

Implementation of the OIE standards for Animal Transportation



PETER THORNER

Manager, Australian Animal Welfare Strategy & Communications

Australian Govt. Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

This Presentation

- Background to transportation considerations
- Risk management framework
- Role of science
- Australian livestock transport standards
- Australia's livestock export industry
- Using the OIE Guidelines

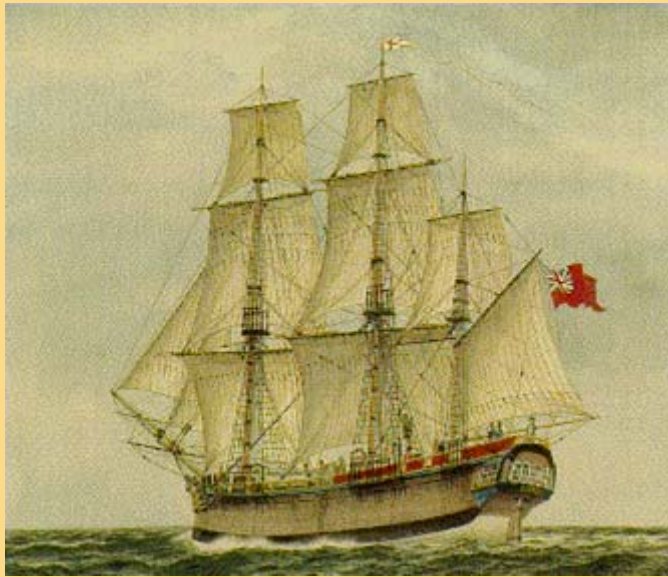


Transport of animals – long history



- **Animals have been transported for thousands of years**

- For farm production, wars, food supply, public entertainment, colonial spread.....often to transport humans!

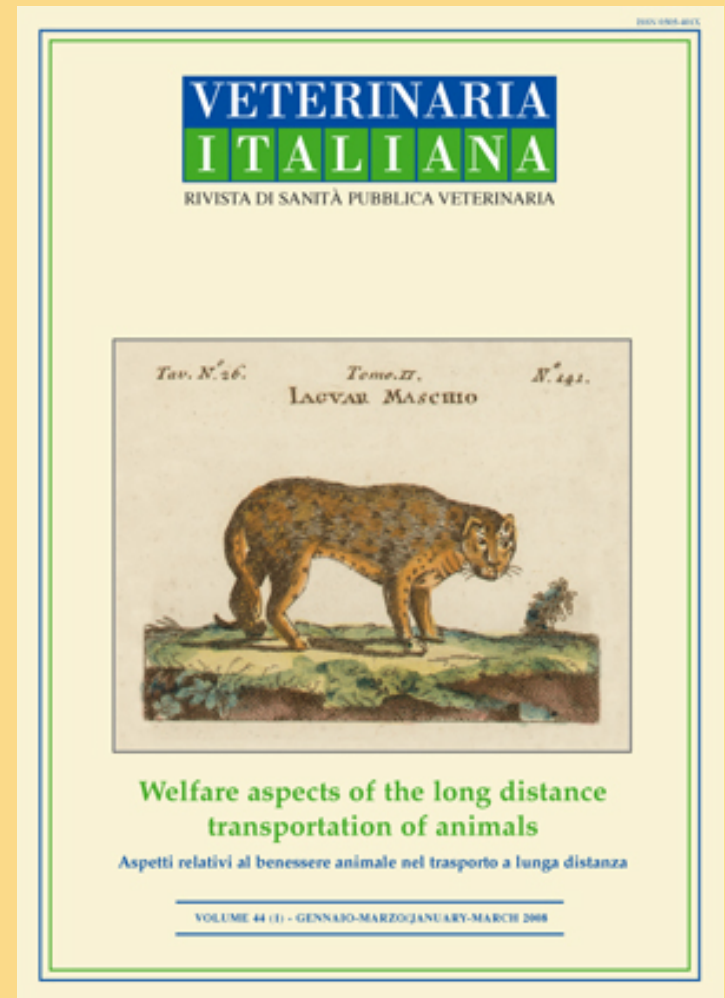


- 500 farm animals came to Australia from the Cape of Good Hope in November 1787 and 9 animals died after 77 days at sea



Veterinaria italiana – current global reference

- 2008, Vol 44 (1) Jan – March
Welfare aspects of the long distance transportation of animals (farm, exotic, lab animals etc)
 - The most current and comprehensive global reference that not only looks at scientific aspects, but considers the subject broadly in respect of risk management - government policy, infrastructure, training, standards etc



How can welfare be protected during transport?

