

Response from Ocado Customer Services concerning Ritual Slaughter
12 October 2010

In regards to your comments on the slaughtering methods employed by Waitrose, please be assured that their approach and priority for all of their meat is to ensure animal welfare of the highest standard, approved by the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA).

Waitrose voluntarily asked the HSA to independently monitor their approach, which demonstrates the importance they place on animal welfare and the care of animals. Their practices are also in line with the recommendations of Compassion in World Farming and the RSPCA.

UK law currently permits Halal slaughter both with stunning and without, but all Waitrose lamb is electrically stunned before slaughter, meaning that animals are unconscious and are not subjected to pain. Waitrose have allowed the Halal blessing at the point of slaughter after the animals have been rendered insensible to pain so that abattoirs can sell the parts of the animal that they do not use, which is important to minimise food waste.

Further to this, Waitrose have consistently been recognised in the industry as the leaders in animal welfare, having recently won 'Most compassionate supermarket' from Compassion in World Farming.

I do hope that this e-mail has reassured you of the care Waitrose takes to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare during the slaughtering process, and thank you for your concern.

Yours sincerely,

Ocado Customer Service Team