

VPN Research-20240711_163552-Meeting Recording

11 July 2024, 03:35pm

45m 44s

HM **Heather Maggs** 0:00

It's in the chat, I thought it.

I thought it was in the chat. Hang on a second.

Chat.

MS **Michelle** 0:08

Michelle invited.

HM **Heather Maggs** 0:10

There you go. Sorry. Help if I press send.

MS **Michelle** 0:11

That's all right.

Well, you mum, you could. You could go with send. It's quite.

HM **Heather Maggs** 0:18

It's helpful.

MS **Michelle** 0:20

Right. I'm gonna read these questions out. 'cause that's that's part of. Is that OK?

Yeah.

HM **Heather Maggs** 0:23

Yeah. Oh, yeah, absolutely, absolutely.

MS **Michelle** 0:25

Well, responses to the questions in this survey will be used by policy makers to help improve the welfare of farm animals in the UK. Please see my first thought about that is so it's in the UK. What's the UK? Does it include Ireland? And I start thinking about Irish welfare because I know that Irish welfare is not far advances the UKI. Forget all that.

Please answer the questions carefully. Thank you. Please write your first name below so that we know we have completed the questionnaire.

I will stick my name in there.

How much food tripping do you do for your household, including yourself? All of the household shopping? I do, indeed.

What is your age?

Too old to mention that we'll go with it. What animal products does your household eat? Please take all the beef. Yes. Lamb. Pig meat.

Pig meat. Difficult because I don't eat pork. I can't eat pork, but I do eat ham and Hans.

And I do eat other animal products. Well, do I?

Not really. Now we'll go with that.

Look, I don't what they mean by other animal products because I'm now thinking about awful and things like that, but that will have come from specific beasts. How much does your household spend on food each week? Way too much because I'm carried away with what I eat and it's.

I would say food at 100 pounds probably 'cause. It doesn't include household items. How much does your household spend on chicken meat during a normal week? Oh, not that much.

I tend to have a couple of meals a week that as its household of 1.

I can make it spread two or three weeks or I say probably.

The lowest amount.

Spent on beef during a normal week. Zero.

How much does your house will spend on the Lam? It's zero.

How much does he also spend on pig meat?

Products where the sale or main ingredient is pig pork, fresh, frozen, whole part pork, sausage, hams OK in that case. Then I probably spend more on hand products because I like how to snack on.

How much does your household spend on dairy products during a normal week?

Milk, butter, cheese, yoghurt. Lots of yoghurt, probably.

Probably about 10 or £12 I should think.

'Cause I have a lot of yog.

OK. How much is your household spin and eggs? All that big as well?

Life would be dull without eggs, but I do have organic eggs so they do cost quite a bit, so I'll go into the third category, do concerns about the animal welfare of

animals, influence your buying decisions? Please take these as they apply. Yes, I purchased some products for animal welfare reasons. Yes, I do. I do go organic and I do go free. Ranging my eggs always.

Organic.

Where possible?

And for.

X2B3 range.

If we'd like purchasing some products for animal welfare reasons, do I?

Oh yeah, I won't. I won't have. I won't have battery eggs.

They'll. I'll see. That's what they mean.

Well.

Fresh.

Range X is indicate.

Please indicate below.

To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

I feel well informed about how farm animals are treated in the process of producing our food and what the products know. I neither agree nor disagree because I don't think we've got a clue what happens on farms.

I'm concerned about the way farm animals in the UK are treated.

I somewhat agree.

Because.

Animal welfare is a concern, but I am also concerned about cost and I have to balance the two because I do not have unlimited funds.

I think that food products from animals with high levels of welfare taste better. Yes, I would say they probably do.

I think that food.

Juice from animals with high levels of welfare are healthier.

Healthy is a strange one, isn't it?

Because.

If they're not being treated with antibiotics and they get antibiotic infections, how does that affect them?

I would be happier, but would they be healthier? I don't know.

I think that food.

Products from animals with high levels of welfare are better for the environment.

Well, yes, I do agree with that.

Animal welfare measurements and welfare scores, animal welfare scientists and veterinarians have developed a method for measuring the welfare of farm animals that take account of the extent to which the needs and wants of the animals are met and results in an overall welfare score from zero to 100.

The score accurately represents the welfare of the animal in terms of its freedom of hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain, injury, disease, fear and distress.

