

Eid-al-Fitr and food safety

Qurbani and Other Occasions when Meat is Not Chilled after Slaughter

A major Eid (Eid-al-Fitr; end of fasting) festival in the Muslim community is Eid-al-Adha. This holiday commemorates Ibrahim's almost sacrifice of his son Ishmael as commanded by Allah, which at the last minute was substituted by a ram as the sacrifice instead. This is a holiday where many Muslim families wish to slaughter an appropriate animal, traditionally doing the slaughter themselves and more commonly now in an appropriate abattoir. Often the meat is then taken home immediately after slaughter (i.e., before refrigeration), so there are issues around the safe handling of such meat. The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board in England, UK has developed a collection of materials on their website (<https://ahdb.org.uk/halal>) under "Qurbani Operating Principles" and a "Qurbani Consumer Guide" to help Muslim consumers handle such meat safely. Similar concerns arise whenever animals are slaughtered and the meat is moved to consumers without cooling so these documents should also be helpful in other circumstances.

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