



March 28th 2021

Briefing - Live Animal Imports to Israel 2014-2021

“Israel Against Live Shipments” Project

Background

Israel Against Live Shipment (IALS)¹ has been investigating live animals arriving in Israel since 2014, including the arrival of European animals to the ports of Ashdod and Haifa.

Since IALS started its monitoring and investigation activities in 2014, we witnessed the offloading of approximately 730 live export ships, and evaluating the trade trend, 85% of them were with EU animals from 2018 until the end of February 2021².

Breaches and State of the Animals upon arrival:

The following may be breaches of either Israeli or EU law and were recorded. Complaints were filed accordingly³:

1. Broken horns

Most of the calves with broken horns arrive from Portugal. Some of the broken horns are very fresh, still bleeding and you can speculate they were caused during the offloading, while some are older, approximately a week old. Some are very old ones, where the horns have already recovered ([Example 1](#); [Example 2](#)).

2. Injured eyes

We often see eye injuries. Sometimes the eye is totally blind, and sometimes it has like a blurred layer on it. Many many times we see tears coming out of the injured eye, which looks like an infection ([Example 3](#), [Example 4](#)).

3. Downed Animals:

¹ <https://en.shiptohell.org/english>

²

https://www.moag.gov.il/vet/Yechidot/inport%20export/knisa_yetsia_hayot_mahmad/yevu_mikne/Pages/import_10_2020.aspx

³ <https://www.ynet.co.il/environment-science/article/B1bQLymv>

We often document calves and lambs on the trucks' floor, some of which may have fallen and gotten crushed by their companions, all the way to the quarantine. ([Example 5](#), [Example 6](#))

4. Heat Waves and Distress

During July-October we have most of the days in Israel are over 30 degrees celsius. The Israeli law limits the transporting of animals during the hot hours, but this is not in line with European standards and regulations. ([Example 7](#), [Example 8](#))

5. Electrical shockers

We have obtained and documented ourselves the brutal use of electrical shockers while offloading the animals from ships on numerous occasions, including the use of shockers to the head of a calf.⁴

6. Unsuitable trucks

Our coverage reflects that very often animals have limbs sticking out of the trucks, that animals are sometimes stuck between the floors of the truck, legs stuck between the floors or between the bars inside the trucks. ([Example 9](#), [Example 10](#))

7. Dirty animals

Animals arrive in Israel covered in feces more times than not. ([Example 11](#), [Example 12](#))

8. Crowded transports

Mostly the trucks we document are extremely crowded. Sometimes the trucks are loaded with up to 300 lambs in 106sqm truck! ([Example 13](#), [Example 14](#))

9. Respiratory problems

Regardless of the distance travelled, animals arrive many times with what looks like respiratory problems⁵.

10. Problems during offloading

Despite not being allowed in port, whenever our investigator obtain footage from inside the port, the footage proves to be horrible⁶. ([Example 14](#))

⁴ <https://www.ynet.co.il/article/SkTlc3Nkv>

⁵ <https://youtu.be/roeY3BWEImI>

⁶ https://youtu.be/UguPUZ6Qo_o



11. Quarantines and feedlots

Every so often, we check on quarantines and feedlots, which is where the animals are transferred after leaving the ports. Most of the animals arriving in Israel remain 8 days in quarantine and then they are transferred to a feedlot for 4-8 months. We documented many deaths of animals in the quarantine areas and we have also documented terrible feedlot conditions. ([Example 15](#), [Example 16](#))

In Summary

Live animals transported to Israel arrive in horrific conditions, and despite all NGO complaints lodged with government officials, the animals continue to suffer in these awful transports, and the number of animals imported from Europe keeps rising. We at IALS will continue to request our government to ban all live animal importation to Israel.