And the extent to which the animal can express normal behaviours and has a happy and healthy contented life.

A score of 0 denotes extreme suffering or is a score of 100. Do you know it's the highest level of welfare that could possibly be achieved? The method covers the entire life of the animal from birth to slaughter, and involves regular independent monitoring of farms.

Currently in the UK.

Laying hens have an average welfare score of 40.

Meat chickens 40 indoor pigs, 40 beef cattle, 50 dairy cattle, 50 sheep and lamb 55.

Assume that the government and industry agree to farm regulations to improve the welfare of farm animals in the UK to a certain welfare score.

Or animals in the UK would have to be kept at the welfare school or higher.

This higher welfare school would incur additional products production costs because animals would, for example, be better fed, have better housing and more space, better health and care, and more opportunities for normal social and other behaviours.

These higher costs would result in more expensive meat, dairy and eggs and food with these ingredients, so that.

Everyone will have to pay more for.

Food products including you.

Your payment will be.

Contributing to the high welfare of farm animals throughout the UK.

If you do not produce or consume any more products, you may still be willing to pay something as an increase to your weekly household bill to improve the welfare of farm animals. Please consider this when you answered the following choice question.

Please choose out of the three options below. Your single most preferred option.

Welfare schools in red Show which scores have changed the role. This goes on a bit change in relation to the current situation. You may find that you do not particularly like any of the given options.

My feeling is this bit is really long and needs to be cut down and made a lot more succinct because I've I've wandered off already. You may find that you do not particularly like any of the given options. Nevertheless, the task is to indicate your preferred option out of the three provided. If you find choices two or three too expensive, please choose choice one which represents no change or current animal welfare levels.

Or to your food.

Expenditure.

Remember that you have a limited budget and that more money spent on high welfare food products means less money for you.

In the last year in the UK, 2.8 million Catalan cars 11.5 million pigs, 14.5 million sheep and lambs and 1.1 billion chickens we use for meat products was 1.8 million dairy cattle were used to produce milk and 39 million laying hens used to produce eggs.

Please choose from the three choices shown below.

Numbers represent welfare scores of the animals and products shown, and the impact on your weekly food bill. Welfare scores show in red are the only ones that change in relation to current welfare scores in each choice.

No change in weekly food bill.

One pound increasing weighted food bill.

Makes counts happier.

£2.00 increases the weekly food bill.

For.

Eggs and pigs.

Twist two is £1.00. It gives you make it.

Cattle, lamb and beef.

Dairy glam, but I don't need very much lamb or beef, but I do have dairy, so would I be prepared to pay a quid? Yes, probably. Would I be prepared to pay £2.00?

See, I probably wouldn't. I think I'd go see. I'd go midway.

Choose one of the three choices shown below. No change. Choose two to increase in the weekly food bill on. That's no way.

I couldn't afford to put £10 onto each week, I just couldn't.

I would like to but I can't. Would I go first? Oh, that's my.

Do that because that is my absolute limit. I wouldn't go higher than that.

And so therefore.

I want I will go. No choice, no change on that one.

OK, one minute.

Yeah, put it up.

At this task, those are the. Those are the three areas that I buy.

One of the three options, no change.

I can't afford that.

Sorry.

No, no, absolutely not. I'm very sorry. Chickens.

HM **Heather Maggs** 12:56

You've gone a bit quiet, Michelle.

MS **Michelle** 12:57

Sorry reading.

HM **Heather Maggs** 12:59

Sorry. Right, fine.

MS **Michelle** 13:00

Three, because it's the same thing. Please choose one of the three choices down below. I'll keep reading the same and I'm trying to decide.

HM **Heather Maggs** 13:03

Yeah.

But OK.

MS **Michelle** 13:08

Because I I will be. I will go so far as I would I would put in an extra £2.00 I probably would end up going more, but.

Intrinsically, I wouldn't and it I have a level and it's a case of applying in my head. I'm applying the levels that I've set to the question in front of me, so it's more it's I'm internalising everything so sorry about that.

HM **Heather Maggs** 13:30

That's all right. It's just that you said sorry chickens and it was that I couldn't quite work out.

MS Michelle 13:35

Because it was making the chicken's rate was up to 90 and I was like, sorry, chickens. I can't. I can't run to that. I would like. I would like your. I would like your health and your lifestyle to be better. But I can't fund it.

