Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE)

“I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell.”
President Harry S Truman

All Photographs by Valerie Cameron (VC) of KAALE, Bill (B) or Eyes on Animals (EoA) as identified.

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Saturday 6th April 2013

KAALE have been working with ‘Eyes on Animals’ (EoA) on the following issue and we are delighted that the meeting between EoA and the NVWA on Thursday 4th produced such an excellent result for animal transport for the future.

We trust that UK ‘competent’ authority AHVLA will take note of the issues covered.

Below is the formal ‘Eyes on Animals’ PR associated with the meeting which took place on Thursday.

The situation appears to be that the Dutch authorities cannot do anything about the trucks already produced and in service, but they will undertake checks, including introducing formal legislative procedures if necessary, to ensure that all new trucks have proper access doors fitted. It is not yet clear what they will do about the ones on the road now without access doors. A lot are not for long distance transport, but it is possible that those which are may either be told to have doors built into them, or they won't get their licence renewed when it expires after the 5 year period.

This obviously applies to several Dutch registered and operated ‘sealed’ trailers which we have witnessed at Ramsgate over many months.

Below you will see why it is essential for adequate sized access doors to be built into all trailers – it is essential in order to provide access by the driver to all animals which are transported, and not as is currently the case with some trailers, that only animals located at the rear end of the trailer can be viewed. Even this is not normally possible when the vehicle is on the road.

We consider that this is a very positive PR which will benefit thousands of animals in transport across Europe in the future.

BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS
PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, 5 April 2013

NVWA opens doors for Eyes on Animals

Closed livestock-trucks to become animal-friendlier

Access doors need to be added to closed livestock trucks. Not only Eyes on Animals, but also the NVWA (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) says it is important that drivers have access to the animals during their transportation and with new produced models this is not always possible.

Both organizations are joining hands to make sure chauffeurs and veterinarians can access animals when necessary.

Meeting

The situation of the livestock trucks without side doors was discussed at a meeting on the 4th of April. Representatives of the Ministry of Economics and chauffeur Herman Klompjjan were also present.

Regulations

According to the law animals must be accessible during transport for feeding, watering and giving first-aid to sick or injured animals. Livestock truck builders can guarantee this by placing side doors. From now on, regulations will be described better and more detailed, and upheld.

‘Sturdy chauffeur’

Eyes on Animals suggests measurements of at least 60 to 80 centimetres for the side doors. “Even a sturdy chauffeur or veterinarian needs to be able to go through it”,

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Eyes on Animals inspector Margreet Steendijk laughs. The organization is already talking to builders of livestock trucks.

**Improvement**

Eyes on Animals acknowledges that in some cases a closed truck can have advantages. This is the case with the transport of young pigs, which behave more quietly in a closed-off truck and benefit from a more constant temperature. However, it is only an advantage under the absolute condition that there are side doors that allow access to the piglets.

**About Eyes on Animals:**

Eyes on Animals is an independent inspection-based organization. Our inspectors conduct visits to livestock markets, farms and slaughterhouses and inspect and trail international livestock trucks. Eyes on Animals improves animal welfare in collaboration with the industry. Providing information and giving trainings to the police and transporters is also part of Eyes on Animal’s work.

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**Note for the editors:** For more footage or background information you can contact Lesley Moffat: [lesley@eyesonanimals.com](mailto:lesley@eyesonanimals.com), T +31(0)6 11882632  
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Above - A Dutch ‘closed box type’ livestock carrying transporter without any side access doors; photographed at Ramsgate, Kent. (VC)
Above - A Dutch ‘box type’ livestock carrying transporter fitted with **side access doors**; photographed at Ramsgate, Kent. (Bill)

Doors (as shown) permit driver access to sick, injured or any animal requiring attention during transport, as required by EU Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport – of 22 December 2004.

Above - A Dutch ‘box type’ livestock carrying transporter fitted **without side access doors**; photographed crossing the English Channel on vessel ‘Joline’. (VC)

How is the welfare of transported animals checked under these conditions?

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Above - Photographed in Ramsgate port; A Dutch ‘closed box type’ livestock carrying transporter fitted with **without side access doors**; and therefore only accessible from the **rear**. This provides no access to sick or injured animals at the front or middle of the **trailer** and contravenes **EU Regulation 1/2005**, and is something which cannot be performed by the driver at motorway services !. (VC)

Above - A Dutch ‘closed box type’ livestock carrying transporter **without any side access doors**; photographed at Ramsgate, Kent. Apart from very inadequate signage, would you even know that live animals are being transported within this ? (VC)
Above - Another Dutch ‘closed box type’ livestock carrying transporter without any side access doors; photographed at Ramsgate, Kent. (VC)

Above and below – Photographs showing clearly why good and adequate sized access doors fitted along the trailer sides are so important for ensuring animal welfare. (EoA)

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Above – Adequate sized access doors fitted along the trailer sides are so important to allow driver access to sick or injured animals along the entire length of the trailer. (EoA)
Adequate driver access to ALL animals carried is a fundamental requirement of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

We question why UK ‘competent’ authority inspectors have not raised this issue with transporters at Ramsgate in recent months.

ENDS.