NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

breeder lines, representing the target population, (iii) commercial broiler chickens, providing real-life

absence of antimicrobial prophylaxis. For this reason, we will not include any experimental procedure to induce dysbiosis – we will re-create standard farm conditions. The procedures listed here (oral inoculation, blood sampling, and cloacal swabbing) are well established and selected to minimise the need for invasive procedures. For example, final blood sampling will be undertaken immediately post-mortem rather than from live birds to minimise the number of procedures per individual.

Why can’t you use animals that are less sentient?

The study of enteric dysbiosis in chickens cannot be accurately replicated in any other less sentient animal.

How will you refine the procedures you're using to minimise the welfare costs (harms) for the animals?

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