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

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KAALE Gears Up Well In Advance for EU (MEP) and UK Elections

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Acting well in advance of the EU elections of May 2014 to select Members of the European Parliament (MEP), and also to get a general 'feel' for the political party views on the live export of live farm animals from the UK via the port of Dover, KAALE have already started to make contact with all the major political parties in the UK.

The KAALE website at www.kaale.org.uk has now been updated in the last few days to include a new section associated with future elections. This new sub section can easily be found by going to the KAALE website and then selecting 'Political (EU and UK)' – followed by ‘Elections 2014 / 15’.

Alternatively and for ease, it can be directly accessed by clicking on the following link:

This new section of the website also shows a copy of the basic letter which was sent to representatives (ie. animal welfare spokespersons) of each of the main political parties. Note that for obvious reasons and to ensure conformity with the same request being sent to each political party, some parts of the text are shown as simply ‘xxx’; which is thereafter completed as necessary to reflect the name of the particular party being addressed.

Thus, each political party has been asked the very same regarding live animal transportation.
As is shown in this new section of the site, KAALE will be keeping specific individual party records updated and will be publishing each formal party response under the heading ‘Response provided to KAALE’. A response or no response will again reflect how each party views the subject of live animal exports from the UK. This will be reflected in the site.

To date, as the situation is currently very early, KAALE have had no responses from any of the political parties; but it is envisaged that in the remaining months leading up to the EU elections in May 2014, and also the future UK General Election, visitors to the KAALE site will be able to obtain more detailed information, including a statement from each party, relating exactly to the policy and attitude of each of the major UK political parties regarding live exports. KAALE supporters, who are also political voters, will then be able to use this information provided on the KAALE site as part of their voting reviews and options at future elections.

**KAALE Also Writes to UK Chief Veterinary Officer**

In addition to the above, KAALE have now also written to the UK Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Mr. Nigel Gibbens regarding the signage relating to an animal carrying vehicle which arrived carrying live sheep for export from Ramsgate in 2012.

The letter to Mr. Gibbens, which was originally sent by KAALE on 22nd July 2013, and to which KAALE have had no response to date, is sub-divided into three (3) sections, each of which relates to current issues regarding the welfare of animals during transport within the EU member states; especially those directly applicable to Council Regulation 1/2005 of 22nd December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport. KAALE feel that the EU regulations at Ramsgate were cleared as being ok, despite the vehicle not showing all the necessary signage as defined in the EU regulation.

As a result, this incident was covered in detail with a KAALE report named ‘Now You See It, Now You Don’t’ - A Specific Investigation Report Into Live Animal Transport ‘Signage’ At Ramsgate Harbour, Kent, England UK on Wednesday 21st November 2012.

A copy of this report can be provided if a request is made to KAALE through the website contact route - http://www.kaale.org.uk/contact.htm

As they had not been provided with any response to their request by the CVO, KAALE sent a further full copy of their letter and supporting information to Mr. Gibbens on Wednesday 28th August 2013.

The covering letter is sub divided into the following:

- **SECTION 1** – Questions for CVO’s in all EU Member States
- **SECTION 2** – Animal Transport Signage – EU Member States
- **SECTION 3** – Animal Transport from Dover to Calais on Friday 19th July 2013

**BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS**
and in addition are supported by responses to KAALE on EU transport regulations by Mr. Van Goethem, the EU Director responsible for animal welfare within the EU Directorate general for Health and Consumers; by a report from Netherlands animal welfare investigation organisation ‘Eyes on Animals’ called ‘the importance of access during transport’ – a copy of which is provided with this PR.

A full copy of the letter to the CVO (Mr. Gibbens) will be posted onto the KAALE website in the next few days.

KAALE are now in the position where they have:

- written to all UK political parties asking for formal written responses on live animal transport prior to the 2014 / 15 elections.

And where they are:

- waiting to hear back from the UK CVO regarding questions about compliance with EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport by UK authorities (AHVLA) who were present at Ramsgate port on Wednesday 21st November 2012.

Above – the vehicle in question arriving at Ramsgate port on Wednesday 21st November 2012. Carrying live sheep but no signage to show – a requirement of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

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