon request.
- Animal Aid's free vegan information pack can be ordered at: [www.Animalaid.co.uk/veganpack](http://www.Animalaid.co.uk/veganpack)
- For more information please contact Tor Bailey: [Tor.b@animalaid.co.uk](mailto:Tor.b@animalaid.co.uk), 01732 364546 Ext 227