

## NEWS RELEASE



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Compassion in World Farming  
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 521 970  
+44 (0) 7771 926005

### **SHOCKING UNDERCOVER FILM SHOWS CRUEL TRAFFIC IN LIVE ANIMALS**

**A global campaign backed by the world's leading animal charities is calling for an end to the long distance transport of live animals for slaughter.**

The Handle with Care coalition has today released shocking new undercover film footage of the global traffic in live animals and is calling on governments worldwide to bring an end to this trade.

The coalition includes all the leading UK-based animal welfare charities: the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Compassion in World Farming, the RSPCA and the International League for the Protection of Horses.

The film shows how farm animals are being routinely shipped around the world in overcrowded and filthy conditions, on journeys that can take several weeks. Every day thousands of cattle, sheep and pigs die en route from disease, hunger and stress.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Campaigns Director Leah Garcés said: "British people are growing increasingly concerned with the way animals are treated and I am sure they will be horrified by the cruelty and suffering that can clearly be seen in this new undercover film."

"We were determined to show people the truth of this hidden and brutal traffic in animals - if you see it for yourself - you just know it must be stopped."

In Europe thousands of horses suffer in crowded conditions on illegal journeys of up to 36 hours from Spain to Italy to be slaughtered for meat.

To launch the campaign in the UK, people are taking to the streets of London with the symbolic placement of an iconic red Routemaster 'campaign' bus in Trafalgar Square. [Photo call Tuesday 12th February 10am to 4pm]

Visitors to London and workers in the capital will be invited to climb on board the parked bus to view special screenings of the investigative film about the cruel trade and sign up to the global campaign.

Compassion in World Farming Chief Executive Philip Lyubery said: "The cruelty these animals endure is completely unacceptable in the 21st century. This trade is one in which millions of animals suffer cruel and unnecessary journeys each year. It must stop."

Speaking on behalf of the International League for the Protection of Horses, Jo White said: "Long distance transport for slaughter is the biggest single abuse of horses in Europe, with around 100,000 involved in the trade. The ILPH is committed to ending this unnecessary suffering and with the review of EU legislation next year, urges the public to demonstrate its objection to this inhumane trade as a matter of urgency."

RSPCA spokesman David Bowles said: "The long distance transport of animals is an emotive issue and one that people care passionately about. The RSPCA is urging everyone to support this campaign so that we can stop this cruel and unnecessary trade."

The transport of chilled and frozen meat has been going on for more than 125 years, yet millions of cattle, pigs, horses, sheep and other animals still suffer and thousands die while being transported unnecessarily long distances each year - just to be slaughtered on arrival.

The coalition urges people to see the evidence at [www.handlewithcare.tv](http://www.handlewithcare.tv) and add their name to a letter of protest which calls on governments to stop the cruel and unnecessary long distance transport of animals for slaughter.

The campaign highlights four of the worst routes, these are; sheep from Australia to the Middle East, cattle from Brazil to Lebanon, horses from Spain to Italy and pigs from Canada to Hawaii.

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Notes to Editor

Members of the Handle with Care coalition are the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Compassion in World Farming, RSPCA, RSPCA Australia, Dierenbescherming (Dutch SPCA), Dyrenes Beskyttelse (Danish SPCA), International League for the Protection of Horses, Humane Society International, Born Free USA and Eurogroup for Animals.

The definition of 'long distance' for the Handle with Care coalition refers to cases where animals are forced to suffer unnecessarily long journeys - often thousands of miles by road and sea - when it would be possible to take them to slaughterhouses closer to where they were reared.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** For interviews, film footage and photographs please contact: Gillian Enlund on 020 7587 5019 or 07791239120

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