

# **Recognition of pain and treatment in farm animal species**

**Eddie Clutton**

**University of Edinburgh, UK**

Pain in production farm animals maybe acute and husbandry related, e.g., castration, horn disbudding, chronic and production related, e.g., mastitis, arthritis, or incidental, e.g., traumatic. The recognition, and in some cases quantification of pain resulting in these situations is well described (Flecknell and Waterman-Pearson). Acute procedural pain is controlled by legislation in the UK and elsewhere, and there is a substantial literature endorsing different technical and pharmacological solutions - driven predominantly by the desire to improve animal welfare. In chronic conditions, which are similarly well-investigated and described, prophylaxis based on improved husbandry and breeding is ideal, but seldom sufficient. In these conditions, the use of pharmaceuticals is restricted by financial and public health considerations, but culling for financial reasons eventually ensures an end to the animal's suffering.

Pain in laboratory food animal (pigs, sheep, goats and poultry) used as models for human diseases or experimental surgery is less well studied. Specism and politically misguided legislation are partly responsible for this as is the previous predominance of medical, rather than a veterinary medical interest in this area. In comparison to traditional laboratory animal species, e.g., rodents, the literature on the recognition and treatment of pain in laboratory farm animal is sparse. Until rectified, this situation justifies consideration of a moratorium on their continued use.

Flecknell PA & Waterman-Pearson A. (2000) Pain Management in Animals, 1st Edition. Saunders. ISBN: 9780702017674