

VALE COMMENTS on Report 123 Al Messilah to Kuwait and UAE May 2019

IO SUMMARY: overall mortality rate for the voyage was 0.16% for sheep (99 mortalities) and no cattle mortalities. Mortalities for this voyage were the lowest in the vessel's 166 voyage history. The majority of the mortalities were attributed to enteritis and respiratory disease.

VALE COMMENT: extraordinary! This industry has been crowing that space standards are adequate and producing "quasi-science" to demonstrate that but now that the space allowances have been increased, mortality has decreased dramatically.

Daily routine

Temperatures were recorded daily by the crew and logged at the bridge. ... Thermometers were located on each deck. The AAV monitored the wet and dry bulb temperatures daily.

Pen conditions

The observer noted 50–100% of sheep were able to lie down during the voyage. Cattle were also observed to have had sufficient space, where greater than 50% could lie down at any one time.

COMMENT: even with increased space allowance, it appears that 100% of sheep cannot always lie down at one time – which indicates just how inadequate ASEL has been since its inception.

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: "Temperatures for the voyage below decks reached a maximum of 34°C dry bulb, and wet bulb of 31.7°C. The average heat stress score was 2, with open mouth breathing observed in several sheep per deck during the hottest part of the voyage (heat stress score 3). No animals were observed with a heat stress score of 4 (open mouth, tongue out).

Lambs travelled well in the higher wet bulb temperatures with the least mortality rate encountered. "

VALE COMMENT: mortality may have been low but there is no doubt that sheep will have suffered with WBT of 31.7, consistent with being in Heat stress 2 for some unspecified period of time and with some sheep showing Heat stress score 3. Actual "heat score" used is not provided but if using a McCarthy type score, Heat stress 3 is severe heat stress.

Representative Photos

Open mouth panting evident in Day 7 and Day 10 consistent with the high WBT recorded.