

World Farmwatch

THE FACTS ABOUT OUR FOOD

animal transport



Millions of farm animals are transported across the world each year on journeys to slaughter. They are transported across continents, across national borders and long distances within national boundaries. Animals often endure long journeys in cramped conditions. They experience hunger and thirst, extremes of temperature and rough handling. Although some countries have laws protecting animals during transport, most do not.

WSPA

World Society for the Protection of Animals

animal transport



Welfare Concerns

There are many welfare problems associated with long-distance transport. Often there is no provision for food and water. Many of the animals are young (e.g. calves and lambs) and this makes

them particularly vulnerable to stress. This in turn can increase their susceptibility to disease. Overcrowding is a problem leading to stress and physical injuries.

Animals are exposed to rough handling, especially during loading and unloading - untrained staff and the absence of loading ramps often add to these problems. In many countries completely inappropriate vehicles, vessels or wagons are used to transport animals. Even when they reach the slaughterhouse the suffering continues, because animals are slaughtered using inhumane methods.





International Transport

Farm animals travel by road, rail, sea and air. Here are some examples of this international trade:

- Millions of live animals are transported throughout the European Union for slaughter. Each year around one million pigs are exported from the Netherlands to Italy and Spain. Hundreds of thousands of sheep and lambs are sent from the UK to Greece, Italy and Spain.
- Australia exports nearly 6 million sheep a year to the Middle East. The journey from their original farms to the point of slaughter can take up to 11 weeks. It is estimated that 200,000-340,000 animals die each year on these extremely long journeys.
- Around 100,000 horses are sent from Eastern Europe (Poland, Lithuania, Romania) to Italian abattoirs.

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Alternatives

WSPA believes that food animals should be slaughtered as close to the point of production as possible. Many scientists back this view. In 2002 European Union veterinary experts concluded that “transport should be avoided wherever possible and journeys should be as short as possible”. We believe that all countries should have specific and enforced legislation on animal transport, including maximum journey times of 8 hours for mammals and 4 hours for poultry.

What You Can Do

There is clear scientific evidence that animals suffer on long journeys. WSPA is working with organisations throughout the world to end this suffering. You can help make a difference:

- **Send for WSPA’s World Farmwatch Action Pack to end long-distance transport of farm animals.**
- **Click on WSPA’s World Farmwatch website for all the latest information – www.wspa-international.org/action/worldfarmwatch**

WSPA, FREEPOST (SW5412), London, SE1 7YY. Tel: +44 (0)20 7587 5000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7793 0208

Please send me WSPA's World Farmwatch Action Pack (including all you need to help our campaign, plus information on how to join WSPA)

Name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

WSPA works in co-operation with over 400 member organisations in more than 100 countries to promote animal welfare. Registered Charity No: 1081849. Registered Company No: 4029540.

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