

# Independent Observer summary report on *MV Gudali Express*

## Cattle exported to Indonesia in May 2019

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Report 132, December 2019

### **Voyage summary**

A consignment of 3,768 cattle were loaded onto the *MV Gudali Express* at the Port of Darwin on 25 May 2019 and the vessel departed in the evening. The vessel discharged the cattle at the Port of Jakarta, Indonesia on 31 May 2019, making this a 7 day voyage.

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

There were no mortalities during the voyage.

The following comments are a summary of key observations of the observer who accompanied this 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**

Livestock were loaded according to the load plan. Fifty per cent of the cattle had sufficient space to lie down and rest. Pen adjustments were observed being made during the voyage to ensure animals had adequate space.

No health or welfare issues were identified during loading.

#### **Personnel**

The LiveCorp Accredited Stockperson (stockperson) on board the vessel was very experienced and had proficient animal handling skills. The observer noted the livestock crew were diligent and caring in their handling of the animals in ensuring health and welfare standards were maintained during the voyage.

The bosun was also very attentive in daily inspections, notifying the stockperson and observer of any injuries or illnesses observed.

### **Daily routine**

A management meeting was held each day between 8:00am and 9:00am and was attended by the Chief Officer (CO), bosun, stockperson and observer. Topics covered included temperatures, treatments, feed, water, health and any other issues impacting the cattle.

The stockperson completed a minimum of two full inspections of the livestock daily. During these rounds the stockpersons monitored feed and water levels, pad condition, assessed the livestock for illness and generally monitored the welfare of the livestock.

Livestock crew were present on the decks 24 hours a day. The night watch crew were rostered in 2 shifts and were required to clean troughs and provide water to animals. The observer attended at random times during the night shift and observed crew carrying out their duties.

### **Feed and water**

Appropriate amounts of fodder was loaded according to the *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 2011 (version 2.3)* ([ASEL](#)) requirements. Cleaning, filling and topping up of troughs was observed to be efficiently maintained. Chaff was available from day 1 and pelleted fodder was fresh.

There were 2 automated nose water bowls in each pen, with additional water provided in troughs which were topped up manually by the crew.

### **Ventilation**

The ventilation was observed to be functioning effectively. Livestock did not display any signs of heat stress, such as increased respiratory rate. Environmental conditions were good with calm seas and moderate temperatures.

Temperature and humidity checks were recorded once daily between 8:00am and 9:00am. No extreme temperatures were recorded and humidity was low. Wet bulb temperatures averaged 26°C and humidity averaged 78%.

### **Pen conditions**

Pen conditions were well managed, and management included the use of sawdust. Pens remained consistently dry. Deck washing was not required due to the short duration of the voyage.

### **Health and welfare**

Two animals were moved to hospital pens as they were identified to have lameness. One had an infected foot and the other had a torn tendon. Treatments were appropriate (anti-inflammatories and antibiotics) and the animals recovered well. The stockperson ensured they were on the first truck at discharge.

There were no mortalities on this voyage.

### **Discharge**

The cattle were fed and watered throughout discharge. Crew were observed using appropriate stock handling skills to minimise stress during discharge.

## **Conclusion**

The observer noted that the stockperson and crew had a genuine care for the health and welfare of the livestock during the voyage. Their experience in animal handling proved to be exceptional resulting in a full cargo delivered on time and in good condition.

The exporter arrangements were observed to be implemented during the voyage and to be compliant with the ASEL requirements.

## Representative photographs of the voyage

**Day 1 Cattle in pen—no issues identified**



**Day 1 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 pens—no issues identified**

