Animal Health and Welfare Position Statement

Associated British Foods plc (ABF) is a highly diversified group, with a range of food and ingredients businesses as well as our retail brand, Primark. We are united in our purpose: to provide safe, nutritious and affordable food, and clothing that is great value for money. We work hard every day to create long-term value for our shareholders and our stakeholders, which include our customers, employees and suppliers.

At ABF, we believe in the importance of maintaining appropriate animal health and welfare standards, and this Position Statement sets out how we expect our businesses to approach this issue.

Our businesses must comply with all laws and regulations applicable to animal health and welfare in the jurisdictions relevant to them, including in relation to animal testing[1] and animal feed trials[2], in addition to meeting the minimum expectations set out in this Position Statement. Beyond this, our businesses have autonomy to develop their own positions, policies and voluntary commitments regarding animal health and welfare.

Farming of animals and feed trials

Within the ABF group, only AB Agri in Europe, DON in Australia and Nanga Farms in Zambia have direct involvement with the farming of animals. Where the farming of animals is or may become relevant to any of our businesses, or when any of them conduct animal feed trials, we expect their approach to be governed by policies or procedures which are guided by internationally recognised standards such as the Five Domains Model of animal welfare assessment, which emphasises that physical factors relating to nutrition, physical environment, health and behavioural interactions affect the mental state of an animal.

Sourcing of ingredients and materials derived from animals

Many of our businesses purchase ingredients derived from animals, such as eggs and dairy products, or materials derived from animals, such as leather and wool. We expect our businesses to develop their own appropriate animal health and welfare sourcing standards and requirements in relation to the ingredients and materials they source, and to require their suppliers and representatives to comply with those standards and requirements.

Animal testing

We require our businesses to adopt their own positions and policies on animal testing, where it is relevant to them. A small number of businesses within our agriculture and ingredients segments carry out or commission some animal testing that is not specifically required by law, but only where such testing is intended to play a role in advancing animal or human health, or in addressing negative impacts on the environment, and it is critical to achieving one of those aims.



Paul Lister
Associated British Foods plc – Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary

1. Animal testing refers to procedures performed on living animals, for the purposes of research, outside of what an animal would be expected to experience either in its natural environment or in a typical domestic or farmed situation.
2. Animal feed trials refers to nutritional evaluation trials with animals, based on what an animal would be expected to experience either in its natural environment or in a typical domestic or farmed situation.