

## **VALE COMMENT ON IO 136 Ganado Express Fremantle to China May 2019.**

IO SUMMARY: The overall mortality rate for the voyage was 1.36% (25 mortalities). This exceeded the reportable mortality rate of 1% for cattle on a voyage over 10 days.

This voyage is the subject of a mortality investigation as it exceeded the reportable mortality level. The mortality investigation report has been published on the department's website.

VALE COMMENT: the mortality investigation report has NOT been published on the Dept website.

### **Loading**

IO SUMMARY: The majority of livestock were able to lie down and rest at any one point in time.

### **Personnel**

VALE COMMENT: AAV on board which is atypical for voyages to China.

### **Daily routine**

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that the cattle had a suppressed appetite for the first 10 days of the voyage, however this improved on day 12 as the temperatures declined.

VALE COMMENT: this is consistent with the heat stress described but inconsistent with the temperatures provided.

IO SUMMARY: It was noted that on day 7 there were 4 – 5 dry water bowls on Deck 3. However this was rectified at the time, and no impact on health and welfare was noted.

VALE COMMENT: no mention as to duration of water deprivation.

### **Ventilation**

IO SUMMARY: At various times during the voyage, hold 3 on Decks 4 and 5 appeared to have a slightly smoky haze and the observer noted a residue on the walls of these holds on day 12.

However, it was only on day 6 (day of crossing the equator) that three cattle had the highest panting scores of 2.5 in these areas. The observer noted that these panting scores were not representative of all animals on the voyage.

VALE COMMENT: most deaths were on Deck 5. Inadequate summary of heat stress.

### **Health and welfare**

The main causes of morbidity were: bloat, ill-thrift, suspected enteritis, respiratory disease and lameness.

The main cause of mortality was gastroenteritis (16 mortalities). Post mortems were performed each day as soon as practicable by the AAV and stockperson with the observer in attendance. It was noted that the majority of the mortalities did not display symptoms of illness and appeared to be sudden deaths. Other causes of mortalities were listed as pulpy kidney, intestinal obstruction, metabolic acidosis and one down and unable to rise due to injury.

Twenty-three mortalities were observed from day 5 – 11. Temperatures on the daily reports for days 5 – 10 listed wet bulb temperatures between 26 – 27 and dry bulb of 30 – 31 (73% humidity). Most afternoons and evening temperatures were cooler because of cloud cover, and it was noted the livestock did receive respite during these periods. Temperatures after day 12 reduced substantially and mortalities seized. The observer noted that 17 mortalities were located on Deck 4 and 5 in hold 3.

VALE COMMENT: these temperatures appear relatively mild to a) result in heat stress b) result in death. Thus, concerns must exist about the potential cause of death and exposure to noxious gas in these pens (given IO comments).

### **Other**

IO SUMMARY: The vessel stopped due to engine mechanical problems between 10 and 12 June 2019.

VALE COMMENT: mechanical breakdowns are not uncommonly reported – is this due to the old age of this shipping fleet?

Day 16 cattle in pen—no issues identified