Accept - Minor Revision - This paper contains important information on how people perceive animal welfare. To make it acceptable for publication will require a much more complete explanation of how the slaughterhouses and the people were selected.

Reply: Was added. Ten slaughterhouse employees and nine livestock truck drivers participated in the study (Table 1). At first, we contacted slaughterhouses by telephone to see if they wanted to participate in the animal welfare research project. If the slaughterhouse agreed, we arranged a date for the visit. The slaughterhouse head supervisor decided which slaughterhouse employee would take part. However, the selected employee was asked by the interviewing veterinarian if they were willing to participate and if so, they were presented with a consent form to sign. All slaughterhouse employees who participated in the study had a certificate of competence in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1099/2009. In order to obtain the certificate, the employee must complete a theoretical and practical part of the training. The first part is completed in a company accredited by the Slovenian Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection. The theoretical part consists of the basics of animal welfare, animal welfare legislation, species-specific characteristics when moving animals and methods of stunning and killing. After theoretical part, the employees must pass the written test. The second, practical part takes place in the slaughterhouse where the employees work. [11]. Once the interview with the slaughterhouse employee was completed, we asked the first livestock truck driver who brought the animals to the slaughterhouse if he would like to participate in the research project. If he agreed, a consent form was presented to him for signature. In addition, all livestock truck drivers were profession-al drivers for live animals and were trained in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1/2005. In a slaughterhouse R2, only local farmers transported livestock to the slaughterhouse on the day of the survey. As they do not require a certificate under Regulation (EC) 1/2005, they did not meet the criteria for the project.

Line 14 - Insert beef, pork and poultry before the word slaughterhouse. It is important for readers to know that three different species were studied.

Reply: was inserted. The study examined the knowledge and current situation of farm animal welfare during transport and in beef, pork and poultry slaughterhouses.

Line 29 - Insert beef, pork and poultry before the word slaughterhouse.

Reply: was inserted. The aim of this study was to evaluate animal welfare during transport and in beef, pork and poultry slaughterhouses in Slovenian.

Line 82 - Please describe the training materials that are used for studying for the certificate of competence. In most countries, training materials include both regulations and information on animal behavior stunning, and animal handling. Please provide references for training materials used in Slovenia.

Reply: Was added. All slaughterhouse employees who participated in the study had a certificate of competence in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1099/2009. In order to obtain the certificate, the employee must complete a theoretical and practical part of the training. The first part is completed in a company accredited by the Slovenian Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection. The theoretical part consists of the basics of animal welfare, animal welfare legislation, species-specific characteristics when moving animals and methods of stunning and killing. After theoretical part, the employees must pass the written test. The second, practical part takes place in the slaughterhouse where the employees work. [11].

11. Decree implementing the Council Regulation (EC) on the protection of animals at the time of killing http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED7055 (accessed January 2024).

Line 87 - What was the method for selecting one livestock driver for each slaughterhouse? Was the drive randomly chosen or was he the first driver who drove up when the researchers were present? Please explain.

Reply: Was added. Once the interview with the slaughterhouse employee was completed, we asked the first livestock truck driver who brought the animals to the slaughterhouse if he would like to participate in the research project. If he agreed, a consent form was presented to him for signature. In addition, all livestock truck drivers were professional drivers for live animals and were trained in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1/2005. In a slaughterhouse R2, only local farmers transported livestock to the slaughterhouse on the day of the survey. As they do not require a certificate under Regulation (EC) 1/2005, they did not meet the criteria for the project.

Line 96 - If there were three employees that were available for being surveyed how did you choose the one employee that your surveyed. In all survey work, it is extremely important to fully describe sampling methods.

Reply: Was added. Slovenian slaughterhouses only work morning shifts. This means that the slaughter-house staff usually consists of two people who were suitable for the survey and an animal welfare officer who stands in for the employee while he is on leave.

Table 1 - Add a column which shows the approximate hourly slaughter line speed for each slaughterhouse. This information provides important information for making comparisons with other studies.

Reply: Speed for slaughter line was added.

Line 105 - It is really good that you are going to publish the entire survey.

Reply. Yes, we agree, that's why we translated survey in English.

Line 122-125 - How were the veterinarians chosen to make observations in each slaughterhouse? Please describe the training they had. If you used published training materials, the references should be added.

Reply: two veterinarians were from Veterinary faculty University of Ljubljana with a huge number of working hours in the Slovenian slaughterhouses every year. However, internal education was held by a leader of the project: Professor. MSc, PhD Alenka Dovč, DVM, Dip ECAWBM (AWSEL) (European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioral Medicine). She worked in the project animal welfare and farm control (Quality protocols) and projects V4-1817 Technological innovations to improve animal welfare in poultry and pigs (year 2018 – 2020), V4-1604 Animal welfare including health of poultry and pigs in conventional and alternative housing systems (year 2016 – 2018).

Line 204 - Translation error? What does "breading" mean? Do you mean bedding?

Reply: We changed the statement. On the other hand, the slaughterhouse employees rated higher the statement that we comply with animal welfare standards if the animal reproduces successfully.

Line 220 - Change irreproachable to sanitary.

Reply: We changed the word.

Line 298 - If the certificate of competence is obtained through practical experience, do the employees take a test? In many countries, employees have to take an approved training program and pass a test.

Reply: Was added. Their competence may be acquired through formal training and/or practical experience in the slaughterhouse. After theoretical part in Slovenia, the employees must pass the written test.

Line 346 - Do you have any discussions about different responses for different species?

Reply: We did a statistical analysis, but there was only a small difference, better answers in the poultry slaughterhouse. But the number of responses is too small to draw a definitive conclusion.

Line 370 - Were there any species differences between poultry (white meat) and cattle/pigs (red meat) on the sentience question?

Reply: There was no difference between white and read meat. Mean score was 4,75 (N=4) for white meat and 4,5 (N=6) for red meat.

Line 449 - This reviewer completely agrees with the statement about the need for more training. Both employees and drivers need training on both the regulations and the behavior of the animals.

Reply: We agree, so we are planning a new project for more training all people involved in animal welfare in slaughterhouse, e.g. slaughterhouse employees, slaughterhouse animal welfare officers, official control – veterinarians,…