

FOUR PAWS's Position on Live Export of Farmed Animals

The practice of live export of animals in South Africa is growing- where animals such as sheep, cattle and goats are transported live on ships across the world, sometimes for weeks at a time to other countries, just to be killed. The government is promoting this practice, even though other countries put bans or plan to ban the practice (such as New Zealand and the UK) due to animal cruelty and other concerns. There is insufficient regulation in place and raising animals in the country simply to be transported to be killed in another means that South Africa bears the harmful impacts associated with animal agriculture while the importing country does not.

Animal transports cause immense animal suffering, which has been documented by animal welfare organizations and journalists for decades. Animal Welfare concerns include but not limited to:

- Maximum loading densities being exceeded resulting in overcrowding, injuries and even death.
- Rough handling of animals during loading and unloading resulting in fear and serious injuries.
- Exceeded temperature limits resulting in animals suffering from heat or cold conditions, numerous animals die of heat strokes or freeze to death.

We advocate for a ban of live animal transports by sea and call on our government to take a bold step by phasing this cruel practice out. Under the current Guidelines for the Exportation of Live Animals by Sea we believe that Animal Welfare cannot be assured with this type of transportation due to the following key reasons:

- In case of emergencies, delays, illnesses, injured animals (and other circumstances), immediate unloading of animals is not possible.
- Safe disposal of dead animals is not possible at sea.
- In case of storms and swells, security cannot be guaranteed.
- Tragedies happen regularly: e.g., third countries frequently refuse animals due to concerns of diseases which often results in the euthanasia of large numbers of animals.

We therefore call on decision makers to support the implementation of our demands and finally put an end to the cruel transport of animals.

- Ban live animal exports by sea.
- No long-distance on land transports over 8 hours (4 hours for poultry). Ideally animals should only be transported to the nearest slaughterhouse under strict control measures.
- Shift to transporting meat and carcasses instead of live animals.