

# **VALE COMMENT ON REPORT 60 MV *Ganado Express* Cattle to China**

## **Loading**

IO SUMMARY: In all pens, at least 50% of the cattle were able to rest at any one time. Due to the light loading of the vessel, in most pens, all cattle could lie down at once.

VALE COMMENT: unusually generous

## **Ventilation**

IO SUMMARY: The crew recorded wet, dry temperatures and humidity on each deck at approximately 10:00am and 3:00pm.

VALE COMMENT: twice the usual frequency of monitoring!

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that the measuring methodology did not identify hot or cold spots within the deck. Warmer spots were located adjacent to engine room bulkheads and in pens where the deck is above the fuel tanks. Colder spots were located under ventilation structures on the vessel's centre line on each deck and under the hay access hatches.

VALE COMMENT: diligent IO has noted the inherent issues with fixed point monitoring

IO SUMMARY: The ventilation was on the lowest setting when cold temperatures were experienced whilst approaching China.

VALE COMMENT: usual cold temperatures in Chinese winter

## **Health and welfare**

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that the crew worked well together but language barriers affected their assistance to the stockperson.

VALE COMMENT: similar issues been noted by other IOs

IO SUMMARY: There were a high number of cattle that were treated early in the voyage for nasal discharge / respiratory disease. The treatment options became limited after several days due to exhaustion of the appropriate antibiotic treatment. Other treatments administered were for lameness, pink eye and blood in faeces. All animals responded well to the treatments.

VALE COMMENT: unacceptable that inadequate antibiotic supplies were loaded. Also surprising that so much respiratory disease present in summer acclimatized Australian cattle. There would have to be concerns re whether healthy stock loaded as per ASEL but this comment was not made in the IO Summary.

## **Discharge**

IO SUMMARY: the local stevedores had limited knowledge of calm stock movement. The observer noted non-compliant handling of livestock in the initial loads.

VALE COMMENT: similar to observations by other IOs. Once cattle arrive in these countries, they are exposed to poor handling, facilities and non-existent animal welfare standards/regulations.