Formal Complaint Number 1.
Complaint Reference: KAALE / 001 / 7 Dec / 2011
Associated KAALE Report(s) – J43.

Overview of Complaint:

On Friday 2nd December questions were raised by KAALE with Animal Health (AH) at Ramsgate harbour regarding the suitability of a certain box wagon carrying live animals on UK roads. In this case live sheep.

It was noted by KAALE monitors and confirmed by AH, that although the box trailer which had arrived at the harbour from within the UK was full of live sheep, there were no exterior identifications on the trailer in the English language to inform that live animals were being carried. Animals could not be seen from the exterior of the trailer. KAALE believe that if in an accident (involving this specific vehicle) occurred on British roads, because there are no identification plates written in English to tell the UK emergency services that live animals are contained within it, a larger incident could result with animals dying needlessly.

It was observed that the trailer only carried one small identification plate indicating that livestock was being carried – and this plate was only written in the Dutch language, not English.
Concerns were also expressed by KAALE to AH as to how the animals carried are to be visually inspected and declared ‘fit for export’ by Animal Health personnel at Ramsgate, when, from the outside, it is not even possible to view the animals carried within the trailer.

Defra have been asked to provide a formal, written response to KAALE associated with this complaint within one commencing 7th December 2011, otherwise KAALE will progress with more actions as necessary.