

# **VALE COMMENTS Report 31 MV Yangtze Harmony, Fremantle to Oman**

## **Feed and water**

IO SUMMARY: The pelleted fodder was supplied to each deck via chutes and then manually fed into the troughs. The supply of feed was the most significant challenge during the voyage. There was competition for the daily allowance of fodder. Sheep that were detected with loss of condition were segregated into the hospital pens with free access to fodder.

The AAV and stockperson was aware that a route diversion to avoid adverse conditions and delays in berthing at the destination port could cause an extended length of voyage. The AAV and stockperson considered these factors and the remaining fodder when deciding each daily sheep ration.

VALE COMMENT: there appears to have been insufficient fodder loaded given the rationing. As the voyage length was not unduly long, there should have been information provided on how many days of fodder had been calculated.

IO SUMMARY: Early in the voyage the observer noted that the hygiene of some troughs was not satisfactory. The issue was referred to the stockperson and there was an immediate improvement and for most of the voyage the trough hygiene was acceptable. Towards the end of the trip the overnight maintenance of trough hygiene did deteriorate.

VALE COMMENT: poor water hygiene is not adequate especially on a long haul voyage. Provision of fresh clean water is an OIE requirement.

## **Ventilation**

IO SUMMARY: Temperature readings were taken daily from each deck around 10.00am.

VALE COMMENT: unlikely to be representative of maximum WBT in the Middle East

## **Health and welfare**

IO SUMMARY: Thirty six mortalities were recorded with the majority attributed to enteritis and inanition. Other cause of death include sand impaction, urethral obstruction and pneumonia.

VALE COMMENT: without information on temperature and humidity, validity of observations cannot be assessed.

IO SUMMARY: Treatments during the voyage included lameness, shy feeders / poor condition, foot abscess, facial eczema, shearing cuts and pink eye.

VALE COMMENT: sheep loaded with shearing cuts are not compliant with ASEL

IO SUMMARY: During the voyage, several crew members tethered a small number of sheep to use as leader sheep during discharge. At times the tethered sheep were without food and water.

VALE COMMENT: contrary to OIE recommendations and unacceptable

## **Discharge**

IO SUMMARY: During the discharge of the sheep, the observer did not observe any incidences that represented poor animal welfare. However there were potential animal welfare issues with dilapidated offloading ramps and open gates on the backs of trucks.

VALE COMMENT: no surprise