HM Heather Maggs 13:42

Right. Thank you.
OK. Thank you.

MS Michelle 13:56

And see again that the levels are is where the level goes up and where I have set in my head where I will in where I would be willing to increase levels to. You know, you're looking here at 6 pounds a week or £4.00 a week and.

I I struggle with that because I.

I can. I can go a certain level, but I don't feel I can go any further, so it's more a case of budgeting as opposed to where I feel welfare is required and it's a really strange one because there it is literally being.

Can I?

I can't afford anymore.

But then I would spend it on something else, and then it's becoming A and it's an absolutely unethical thing because would I be prepared to forego something that I would really like as my little my little weekly treat to put animals 1st and I don't think I'm that generous.

HM Heather Maggs 14:55

In which case it's the choice one status quo, isn't it?

MS Michelle 14:58

Like, yeah, but it's it's actually reaching that decision.
Yeah.

HM Heather Maggs 15:04

Sorry, I'll shut up now.

MS Michelle 15:06

The nice fine it is helpful.

Because it because I literally am going, what would I be prepared to give up?

If I had, if I didn't have a limited amount of money, I would be more generous, but I don't.

HM Heather Maggs 15:20

Hmm.

Hmm.

MS Michelle 15:23

I would. Would I go as far as three pounds of his chicken? Lamb. Let's see. I don't.

I think I think lamb, they do, OK, they're they're quite happy on the whole, their welfare is pretty good. They bounce around in fields quite a lot, don't they?

Pigs.

Pigs do struggle a bit, I think.

Chickens.

Yes, absolutely. I would do that.

One of the three choices where are we now?

See, this is a tricky 1 because it's pushing me above my limit.

But they're the three areas where I do purchase and I do think that pigs have a rough deal. And I know chickens and necklace, they're they're they're not. They don't have a great life.

So would I be prepared to help push up their scores more?

OK, I'll be generous on that one because I think they do get a rum deal. Really please briefly explain the reason behind your choice and the willingness to pay choice questions above.

Umm.

I have a limited.

Therefore, I would have to give up something for me for.

Well.

Therefore it is a.

Do I?

Most.

My.

HM **Heather Maggs** 17:49

Could I just ask you to read out what you wrote in that box?

MS **Michelle** 17:53

I will come. I will read it again. Once I've gone, I'll do it. I'm writing it out.

And then I will go back and read through it and make any amendments I have to my Hammond is my happiness.

Or.

Oh, see, now put me off.

HM **Heather Maggs** 18:10

I'm sorry.

MS **Michelle** 18:11

And what I oh.

I have a limited budget, therefore I would have to give up something.

To improve animal welfare from all for animal welfare. Therefore, it is an ethical dilemma.

What do I value?

Most my happiness or the happiness of animals, and while I am willing to help.

To an extent, to an extent.

I value myself more, sorry.

When making your choices which feature from the list below did you consider?

Please take the boxes of all the features you consider the increase in my weekly household bills. Yep.

Meat chicken laffey. Yes, I do.

I do do pigs and I do do hens.

But there is a bit not as much as I.

Feel please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements. I have confidence in the responses I gave to the willingness to pay. I have confidence in the responses I gave to the willingness to pay Troy choice questions. I have confidence in the responses I gave to the willingness to pay choice questions.

And obviously, being sick, I've got no idea what the hell that means.

That's what it means.

What you need to do there is you need to put. You need to put inverted commas around the willingness to pay.

Choice questions.

I can't work out what the hell that means, so if you just put a single inverted Commons around willingness to pay twice questions, I would have got that. But I I could have looked at that for hours.

Confidence in the response I gave. Yes, I am.

I understand the information presented to me.

I understand it. I don't necessarily think it is as clear as it could be.

It was too long and I drifted off.

I trust the animal welfare scoring method described.

The cynic amigos numbers can be meant to read anything.

That means the fact that I know the people involved, I trust them implicitly, so I will agree.

Interesting, that's good.

I trust.

That forms will be probably yes, no. Of course I agree that.

I have a moral obligation to safeguard the welfare of animals when we have moral.

Trouble with that?

We've got a moral obligation to do a lot of things, and while I do value animals.

