

Live Animal Export Fact Sheet

The Journey

- Over the past 30 years Australia's live export industry has exported over 200 million animals to the Middle East
- During that time over **2.5 million animals have died enroute** and many more have suffered injury, illness and distress directly caused by transportation by sea.
- The major cause of death on ships for sheep is 'inanition' – failing to eat, caused by the stresses of transportation and the unfamiliar pellet food that is provided.
- The history of the live export trade is littered with disasters caused by storms, heat episodes, mechanical failures, fires on board and trade disputes.
- In 2009, 32,117 sheep died en route to the Middle East.

In the Middle East

- Animals Australia has conducted seven investigations in the Middle East since 2003 which have revealed appalling cruelty to Australian and other animals in the region.
- There are **no laws to protect animals** from acts of cruelty in the Middle East.
- Animals have their **throats cut whilst fully conscious**, a barbaric and cruel method of slaughter which is illegal and unacceptable in Australia.
- Australian sheep are routinely purchased by individual buyers and merchants, tied up with rope and shoved into boots in a region where temperatures regularly hover near 50°C in summer.

The Damage

- Local people throughout the Middle East believe that Australians approve of their treatment of animals. They have reached this logical conclusion based on our willingness to provide them with animals for slaughter **for over 30 years**. Rather than inspiring desperately needed change in attitudes and treatment – **the continued supply of Australian animals is reinforcing long held beliefs that their treatment of animals is acceptable**.
- The operation of Australia's live export industry, and the tens of thousands of animals that die enroute to the Middle East each year sets an example that profit is more important than animal welfare and that animals are simple chattels to be traded and slaughtered.
- Despite Australia's live export industry having representatives in the region for two decades, cruel and brutal treatment of animals remains **routine and widespread** throughout the region.

The Alternative

- Ban live export and set an example and a precedent that will inspire change. Such a decision by the Australian Government would protect millions of Australian animals from cruel treatment, and ensure that animal welfare was brought to political and public prominence in the Middle East.
- Australia's chilled halal meat trade is already almost equal in value to Australia's live sheep trade to the region and growing significantly each year.
- Regardless – some things are just wrong.. and no amount of profit will ever make them right!