

VALE COMMENT ON IO 176: Anna Marra Broome to Indonesia in August 2019

Loading

IO SUMMARY: Two animals were euthanased due to broken legs during loading. The observer was not present at the time and no further details were available.

VALE COMMENT: unusual and concerning.

Personnel

IO SUMMARY: There was an experienced Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV).

VALE COMMENT: not usual for shorthaul. Is it due to consignment size? (this ship has travelled without an AAV) or due to its famous history?

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: Some pellets appeared to be mouldy, the observer noted that this was not a systemic issue and was discussed with the AAV and head stockperson.

VALE COMMENT: insufficient detail provided to assess this comment.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The ventilation system worked effectively and maintained air circulation and kept the decks cool. Extra ducting and fans were used to ensure all areas had circulating air. The vessel continued to circle as it waited to berth in order to maintain good air flow on the decks.

VALE COMMENT: with these temperatures and breeds, this is interesting – trying to avoid another heat stress incident perhaps.

IO SUMMARY: During the voyage the dry bulb temperature ranged from 26°C - 32°C, humidity ranged from 65%-86%, and there were no symptoms of heat stress observed during the voyage.

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: There were 7 mortalities on the voyage. Two animals were found dead with the probable cause of enteritis and pneumonia. Five animals were euthanased, two were due to a fractured leg during loading, one due to a congenital defect and 2 animals that were unable to rise.

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that in one instance it took 3 cartridges to euthanase an animal. The observer confirmed that the cartridges and placement of the captive bolt were correct. The observer discussed the frequency of service of the captive bolt gun with the master and CO. In response, the master and the CO developed an operational and service procedure to be implemented.

VALE COMMENT: what would have happened had an IO not been on board?