I don't even think we managed to morally look after ourselves or the old many, many other things. And if I take the whole thing as a whole, animals come lower down and say the welfare of the old, the infirm, those with mental health, those with no homes. So I do believe in safeguarding.

And the welfare of animals.

But.

Not as highly as I probably should, but I'm gonna stick to my guns on this. I would like to see this welfare scoring system on labels in food stores. Would I?

No.

I wouldn't.

Because I think it is pushing people.

And I think people are pushed enough at the moment.

I wouldn't. I really wouldn't ask a bit preachy, and I don't think it's a particularly

positive way of doing it.

I like the idea of regulating regulation to improve the welfare level. Do I want, well, legislation?

Sadly, he probably needs it.

I have not paid attention to the questions this having. I have paid attention. I really really have. I have not paid attention.

Mm hmm. So it's a double negative. Now I have not paid attention. I disagree.

Finally, please answer some questions about yourself and your House of how many people live over the age of 16.

How many people on the age of 16 under age 16 zero. What is the nature of your household? One person and two *****?

I am definitely a woman and the highest level from education, so I hate that.

I hate that with a passion.

The level of education.

I'm not gonna have to even answer that one, but I think it's none of your damn business.

What's your ethnic background? I hate that as well.

I do not wish. No, I do not wish.

In what part of the UK do you live? He can have that one. That's fine.

What is your total household income? None of your damn business.

Absolutely no, you're done business, but it's.

It is relevant to the questions you're asking, but I hate it.


What is your employment status? I don't know. I'm hybrid. I'm a bit of each. I'm a bit employed. I'm a bit self-employed.


Right.

Oh, that one.

We thank you for your time.

I've completed.

 **Heather Maggs** 25:12
Overall impressions.

 **Michelle** 25:15
Can I can I see you again? Where are you?

HM Heather Maggs 25:18
Sorry, am I not there?

MS Michele Swales 25:20
Oh, you haven't even been there. Hello.

HM Heather Maggs 25:21
Right. Hello.

MS Michelle 25:24
Hello.
The beginning bit was too long and it wasn't as clear as I would have hoped because I drifted off. Now I am tired.
But there was either too much information.
Or you didn't hit with the bullet points. First I would suggest so the bit at the end was how many animals there were. I was more interested in that. So that grabbed my attention more, but it was at the very, very end.

HM Heather Maggs 25:53
So you're talking about the two the very, very long piece of text, yeah.

MS Michelle 25:57
Way too long, I would say it was too long and I would say that the the bit at the bottom by how many millions of animals that you need to grab them with that higher up just from a from a journalistic point of view because that is a specific fact about how many millions at that point people are going to go. Wow. I didn't realise there were that many million. Then you can talk about welfare but if you start talking about welfare first but you don't know what you're applying it to, if you it's like. Is if if you OK, I refer to the Holocaust. The first thing people know about it is it's 6 million Jews.

HM Heather Maggs 26:35
Hmm.

MS Michelle 26:36

What happened after that?

But it's the fact is the one thing everybody knows is it's 6 billion juice. So consequently, if you talk about how many millions of animals are feeding us. Then you can talk about the welfare, but if you get the numbers out first, that is your headline.

And then if you want to then talk about how many millions are.

Below the welfare standard that you know, that's set, but there's a lot of detail, but the detail is high up and after a while I blah blah.

I would suggest you need about half that information or you need to split it. Do half do a question, do the other half. Do you see what I mean? Because it's it's it's too much. It's too much to digest in one go.

Most of the questions were fine. It isn't ethical. Do you want to get a drink?

HM Heather Maggs 27:34

Yes, obviously here actually, sorry I was.

MS Michelle 27:36

And it's an ethical dilemma.

And.

I probably.

Would touch upon that as much as anything else, because at the moment you're only talking about animals.

And you're not acknowledging the person and the person's dilemma. So we're talking about, you know, the animals. So, you know, you know, this is this is this is your ethical like, this is the ethical dilemma for us all.

You know, you know this. This is the choice that you make. What can you afford?

How far are you prepared to go it? It's almost like.

It's all about the animals. It's not about the people. It's not about us, not about me.

It's not. It doesn't acknowledge for me.

That I am making a choice. It's like it's all about the animals. It's all about the animals, all about the animals. 'cause you get to a point, you go well. Yeah. I do want to help the animals, but actually.