- **Transportation causes stress in animals** (and humans e.g. international long haul flights)
 - Stress can be mitigated with appropriate planning & risk management
 - Need appropriate vehicle design, competent drivers, well-prepared animals



A 'whole of chain' risk management approach

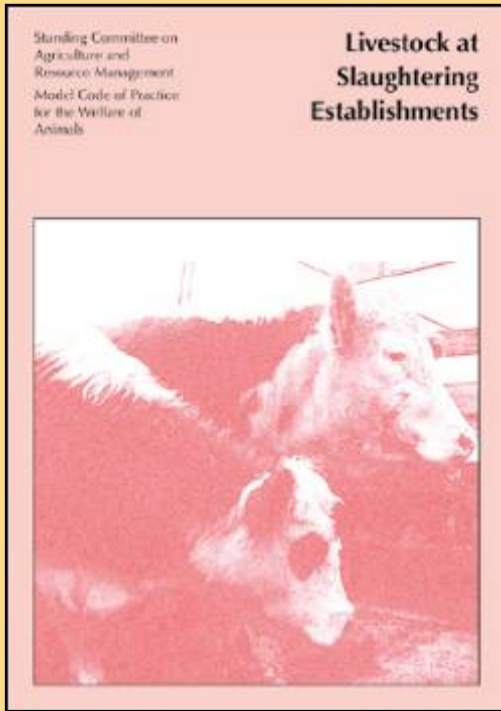


How can welfare be protected during transport?

- **Need to have:**
 - a travel plan for each trip
 - standards and procedures, based on a mix of experience, practicality and travel conditions
 - animals that have been prepared and are fit to travel
 - appropriate vehicles/ ships/ aircraft
 - trained handlers/drivers



Australian Animal Welfare Standards linked to:



National Codes of Practice for Welfare



TruckCare and other industry quality assurance programs



Terrestrial Animal Health Code

International welfare standards and guidelines



Regulation and Industry QA/Co-regulation

TruckCare quality assurance procedures

Transport company consignment travel plan, considering:

- Species, class, condition, number of livestock
- Transport vehicles
- Loading densities, penning requirements
- Duration of journey: rest periods for driver and animals, expected weather conditions
- Inspection of livestock, loading and unloading arrangements
- Travel route, road conditions
- Contingency plans for emergencies

Road transport regulations

OIE World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Épidémiologies)
QA quality assurance



Role of science in assisting with standards

- Assist in understanding stress and welfare impacts on animals
 - To provide 'evidence' through research or data analysis to assist policy makers and regulators to set practical standards
 - Results are specific to the set of experimental conditions



Australian Welfare Standards – Land Transport

- Based on extensive consultation
- Stakeholders along supply chain – ‘farm to fork’
- Partnership between industry, governments and community
- Acknowledge range of production systems
- Fits with Quality Assurance schemes.



Australian Welfare Standards – Land Transport

- Standards will inform and educate
- Must be sustainable and aim for 'evolutionary' change
- Standards on their own are not enough
 - Need monitoring and evaluation
 - Need well resourced enforcement system
 - Need support of transport industry



Australia's live animal export industry.....

- Highly regulated industry
- 6 days from northern Australia to Indonesia, 20 days to Middle East.
- Valued at almost \$A1 billion and 10,000 jobs.
- Risk management framework
 - Must have a licence to export!



Photo courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia



Live animal exports

- Ships must be approved/meet standards
- Each consignment has a risk management plan
- All animals identified to property of source
- Reporting requirements



Air Transport of animals

- Australian standards cover air transport
- From selection to export
- Based on International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations



Photo courtesy of MLA- LiveCorp



Post arrival

- Working with Middle East governments to develop MOUs
- Worked with OIE, Middle East and Asia to develop regional plans to implement OIE welfare guidelines
- Training programs, capacity building and infrastructure improvement






Using the OIE transport guidelines.....

OIE Standard/guideline	Indicators of acceptable welfare
<p>Article 3 - Vehicles used for transport should be designed, constructed and fitted as appropriate to the species, size, etc.....free from sharp protrusions</p>	<p>Animals arrive at destination in good condition with no visible injuries</p> <p>Post slaughter, no evidence of carcass bruising</p>




Using the OIE transport guidelines.....

OIE Standard/guideline	Indicators of acceptable welfare
<p>Article 6 - Facilities for loading (ramps, etc) should be designed to meet the needs and abilities of animals.....dimensions, slope, flooring, no sharp projections.....</p>	<p>Animals walk up the loading ramp with minimal intervention, and not observed to slip or fall</p>
	 



Using the OIE transport guidelines.....

OIE Standard/guideline	Indicators of acceptable welfare
<p data-bbox="64 297 820 451">Article 5 - animals that are <i>unfit</i> to travel should not be loaded onto a vehicle</p> <ul data-bbox="64 476 864 651" style="list-style-type: none">• sick, injured, weak, disabled, blind in both eyes• Unable to stand on both legs	<p data-bbox="925 297 1677 394">Animals inspected and unfit animals not loaded</p> <p data-bbox="925 491 1648 708">Animals arrive in good condition, can walk off the vehicle unaided, no sign of lameness or injury</p> 



Training and education – working with governments and commercial companies

PORTS



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp



Training and education



FEEDLOTS



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp



SHIPS

TRUCKS

Improving management



Photos courtesy of Meat and Livestock Australia/LiveCorp



Conclusion

- Livestock transport will continue to be a legitimate undertaking, but risks to animals need to be managed through a 'whole of chain' approach
 - Difference countries, different risks.
- Need Partnerships along supply chain – shared responsibilities.
- OIE welfare guidelines provide the basis for international cooperation, education, training – capacity building.



THANK YOU!

