



Head Office – Rossertstrasse 8 D-60323 Frankfurt Germany.. <http://www.animals-angels.de>  
Australia Office - P O Box 55 Armadale. WA 6112 Mobile: email: [animalsangels@inet.net.au](mailto:animalsangels@inet.net.au)

**To the Committee Secretary**  
**Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee**  
**PO Box 6100**  
**Parliament House**  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

**REF:** Submission to the Higher education and skills and training to support future demand in agriculture and agribusiness in Australia

Animals' Angels is an international organization with particular interests in monitoring the welfare of animals in saleyards and transported over short and long distances. For the past 8 years Animals' Angels staff have been monitoring the operational processes and condition of animals transported for live export, including from the Port of Fremantle.

The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, State Governments, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, industry stakeholders and regulatory authorities have received significant correspondence from Animals' Angels on issues relating to the handling and treatment of animals during this time.

Animals Angels have filmed examples of unskilled and poor handling by saleyard staff, contractors and or truck drivers in a number of States in Australia. This includes graphic footage taken portside by stevedoring staff, contractors and or truck drivers. We have provided prosecuting authorities and industry representatives with film footage clearly showing;

- Failure to identify and separate compromised animals and take appropriate remedial action to ensure good welfare,
- Workers physically picking up sheep and throwing them or slamming them onto ramps or decks,
- Workers dragging sheep by wool, ears, horns or legs,
- Workers kicking, stomping on and hitting animals,
- Overuse of the electrical prod on sheep by workers particularly when loading or unloading trucks. Under normal circumstances, the sheep will follow the one in front if permitted – however, perhaps because of

ignorance or indifference of some workers, the electrical prodder is used on sheep that are already moving and on sheep that are unable to move,

- Electrical shock prodding of faces,
- Dogs in the load spaces with sheep on trucks,
- Bobby calves thrown from trailers on to concrete slabs,
- Failure of drivers to check animals on trucks when they have stopped for downers, trapped, smothered and otherwise compromised animals,
- Failure to ensure policy and procedure in place to prevent animals from being deprived of water or food over and above allowable times, (2008- some sheep were deprived of food and water in excess of 72 hrs—ref our WA-SA interstate report)
- Failure to ensure those who are undertaking emergency slaughter are trained and able to kill efficiently and effectively,
- Failure of industry members to possess the ability to accurately confirm death.
- Failure to identify and assess animals that are unfit for transport and compromised correctly- these animals are commonly and routinely sold at some saleyards
- Failure to be knowledgeable of the relevant animal welfare legislation, ASEL regulations, relevant Codes of Practice and Standards and Guidelines
- Failure to demonstrate compliance to the relevant animal welfare legislation, ASEL regulations, relevant Codes of Practice and Standards and Guidelines

It is obvious that the lack of skill in humane care and understanding of animal behaviour indicates the need for specific training and education in animal handling skills and attitudes.

Compliance with the Animal Welfare Acts, Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock and Codes of Practice can be achieved when the industry is required to initiate training schemes which support these essential changes. Training must include the intent and outcomes of animal welfare in order to change the systemic negative culture within the industry. In addition to the improvement of conditions for animals, these changes will have significant benefits for the industry.

There are several animal handling courses available including the Low Stress Stock Handling course, ProHand and ProDairy which provides participants the opportunity to develop a positive attitude toward animals; to understand animal behaviour and learn skills so that the transition to “animal friendly” conduct becomes second nature.

In our submission to the Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals Land Transport of Livestock, we made the following comments, which go to the heart of this current issue.

***Standard SA2.1 A person involved in handling, selection, loading, transporting and unloading livestock must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.***

For Australia to stipulate “competent” as a standard, competency must be ***defined and quantified at a national level. This can only be done by way of a national training accreditation scheme.*** The livestock industry in

Australia claims to use 'best practice' in transportation and because there is no uniform training with national accreditation, *any claim is subjective*. There are no national benchmarks or comparable performance indicators with which to compare or measure current practice against compliance to legislation, regulations and CoP requirements.

In animal welfare legislation of the EU and Israel, the definition of "competent person" is both defined and clear. There are also links to national accredited training standards which provide the benchmark for competency.

Substantiation (video footage) of our claims is available on request.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this enquiry.

Dawn Lowe

Animals' Angels

7. November 2011