I can't afford that and I shouldn't be made to feel bad that I can't afford it.

HM **Heather Maggs** 28:47
Right.

MS **Michelle** 28:48
Does that make sense? I felt that twice quite strongly.

HM **Heather Maggs** 28:53
Can you remember which quest? Oh, sorry.

MS **Michelle** 28:53
Once, yeah, when it went when it was, I think there's there's 12 and 16 quid at one point, isn't there? Nearly said very, very, very, very rude words.

HM **Heather Maggs** 28:59
Yeah.
You should have done that was the whole point about a stream of consciousness.

MS **Michelle** 29:05
No, no, I just went. No, I just said no 'cause my I would have used very dodgy language, which I felt was inappropriate.

HM **Heather Maggs** 29:08
Yeah.
OK.

MS **Michelle** 29:13
And.
Because I if I'm absolutely honest, when you start talking about £16.00 to improve animal welfare, if you think about the the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people that don't have that amount of money, full stop in their budget to feed a bloody family animal work, there can just **** **.
Because people can't afford it. So then when you start asking questions about what you, you know, your social economic.
I'm actually quite angry.

Isn't that interesting? I'm actually quite angry because I think.

I'm lucky 'cause I have got an income enough to pay for my life. Although I have to make ends meet more than I would. You would know about, even though you'd know me.

And I know somebody who would love to answer that questionnaire.

And I know for a fact.

She can afford nothing.

And her disposable income for this month went on feeding a homeless guy.

Is she wrong for that? No, she is not. So you read the ethical dilemma isn't just are you prepared to put extra in your in the pay extra for your basket of food is what are you prepared to give up? Because there are an awful lot of people in this world that can't afford £16.00 a week on food anyway, because they're having to go to the bloody food bank. So if I had £16.00 free at the end of that questionnaire, I would just as likely to say if I've got £16.00, I'm going to give it to the Treasurer trust.

Actually thinking about it.

It's actually made me go less out of a welfare flipping egg.

HM **Heather Maggs** 31:00

That's interesting.

MS **Michelle** 31:04

It.

Because you've made me, you've made me question things. But what you've made me question.

Isn't the the? Isn't the welfare of animals.

It's making me question the value of the money that I have available in each week and if I had it spare, where can it do most good?

HM **Heather Maggs** 31:31

Hmm.

MS **Michelle** 31:31

And I'd go well, I would like to give it to animals, but actually.

I was sitting down having a cup of coffee with somebody and somebody came to the door and said I need help. I've got no money. I haven't got any food.

I need some help. I need some help. I need some help.
So somebody took them shopping. Doesn't have any money.
And £20 was going to feed a family of four.
Until next Tuesday.
So then when you start asking social socioeconomic questions.
You're on 30 grand, I think because you've made me. You've made me go.
The red flags gone up.
And you know, I want to go and I want to go and help. I want to go and help people
that don't have that £16.00 in the first place.
One or £2.00 or £3.00 maybe, but once you start talking about proper money.
I don't go to animals. I go to people.
Sorry.

HM **Heather Maggs** 32:50

You don't have to say sorry, this is your. These are your feelings. Is exactly. You make good points.

MS **Michelle** 32:59

Ask about money.

I found I found that I found that a bit insulting. I don't like that. I really don't like that.
It's like asking, oh, and my education. Do you know what? Take it and shove it. I
don't. I am not defined by my education. I'm not defined by my education. I'm not
defined by my my social economics. I don't not defined by anything. I am me and the
money I have available is none of your damn business.

I know why you asked the question, because I know why you need to ask the
question, but actually.

You need to be very careful who you ask that question to.

Isn't that interesting?

HM **Heather Maggs** 33:49

Fascinating.

We haven't. We've gone over the 30 minutes and we've only got another few
minutes. There was another one about not only levels of education you didn't want
to answer it. Oh, you're you're.

MS Michelle 34:00

I.

HM Heather Maggs 34:04

To whether you're white, Asian.

MS Michelle 34:07

Yeah, I'll never answer that question. I haven't answered that question for the last 20 years.

HM Heather Maggs 34:09

Right.

K fair enough.

There was a question that you used the word regulation rather than legislation, but you seem to equate regulation with legislation because the word legislation wasn't in there.

