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NEWSFLASH

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ANOTHER VOYAGE OF DISASTER FOR THE "MAYSORA" AS ISRAEL SUSPENDS SHEEP TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA AMID ANIMAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Israel has suspended the trade in Australian sheep amidst animal health concerns, after rejecting 10,000 sheep on health grounds.

The problem-plagued, 26 year old "*Maysora*" loaded sheep and cattle in Portland, Victoria on October 11 and 12, then proceeded to Fremantle to "top up", finally leaving Australia on October 18. Its cargo of 10,000 sheep destined for Israel was rejected on animal health grounds in Israel on November 3, forcing the exporters to unload the animals in Jordan. As well, an investigation has begun by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) into the excessive mortality rate of calves, both on board the "*Maysora*" and in Israeli feedlots after unloading.



The total journey of 25 days is described as long, but not atypical; however it is known that lengthy multi-port destination voyages risk higher mortality levels. It is estimated that, at the very least, 500 calves died either on board the "*Maysora*" or in Israeli feedlots shortly after unloading.



Australian calves - more victims of the ill-fated "Maysora" and the cruel industry.

The "Maysora" was also carrying 40,000 sheep destined for Egypt following the resumption of the trade to that country. Those animals endured a month long voyage on the ship, which has a lengthy history of welfare problems.

According to the Israeli animal rights group, Let Animals Live, the calves, who arrived in Israel from Australia on the "Maysora" at the beginning of November, had been subjected to much abuse and mistreatment on their journey. The calves had been destined for accelerated feeding over a number of months and then slaughter.

A statement released yesterday by Let Animals Live described the matter as the routine practice of the abuse of sheep and calves who are shipped to Israel from Australia in very crowded conditions and without sufficient air. The journey, the organization notes, also exposes them to disease.

According to **liveexportshame** the loading at both ports in Australia was witnessed by Australian animal advocates who did not report anything exceptional.

Tasmanian spokesperson Suzanne Cass said:-

“We know therefore that the footage and photography is representative of the deterioration in the condition of these animals during the voyage and their arrival at the Eilat, and that supports the report from Let Animals Live in Israel. Calves unloaded showed symptoms of ill thrift (lack of condition), lethargy, respiration problems and lameness – clearly identified in the footage. Their ear tags are clearly visible, proving that these are Australian animals.

“This is yet one more example of the total disregard of the government, the exporters, and the operators of the “Maysora” for the appalling suffering these animals face. Further, the government has begun sending animals to Egypt again, where they are fully aware that nothing can, or will be done about the cruelty that shocked and sickened the nation.

“It is a heinous crime sending live animals on shockingly cruel voyages to countries where their welfare is so compromised that hundreds - even thousands - die during and immediately after the voyage. Those who survive are even more unfortunate; they have to face some of the worst cruelty in the world in handling and slaughter practices”, concluded Ms Cass.

For further information, please contact Suzanne Cass, Live Export Shame Tasmania, phone 0414 726935.

Film footage can be seen at www.liveexportshame.com, and photographs are also available.