

# Independent Observer summary report on *MV Greyman Express*

## Cattle exported to Indonesia in January 2019

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Report 72, October 2019

### **Voyage summary**

A consignment of 3,705 cattle was loaded onto the *MV Greyman Express* in Darwin on 29 January 2019. The cattle were discharged from the vessel at Jakarta, Indonesia on 3 February 2019 making this a 6 day voyage.

An Independent Observer (observer) boarded the vessel at Darwin and remained on board until completion of discharge.

The mortality rate for cattle was 0.02% (1 mortality). This does not exceed the reportable level. The causes of the mortalities were not considered to be linked to any systemic failure by the exporter.

The following comments represent a summary of key observations and has been approved by the observer who accompanied the voyage.

### **Independent observations of the implementation of procedures to ensure health and welfare of livestock**

#### **Exporter Documentation**

Exporter arrangements were available to address procedures relating to livestock management from loading through to discharge, including contingencies.

#### **Loading**

The observer was not present during loading.

Several pens were noted with 4 - 6 more livestock than stated on the load plan. The LiveCorp Accredited Stockperson (stockperson) moved some animals but judged that others were travelling well and did not require relocation. No animal welfare issues were noted with the pens that had a higher stocking density.

One animal broke a leg during loading. The animal was separated and euthanased on board.

Cattle had access to feed and water within 12 hours of loading.

#### **Personnel**

The stockperson had extensive experience on livestock vessels and was a regular stockperson on the vessel.

## Daily routine

A daily meeting was held every day at midday with the master or Chief Officer (CO) and stockperson to discuss the *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 2.3) 2011* ([ASEL](#)) and other relevant topics.

## Feed and water

Animals were observed to be feeding well and with good access to food and clean water at all times. Water troughs were observed being cleaned regularly.

## Ventilation

The vessels ventilation system through the pens was very good, maintaining constant cool airflow over all pens on all 5 decks.

There were no ventilation issues during the voyage with consistent maximum temperatures and humidity readings taken on all decks at 11:00am daily.

Day one recorded the highest temperature and humidity at 33°C and 80%, and by day two temperatures moved to a consistent 32°C with humidity levels at around 74%.

## Pen conditions

Walkways were observed to be very clean. Pads formed throughout the voyage. A small number of pens had moist pads. The observer noted crew members used uneaten or spilled fodder to actively manage this issue, which assisted with pad formation. The pens did not require a deck wash. The observer noted livestock were comfortable with no impact on welfare.

## Health and welfare

One animal fractured a leg during loading. The animal was separated and was euthanased on board.

On day five, 2 animals were observed to have difficulty standing, however, the stockperson was made aware of the issue and the animals were observed to be standing normally a short time later. These animals were discharged with no further issues noted.

On day six, 3 animals were observed to have minor skin abrasions, but none required treatment.

No animals required moving to hospital pens.

## Discharge

Discharge was observed to occur very efficiently with stock moving well from pens up ramps and onto trucks.

## Conclusion

The exporter arrangements were observed to be implemented during the voyage and to be compliant with ASEL requirements.

The crew and stockperson worked very well together to maintain animal health, pen cleanliness, and food and water quality. No animal welfare issues were noted during the voyage.

## Representative photographs of the voyage

**Day 1 Cattle feeding-no issues identified**



**Day 2 Cattle in pen – no issues identified**



**Day 3 Cattle in pen - no issues identified**



**Day 4 Cattle in pen – no issues identified**



**Day 5 Cattle in pen– no issues identified**



**Day 6 Cattle in pen- no issues identified**