MS Michelle 34:26

I did.

HM Heather Maggs 34:28

But.

MS Michelle 34:29

Being slightly sexy.

HM Heather Maggs 34:31

Oh, but you you have just said that you, you you do equate regulation with legislation.

Right.

MS Michelle 34:38

There's nothing.

Unless it's legislated.

And as it's there and it's in the statutes.

On the whole, I don't believe people will do what they should do.

HM **Heather Maggs** 34:50

OK. And then there was one in the one of the bullet point type questions where it said I have confidence in the willing to willingness to pay and you said what on Earth does that mean?

MS **Michelle** 35:03

Oh yes, the way that the question I just kept looking at it going, I don't understand what you mean.

HM **Heather Maggs** 35:12

But you did eventually work it out, despite the fact you then said that you would sit there for hours.

MS **Michelle** 35:16

To me ages I just couldn't get it run. I like to think I'm relatively quick and I just couldn't understand what the hell it meant.

You couldn't get it.

What do you mean by that?

But you actually were just naming the question.

HM **Heather Maggs** 35:31

Well, the the questions above with the pick the images in that each of those is a willingness to pay.

MS **Michelle** 35:34

Hey, I'm.

Yes, but I didn't know. So it's willingness to pay, isn't it? It's willing.

It's single inverted comma, willingness to pay close inverted comma.

HM **Heather Maggs** 35:45

Yeah.

MS Michelle 35:46

So it's it's the name of a question I didn't understand what the hell it meant.

HM Heather Maggs 35:50

Right, see and and you think putting those inverted commas in would help.
Yeah.

MS Michelle 35:56

And probably.

Was willingness to pay above the questions.

HM Heather Maggs 36:05

No, because we started out with some things like that and we've tried to reduce the copy where we can.

And to be fair.

MS Michelle 36:13

That's why it didn't work out what it was.

HM Heather Maggs 36:15

Right. And to be fair, that huge block of text was originally in two blocks.

MS Michelle 36:20

Right.

HM Heather Maggs 36:22

Because.

I'm now going to ask you a leading question, but did you find that in intimidating or off? What word would you use to describe having clicked on the next bit and just seeing that huge amount of text?

MS Michelle 36:37

Oh God.

I got to the point I thought, am I being preached at?

There's giving information.
And I just switch off.
I do switch off. It's it. I think it's too much.

HM **Heather Maggs** 37:00
K.

MS **Michelle** 37:02
I think it needs to be simplified and I think it needs to start with the fact that you know these are how many animals.
These are the preamble needs to be reduced your specific needs to be higher up. You can have a bit of explanation, but not as much as you've got.
Because you're then preaching to people, or it could be perceived as being preachy in terms of how the surveys.
Taken possibly.

HM **Heather Maggs** 37:32
Right.

MS **Michelle** 37:35
Yeah, it's an odd one.

HM **Heather Maggs** 37:38
Hmm, OK.
It's very difficult to know how much information to provide to enable people to answer.

MS **Michelle** 37:45
I've got. I've totally understand what you mean.

HM **Heather Maggs** 37:47
The questions.
And and we've, we've been refining it and refining it and going back to the beginning and then or or when we've left things out that or took things out that

people then said no, that needs to be in there. And so that that I think has probably been the most difficult bit.

MS Michelle 38:03

It is difficult. It's difficult, very difficult.

HM Heather Maggs 38:04

Yeah.

But your comments have been really, really helpful.

Yeah. And just other animal products, we you could have said fish or you know prawns or something like that. Just just and I found sorry coming back to your point about.

Right at the beginning, the very first question about animal welfare in the UK and then you mentioned Ireland and what's the UK?

That was fascinating as well.

MS Michelle 38:31

Was that?

HM Heather Maggs 38:32

Hmm.

'Cause, I suppose if somebody asked me, I I, I mean, I wouldn't have even thought I wouldn't have thought like that. But you're you and I'm me. And it was it was that found it fascinating. Because to me the Uks, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

MS Michelle 38:48

But there is it island, because Irish Irish welfare is nowhere near as good as English British welfare.

HM Heather Maggs 38:53

Oh, is that Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland?

MS Michelle 38:55

Just Ireland generally.
Because I'm certainly in the pet trade.

HM **Heather Maggs** 38:59
2nd.

