

I am a simple animal welfare campaigner; not a financially driven politician who represents the selected few who have the finances to get their views and feelings across to those who can better them. I am appalled and disgusted by the events which the existing UK government allowed to happen on 18/7/14. Where is the 'UK – home of good animal welfare' ? – a thing of the history books ?; when we allow such atrocities as these to go on. Main political party politicians should bow their heads in shame at what went on yesterday; not put up weasel word regulations on government Ministry sites attempting to inform us that they have everything so well under control and that the simple man has nothing to worry about at all. I would suggest quite the opposite – animal 'welfare' political attitudes by the main parties currently in UK government really do make me feel that times have never been worse; not better. For example, we see nations across South America banning the use of animals in circuses; whilst we still have to endure the dithering by politicians after the public consultation gave overwhelming results, what, 6 or 7 years ago !! – still no hard and fast changes to the regulations.

I ask David Cameron and sidekick Clegg; where is the legislation regarding the use of wild animals in UK circuses ? – by what amount (numbers) have you actually reduced the number of animals used in UK research (I recall something from the past about '3R's !') ? - what were the 'positive results' that surfaced from the mass badger killings undertaken by Paterson (remember him ?) relating to Bovine TB ?; although I don't think Defra actually tested any badgers to see if they carried BTB in the first place !! – worrying when it cost us over £8 million to achieve preliminary data that resulted in nothing; other than to tell us that men can shoot in the dark and there is no attempt to create a BTB vaccination. But Defra, AHVLA, and the rest all know so much better than us, the 'simple' man (and woman) on the street; I think they call us 'voters'; but in the end; they make the difference.

I feel that using information available to us; 'us' being 'Joe public', or the simple, financially resourced politician guided man from the street; 'he who knows not a lot'; a little more light should be directed on the so called 'legislation and regulations' which don't; sorry folks, rather I should be 'PC' and say 'do' seem to allow live farm animals to be adequately and very comfortably and contently transported and protected from the North of England to France (and maybe further ?) on the hottest day of the 2014 year; in many places (Kent for one) with us witnessing temperatures in excess of 32/33 degrees Celsius. It is probably just me (?), but as an animal welfare campaigner; or AR Activist as the media like to call us, I have no hope in relying on our current political financiers in the 'coalition government to undertake anything that will be of / for the benefit of conditions for live animals during long distance transport to mainland Europe from the UK.

I do have one hope; and that is in the form of a General Election in the UK now shining bright for the first half of 2015. You are all people that have an opportunity to vote; you all have very serious concerns about the issue of animal welfare during transport (amongst other animal issues); many of you were at Ramsgate port on 18/7 and experienced the efforts made by our political masters to ensure that regardless of the costs and the feelings of Joe public, the convicted Dutch criminal (Folkestone July 2010) named 'Onderwater', who contributes nothing to the Kent / UK economy; but who demands (and gets) all the stops pulled out for him each and every time; had the easiest possible experience in attempts to get livestock transporters onto his battletank bathtub vessel, the 'Joline', for the haul to Calais port and then further into Europe by road; with France witnessing even hotter conditions on 18/7 than we had here in the UK. (Good job we can rely on AHVLA to work with their EU counterparts to exchange all the information regarding what happens each time there is a shipment !). Who actually pays taxes to the operation of the police force of Kent ?;

the good people of the county, or convicted Dutch criminals ? – I guess that judging how they can do no wrong and how Kent policing sways to protect him; it must be Mr. Onderwater who contributes the most tax in the county of the white horse. I do remember something on my Council tax Bill about MY money going to Kent police; no problem with that; but I do have a problem paying taxes to Kent police when they pull out all the stops to protect the abuses of a convicted criminal (In a UK court) named Johannes Onderwater.

It would appear from what is now known that the animals being exported by the convicted criminal yesterday originally set off on their journeys from Northampton (home of yet another live export criminal called 'Lomas' – convicted in Dover courts earlier this year) and also from Sheffield. This means that those animals from Sheffield had to be approved (by an LVI or vet !!!) and loaded by around midday (noon) on Friday 18th – oh yes, noon being around the hottest part of the day, on the hottest day of the year – just a point ! – I am no vet, but I do know that you do not carry dogs in cars for long distances on the hottest day of the year – so why sheep from Sheffield to France ?

Friday 18th July 2014 witnessed the hottest day of the year in several parts of England; especially the South East, which obviously means Kent county. The port of Ramsgate from which the animals departed the UK is located in Kent county.

Here below are a few (weasel) words and links to 'ensuring good animal welfare' is enforced with a rod of iron, as described by Defra, who operate under the name of 'competent authority' AHVLA inspectors working to enforce 'strict welfare' at the Kent ports and during loading at noon in Sheffield on the hottest day of the year – hmmm !!.

The following are all declarations made by Defra on their website, which is available to inform and pacify us; simple Joe public; so by being from a government Ministry it must therefore be right; so what's the problem ? – why are all you AR terrorists sitting in the road at Ramsgate harbour in such extreme temperatures on 18/7 I ask; when we have such superb regulations in place by 'competent authorities' to ensure that there is no suffering for animals whatsoever on the hottest day of the year !!!

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/3260/contents/made>

In Defra's own words:

"High temperatures and humidity, particularly sudden changes in conditions, can pose a major threat to animal welfare. The following basic advice is to help farmers, transporters, pet owners and others avoid problems.

There is a legal obligation on those looking after animals to avoid causing them unnecessary suffering, and to avoid subjecting them to conditions where this is likely to occur. It is an offence if the welfare of an animal is compromised as a result of a failure to take appropriate action in response to extremes of temperature".

