

## **VALE COMMENT ON REPORT 127 *Maysora* Sheep and cattle exported to Israel and Jordan**

### **Feed and water**

IO SUMMARY: The observer witnessed on several mornings water troughs had been turned off for the morning cleaning and crew had forgotten to restart water flow immediately. The CO and crew worked hard to develop a cross check system for ensuring that water supply was always restarted after trough cleaning. By the end of the voyage, the system was working well. There was no observed animal welfare impact as a result of the disrupted water supply.

VALE COMMENT: this is an experienced stock carrier. How many years does it take to sort out adequate water supply?

### **Ventilation**

IO SUMMARY: The nature of the open decks (Decks 7-11) meant that individual areas of the open decks were subjected to varying air flow so 'hotspots' tended to be unpredictable and were not observed to persist. The ship made regular minor course changes as required to improve airflow across the open decks.

In the enclosed decks temperature and humidity readings were less variable. During periods of increased humidity, open mouth panting was rarely observed (<1% of animals observed). The observer noted that whilst watching animals with open mouth breathing, most reverted to closed mouth breathing once the observer was seen by the flock.

VALE COMMENT: Heat stress was present but not severe on this controversial May voyage. The comment re reversion of open mouth panting to closed mouth (ie usually a protective fear response) is similar to the comments from Report 3 (see REPORT comment).

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that the stocking density allowed for the opportunity for almost all livestock to lie down simultaneously. Most pens were opened up to neighbouring pens for cattle and sheep where similar lines were adjacent, meaning more water troughs were available for livestock.

VALE COMMENT: space allowance appears adequate.

### **Health and welfare**

IO SUMMARY: The extreme conditions were observed from Day 24 until completion of discharge with temperatures reaching 37.2 degrees Celsius dry bulb, 25.8 degrees Celsius wet bulb and relative humidity around 40%. During this period, the heat stress score for sheep generally ranged from one to two. However for a period of between 5-10 hours each day during the afternoon and early evening, there were isolated examples (<1% of sheep) of heat stress scores rising to three on the open decks before then dropping again later in the night.

For cattle there was a longer period at panting score zero during each 24 hour period with only occasional brief periods at panting score one.

Open mouth panting was rarely (<1%) observed in either sheep or cattle even on the days with the highest wet bulb temperatures (32°C).

VALE COMMENT: all welfare and veterinary organisations argued for a ban on travelling to the ME in May due to the projected weather forecasts. This data validates the concern and should be a strong indication that voyages should not travel to the ME in May.