MS **Michelle** 39:02
From my experience, Northern Irish stuff was not right either.

HM **Heather Maggs** 39:07
Oh, right.
OK.

MS **Michelle** 39:09
I am certainly with the companies that we dealt with and what happened there and what we we knew about was like OK, that's not quite right.
But that's possibly that's my perception. But my perception is, is that anything over the sea to island is not going to be as well looked after.
Although some people would get that the other way around, some people perceive Irish beef as being better.

HM **Heather Maggs** 39:34
Hmm.

MS **Michelle** 39:36
And but I don't think I my. My perception is that welfare is not as good.
It's like there was another question about the health of animals. And I'm like, yeah, health is a weird one because.

HM **Heather Maggs** 39:44
Hmm.

MS **Michelle** 39:49
Yeah, they'll be happier and they'll be living a muddier health. You know, more natural life doesn't necessarily mean they're healthier.

That's not, that's a. That's a different thing.

You know, if they've got an infection and not being treated by antibiotics.

Hmm, how's that work?

Other than pain then that's that's a difference there. So health is different. So for me, health is A is a different one.

HM **Heather Maggs** 40:09

Yeah.

MS **Michelle** 40:18

And we talk about pain.

That's such a difficult, difficult ethical question because we don't really. And the majority of people, and I know a bit, but majority of people haven't got a clue. Well, we all know we can have an animal, you know, I'll sit here looking at one of my cats, who hates me, by the way.

And will I know if she's in pain?

And I think I know them very well and not always, no.

Would I would I know if she was knocked with me? Yes. Would I know if she was ***** ***? Yes.

Would I know if she was off? You know, she was off of food? Yes. If she was in pain. No, because they they they will want comfort. They will. They will look for the same things. Would I know that she was in pain? No, not necessarily I would.

HM **Heather Maggs** 41:06

Not until it's maybe at a certain level.

MS **Michelle** 41:09

Exactly. Therefore, if you've got animals that aren't being you know you, then it doesn't matter what farming set up you've got.

Pain is not something that can be perceived in the same way you know, the farmer's not going to go around and say morning Ethel. How are you love? And she'll say, well, genuinely backs aching a bit, you know? Well, actually, I'll tell you what. Well, you know, we'll get the massage, the treatment for animals in a natural environment is going to be different, isn't it?

HM Heather Maggs 41:35

Yeah.

MS Michelle 41:35

And you, you start talking about things like antibiotics and yes, antibiotic resistance is all dreadful and everything else.

But if I've got an infection or my cat's got an infection, I want the little ***** treated with antibiotics. I don't want them in pain.

Shall I find it? I can't adjust those two. So pain for me.

And animal welfare it I antibiotics health. It's a bit bit murky, isn't it?

HM Heather Maggs 42:04

But lots of grey areas and very and all of the interlocking circles all overlap and to various extents, and that will be different probably for each species. And I don't know that we know where the boundaries are. They're very amorphous to me, but.

MS Michelle 42:15

No.

Yes, exactly. So when you're asking those questions, it's like, oh, you're asking me to go very deep with this and it's really it's some of the stuff, some of it's really good and it does make you think.

But in the end, because the figures were so high it it took me away from animals and I then went to people who can't afford £16.00 a week to feed the family anyway.

HM Heather Maggs 42:31

Hmm.

Thank you. A good point. Thank you so much for your time. I'm going to. That was brilliant. Did you enjoy it or was it?

MS Michelle 42:42

OK.

Now.

HM **Heather Maggs** 42:49

You can say no I.

MS **Michelle** 42:51

I'm unsettled.

I'm unsettled by it because.

I think.

I'm obviously relatively animal friendly and then I get to the end of it and go actually, no, apparently. And I'm not actually no.

I don't like there is. I have a delineation and it's not where I thought it was. I think I think we're too worried about animal welfare and I think we, you know there's there's old people rotting in in homes, you know going in instrument not being looked after. And actually if I had an extra £10 I'd give it there or somebody who hasn't got home or.

HM **Heather Maggs** 43:26

Hmm.

MS **Michelle** 43:27

I don't know.

HM **Heather Maggs** 43:28

I'm gonna stop the recording and transcription now.

MS **Michelle** 43:31

Thank.

● **Heather Maggs** stopped transcription