

NEWS RELEASE



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

PARALLELS TO US BEEF RECALL IN EUROPEAN SLAUGHTER

The news that 65,000 tonnes of US beef has been recalled echoes a widespread problem across Europe of sick and injured animals slaughtered for food.

A recent film by Compassion in World Farming, Animals' Angels and Eurogroup for Animals revealed illegal practices of "downer" (sick or injured) animals being forced to slaughter and into the food chain.

The shocking video "Forbidden Journeys" shows animals too sick to move being dragged out of trucks, injured animals lifted by cranes or pushed by Caterpillars, and frequent beating of exhausted animals.

Peter Stevenson, Compassion in World Farming's Chief Policy Advisor, says "Over six million farm animals are transported huge distances across Europe each year. Packed into overcrowded trucks, animals often suffer terribly during these long journeys from heat, thirst and exhaustion.

"Just as in the US, Injured and sick European animals are being forced to the abattoir so that they can enter the human food chain. These journeys cause great suffering - and are illegal. EU law prohibits the transport of injured animals. Moreover, putting such animals into the human food chain raises food safety concerns as well as highlighting animal cruelty.

"The Commission and Member States must rigorously enforce the EU legislation which prohibits the transport of ill and injured animals."

For more information, interviews, photos or footage contact:

Annabel Davis at Compassion in World Farming 01483 521973 or 07771 926005,

annabel@ciwf.org

Notes:

- Investigators found evidence of “downer” animals in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Poland and Germany
- Watch the film at ciwf.org:

http://www.ciwf.org.uk/home/news_animals_in_transport_film.shtml