

# Fresh outcry as more abattoir cruelty exposed

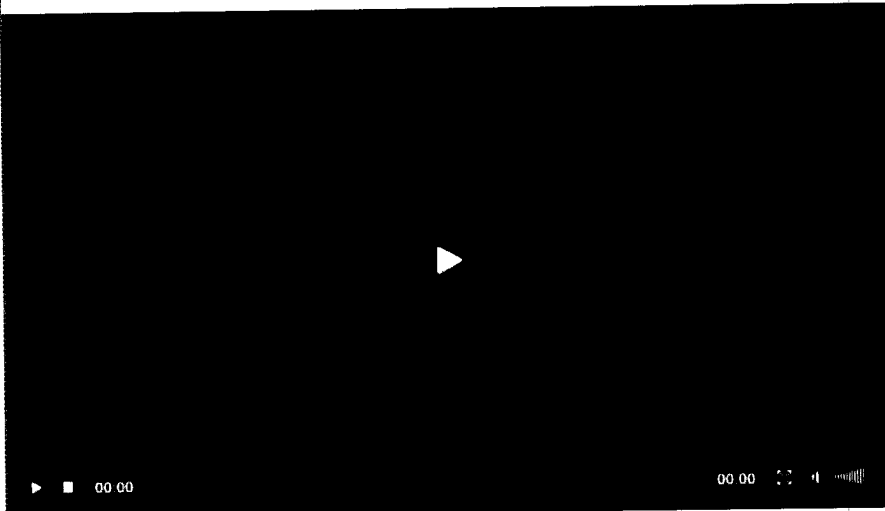
August 19, 2011

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## Animals strung up to die

Confronting vision released by Animals Australia of animals in Turkish slaughterhouses. Warning: some viewers may find the pictures distressing.

GRAPHIC footage of animals being mistreated in Turkish abattoirs has piled new pressure on the Australian government and meat industry to lift standards in the live export trade.

Animals Australia, the group that documented the mistreatment of cattle in Indonesian slaughterhouses, which led to a one-month export ban, secretly filmed sheep and cattle slaughtering in Turkey in late July after Meat and Livestock Australia admitted it was unaware of Turkish animal welfare standards.

The footage shows animals being hoisted by their back legs into the air while still conscious, in breach of World Organisation for Animal Health regulations, before being cut. The deaths also appear to be drawn out.



A video still from a video taken in a Turkish slaughterhouse.

The government now requires exporters to ensure stock to Indonesia is killed under World Organisation standards. Stunning is not required, but is being encouraged.

The government resisted calls for a ban to Turkey, which imported 65,000 cattle and 215,000 sheep last year, with Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig saying an independent review was assessing Turkey and other export markets.

Animals Australia investigator Lyn White said: "Despite the fact these slaughter methods clearly breach international guidelines, the export industry has been prepared to supply animals and the government has been prepared to supply export permits for Turkey."

Ms White could not confirm that the animals in the footage were Australian but said Australian animals were killed there.

Meat and Livestock Australia directed all inquiries to Sheepmeat Council of Australia chief executive Ron Cullen, who said the slaughter on the film was unacceptable and the industry was moving towards ensuring every live exporter had a up-to-standard supply chain.

The renewed calls for better animal welfare standards came after the overwhelming defeat of a bill from Greens MP Adam Bandt to immediately ban live exports, and another from independent Andrew Wilkie to phase out the trade in three years.

The pair said the new footage highlighted the need to end the trade and criticised the major parties for ignoring the public, who they said overwhelmingly wanted to end the trade. Mr Wilkie plans to introduce legislation mandating pre-stunning of all animals exported by Australia.

Liberal senator Bill Heffernan said: "Everyone accepts what we have seen is unacceptable. We need to sit down and work out a solution."

Labor backbencher Kelvin Thomson, a vocal critic of live exports, defended his decision not to cross the floor - he would have been suspended or thrown out of the ALP if he had - saying it would have been a futile exercise.

"Can I respectfully suggest to some of my constituents and correspondents that it is unreasonable to ask me to throw that 30-year-plus history out the window for the sake of these bills, and unreasonable to ask my colleagues to do this also," he told Parliament.

"I cannot understand why the live export industry still has not grasped this, and has not acted to ensure that all animals are stunned. No doubt this will cost money, but the trade is going to be shut down by force of public opinion unless it is done," Mr Thomson said.