

Independent Observer summary report on *MV Ganado Express*

Cattle exported to Indonesia in May 2019

Report 125, October 2019

Voyage summary

A consignment of 3,905 cattle were loaded onto the *MV Ganado Express* in Darwin between 12 and 13 May 2019. The vessel departed on 13 May 2019. The cattle were discharged at Jakarta, Indonesia, between 17 and 18 May 2019, making this a 7 day voyage.

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

There were no mortalities on this voyage.

The following comments represent a summary of key observations from the observer. The summary 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 and contingencies.

Loading

The observer did not note any issues with loading. Sawdust was applied to ramps for the loading process. The observer noted that cattle were fed and watered immediately after loading.

Personnel

The LiveCorp Accredited Stockperson (stockperson) was experienced and capable and worked with the crew to maintain animal health and welfare throughout the voyage. Any issues identified by the stockperson were discussed with the Chief Officer (CO) and acted upon. The stockperson, crew and officers all worked well together to maintain the welfare of the cattle on board.

Daily routine

Management meetings were held each day at 10:30am and were attended by the CO, stockperson and observer. The attendees discussed the daily routine, livestock management and reviewed the stockpersons daily report.

Crew members were on duty for 4 hours at a time between 4:00pm and 8:00am the following day. On the second day of the voyage crew assigned to each night watch shift increased from one crew member to two.

Feed and Water

Cattle were fed three times a day and the observer noted that feed troughs were rarely empty for more than an hour. There were at least two feed troughs per pen and all stock in pens appeared to be able to access feed without undue competition. Average fodder consumption increased steadily throughout the voyage.

Water was available to cattle via 33 litre troughs. Each pen had 2 or 3 troughs depending on pen dimensions. Cattle also had continuous access to water via nose bowls situated in two corners of each pen. The observer did not note any issues with water.

Ventilation

The average daily temperatures for the voyage were dry 28.5°C and dry bulb, 24.9°C wet bulb and humidity at 74.5%.

The observer noted that overall ventilation worked well throughout the voyage. Hatches were also opened in order to aid ventilation.

Pen conditions

Initial pad conditions were wet due to some water leaks. Pad condition improved rapidly as the crew applied saw dust to control moisture levels and repaired water leaks. The observer noted that overall pad formation was good throughout the voyage.

No decks were washed due to the short duration of the voyage.

Health and welfare

The observer did not note any animal welfare issues on this voyage. Two animals were treated for swollen eyes and lethargy and both were monitored and discharged.

Discharge

The observer did not note any issues with the discharge. The observer commented that the crew handled cattle well with their welfare in mind. Feed and water was provided to cattle throughout the discharge.

Conclusion

The observer did not detect any non-compliant issues during the voyage. The observer noted the diligent work of the stockperson and the vessel's crew in managing the health and welfare and their prompt response when issues were identified.

The exporter arrangements were observed to be implemented during the voyage and to be compliant with *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 2.3) 2011* requirements.

Representative photographs of the voyage

Day 2 Species in pen—no issues identified



Day 3 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 3 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 4 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 4 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 5 Cattle in pen—no issues identified

