

VALE COMMENTS on Report 5 *Gudali Express Vietnam*, May 2018

This report is quite impressive for the information it DIDN'T provide. Given the paucity of details, it is inexplicable that it should take 7 months (Report Date December 2018) to release the IO Summary

The IO stated that “The stockperson had a satisfactory understanding of medications and an exemplary understanding of effective low stress stock handling.” It is interesting that the description of exemplary was used for handling but the description of medication understanding was satisfactory. The wording is such that one does not know if it is was perfectly adequate or “satisfactory but could do with improvement.”

The IO stated that “Language barriers presented some difficulties, however all crew had a basic understanding of English, and the CO was fluent in English and always able to assist.” The IO does not state whether this resulted in issues for the animal.

The IO stated “Wet and dry bulb temperatures were taken daily in the morning prior to the submission of the Daily report. The time temperatures were taken varied between a 9:30am start and 10:50am finish (local time); with the actual process taking approximately 20 minutes....A handheld thermometer was used and three readings were taken per deck with the readings averaged across each deck for reporting purposes. Humidity was calculated by using a table of coefficients between dry and wet bulb temperatures. The IO inspected this routine and reviewed its ability to measure temperature and humidity levels on board.” And....? We don't know. The IO Summary did not provide either positive or negative review findings. VALE notes that once daily temperatures taken in the morning are unlikely to be representative. Given the digital equipment available and being used on other ships, it is surprising that handheld thermometers were used.

The IO stated “No deck washing occurred during the voyage. The IO noted that it was hard to ascertain whether or not washing would have provided an overall net benefit in the circumstances.” The IO Summary provided no further information on the issue.

This is one of the few IO Summaries that do not detail the cause of mortalities. Not one.

The representative photographs of the voyage show crowded cattle. The photographs on Day 3 states “no issues identified”. It is clear from this photograph that animals do not have enough space so that all can lie down at the same time and that animals cannot lie down comfortably. Under routine, welfare assessments, this would not be considered adequate for an 11 day period.