

**PRESS RELEASE**

26 March 2010

**Compassion in World Farming appalled at Australia's live export deaths**

Compassion in World Farming condemns the recent re-commencement of the live cattle trade from Australia to Egypt. On the first journey after four years' suspension, over two hundred and fifty cattle have died en route.

The ship left Australia with over sixteen thousand cattle on board. These cattle may have already had a lengthy road journey to the Australian sea port before they even begin the three week journey to Egypt. The animals who survive the suffering on the ship are likely to be exhausted; they will be loaded on to lorries once they have reached their destination and endure a further stressful journey to the slaughter house.

The export company is reported as saying that the sea journey took longer than the scheduled 15 days "because of injury to a crew member and piracy-related security issues."

Compassion has campaigned tirelessly for an end to the Australian live export trade. The long journeys from Australia often cause enormous suffering, pain and distress for all farm animals involved.

Cattle and sheep being exported from Australia to the Middle East can be subjected to extremes of temperature and many sheep die from a range of causes including trauma, failure to eat (some sheep are unable to adjust to the pelleted diet on the ship) and disease. Numerous disasters over the years have claimed the lives of many more.

The reason for the deaths of the cattle on this journey is currently reported as 'unknown' and a federal investigation is underway. It is reported that thousands of sheep were on board too. Their condition is yet to be confirmed.

Compassion's Chief Policy Advisor, Peter Stevenson, says: "The export of live cattle and sheep from Australia to the Middle East involves immense suffering. This latest disaster highlights the inhumanity of this trade. We call on Australia to bring live animal exports to an end as a matter of urgency and replace it with a trade in meat and carcasses."

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**Notes to the editor**

**For further information or to arrange interviews contact on Caroline Burkie  
01483 521952 or 07771 926005 (out of office hours) or email  
[caroline.burkie@ciwf.org](mailto:caroline.burkie@ciwf.org)**