

**Response from Marks and Spencer Retail Customer Services concerning ritual slaughter
07 October 2010**

Marks & Spencer remains committed to the highest standards of animal welfare, and we therefore do not sell the meat from any animal or bird that has not been pre-stunned prior to slaughter. We understand your concerns about the labelling of our meat, and would like to reassure you that with the exception of New Zealand lamb no M&S meat or poultry is slaughtered in accordance with any religious practices.

All lamb originating from New Zealand has been humanely slaughtered - with halal approval; but the subsequent handling of the meat means that it is no longer considered as halal and it would therefore not be appropriate to label it as such.

We understand that for some there may be a religious or moral objection to New Zealand lamb, so we're able to offer UK sourced lamb as an alternative. The country of origin of all M&S meat is clearly labelled on the packaging.

In addition, we're planning to add further information to the Animal Welfare section of our website outlining the processes followed in the humane slaughter of all our meat.

We appreciate you taking the time to send us your comments - your feedback is most helpful.

Kind regards,

Retail Customer Services
Marks and Spener