Source: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/transport/heat.htm>

Transporting animals.

"Those transporting animals, including agricultural animals, should take action to avoid problems in hot weather. Things to consider include (although this is not an exhaustive list):

Factoring potential weather conditions into the planning of any journey (for example not loading or moving animals during the hottest parts of the day)

Improved ventilation of the vehicle

Increased space allowances

Providing water and electrolytes more frequently

In addition, contingency plans should be in place for every journey, and are particularly important in hot conditions as delays, which might be relatively insignificant under normal conditions, can become critical very quickly.

More hot weather advice from the 'experts' at Defra:

- avoiding travelling in the hotter parts of the day by scheduling the journey or planning to take advantage of cooler conditions at night;

Source:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/documents/hotweather_2010.pdf

Welfare of Animals During Transport – Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005

Advice on the Transport of Animals in Hot Weather.

1. Exposure to high temperatures and humidity is a major threat to animal welfare during transport. These conditions are a very real possibility during the summer months. Failure to take account of high temperatures when planning journeys and a lack of adequate contingency plans can cause suffering to animals, and in the worst case scenario, death.

The following paragraphs detail the Regulation requirements and additional advice which aims to reduce the risk of undue suffering to animals transported over 8 hours in hot weather.

2. Humidity can significantly increase the adverse effects of high temperatures on animals and cause greater suffering. One of the several mechanisms that animals use to cool themselves in hot weather is the loss of water vapour by sweating or panting. In high humidity, the loss of water vapour is reduced. **Thus, in conditions of both high temperature and high humidity, animals may be subject to further heat stress, which may cause distress and even death.**

Over the last 25 years I have attempted to 'do my bit' regarding stopping live animal exports from the UK. See me at <http://serbiananimalsvoice.com/about-us/> - health problems (I have had MS for 15 years) now prevent me in certain ways from being a 'rascal' at the docks; although I am with you in spirit every time of a shipment. Some of you may remember me from fairly recent times – I spoke (as part of the KAALE team) at the first public meeting at Ramsgate (along with Ian B also from KAALE) and Phil L. from CIWF when exports from the port were first going to start a few years back. I had the pleasure of meeting Ian Driver also; and I now wish more than anything for everyone to get behind his (and the Green Party) efforts to take action both here in the UK and also in the EU to make long distance live animal transport very much more restricted with regard transport times; regulation enforcement etc. Ian Driver is a good man, please support him. UKIP; well they talk loud about banning the trade, but as we know, there is a rumour that pigs may fly.

It was a pleasure to hear about the Ian's (Driver), and all the other wonderful 'joe publics' who turned out at Ramsagte yesterday (18/7) at Ramsgate. They and I are not 'Sir this' or 'Lord that'; does it matter ? – to some yes; but because of our beliefs to stop animals from suffering, we are just as strong in our views; maybe (and probably) even stronger than the Sirs and Lords who think that some title makes them a better person.

At the end of the day, the simple fact is that we have the desire and ability to go outside the envelope; to push the envelope; be rascals and put our feelings for animal compassion into actions; this was seen at Ramsgate on 18/7/14. Another thing; despite their obvious grand financial status and beings Sirs or Lords of this cherished land, they still sit (yes I said 'sit') on the toilet and do what's needed at certain times, just like me. In that sense, they are no different to me; they are just the same; apart from the fact that they are called simply 'Sir this or Lord that'. They are supposed to represent you; they are your servants; not the other way around.

Keep on writing about the issue of live animal transport; keep phoning to voice your disgust, keep e mailing; and most importantly, do what you think is right and needs to be done to try and put this wonderful nation of ours back on the map when it comes to having some good animal welfare rules.

Please look at the links provided above and see if you trust the fodder, the weasel words that you see from the Ministry and that which you are being fed from the likes of MP's and government department official yukspeak.

Most importantly, vote at every opportunity; especially please at the next General Election when you can make a difference for animals; and let the MP's, Lords and Sirs know why. The Green MEPs are working really hard in Europe to reduce animal transport times and suffering – what do we hear about this from our political masters in the UK at the moment I ask ? – great weasel words on websites, but in reality, could and should do much better I think the end of term report should read as they all now pack their House of Commons bags and take the middle tier of an Onderwater trailer down to Southern France for their holidays. I just hope the 'trolley dollies' can provide them with enough electrolyte and water as the regulations require during their trip which will involve a minimum 1 hour rest period. God help them if they are crammed in the middle of bodies on the top tier and cannot get access to drinkers located only on the exterior; but then, I am sure they will be protected by MP holiday legislation during transport. I am certain the caring, welfare certified drivers will regularly check on their condition as they chug across the Channel a 6 knots. If they get ill, then adequate sized access doors fitted along the entire length of the trailers will provide quick and easy access for them to be removed – ask Lesley at 'Eyes on Animals' in the NL about this – <http://www.eyesonanimals.com/>

<http://www.eyesonanimals.com/compliments-rinus-van-beers-van-paul-raaijmakers-transport-companies-2/>

Keep on the campaigning; do what your heart and head tells you (correctly) is the right thing to do. Just like Paterson, put on your wellies (or maybe just shoes ?) and hit the road to be a voice for the voiceless.

Politicians regularly come and go; but you can never take away the normal persons compassion for animals and the desire to do better for them which all of us hold.

To me, the protestors at Ramsgate and Dover are the real Sirs and Lords of this nation !!

Good will win over evil; better people can bring change !

Regards

Mark - KAALE EU - <http://www.kaale.org.uk/> and SAV founder - <http://serbiananimalsvoice.com/>