Monday 3rd October 2011.

Dear all;

All photographs which follow at the end of this report have kindly been provided by Ramsgate campaigners.

REPORT ‘J30’
ON THE LIVESTOCK SHIPMENT
Overnight FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2011 from RAMSGATE, KENT, UK, TO CALAIS, FRANCE.

VESSEL: M.V. ‘JOLINE’. A small Ro-Ro ex cold war battle tank carrier. Maximum capacity of seven articulated lorries (depending on their size) carried on a single, open deck which has no shelter from the elements. Sails under a Latvian flag, registered in Riga.

CONDITIONS: Sea state: flat calm; dry., with still air and moderate visibility. During the day temperatures had reached as high as 29 degrees C inland in Kent, with a slightly lower reading of 27 degrees C on the coast; dropping by only a few degrees during the night.

PRESENT: Monitors from KAALE (Kent Action Against Live Exports) and members of the Thanet Group, now named TALAE (Thanet Against Live Animal Exports).
Kent Police also attended in large numbers (two transit vans and five cars) and were extremely aggressive throughout the night, targeting certain protestors and quoting ‘Section Fourteen’ all the time. Some protestors decided to move away from the port area and positioned themselves at a roundabout at the top of the road leading to the tunnel (a dedicated route which takes port traffic away from the town centre).

Here the police were heavy handed, intimidating, aggressive and menacing, again targeting individuals; eventually singling out and arresting one male, he being the same individual the police had targeted at another demonstration earlier in the week at the INFAMOUS ‘Charles River’ - a supplier of animals for vivisection situated in premises alongside Manston Airport, Thanet, Kent.

Thanet is rapidly becoming known as the animal abuse centre of Kent, having as it does, the aforementioned Charles River, as well as Pfizer (drug manufacturer known to carry out vivisection) and now Live Animal Exports. Not a good image.

**TIMED EVENTS.**

1500hrs Vessel ‘Joline’ left Calais and arrived off Ramsgate at 1850 hrs.
1920hrs ‘Joline’ berthed in Ramsgate port.
1935hrs Peter Z, the agent for the exporters, arrived at the docks amid much scorn and derision.

**FULL ANIMAL TRANSPORTERS ARRIVING AT RMSGATE DOCKS**

2100hrs. (1) Registration: BV BD 29 front/ OJ 72 JZ rear.
Nationality: DUTCH. Name: VAN VEEEN. Silver cab with the name in red above the windscreen. Silver articulated trailer with red markings, carrying very smelly sheep in 3 tiers. The vehicle stopped just inside the docks and the driver was questioned by an individual in a hi-viz top, who looked at paperwork and then gave directions. The transporter then moved off further into the docks.
KAAL requested a thorough inspection by Animal Health on account of the stench emitted from this vehicle.

This vehicle was last seen in the UK in September and October 2008 when the exporters were using vessel ‘Pentalina B’ operating between Dover and Dunquerque.

**BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS**

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2115hrs. (2) Registration: BZ HX 63 front/ OF 68 RN rear.
Nationality: DUTCH; no name displayed. Dark blue Scania cab with the griffin logo. Grey trailer carrying smelly sheep x 3 tiers.

2145 hrs. (3) Registration: DIL 144 front and rear.
Nationality: NORTHERN IRELAND UK. Name: L. W. Boyd.
Wagon and drag (drawbar); Cream cab unit with red markings and tow-bar trailer filled with sheep in 3 tiers. Driver accompanied by a co-driver; so had already either come a long way, or destined to go a long way.

2220hrs. (4) Registration: BT JD 75 front/ OD 39 DD rear.
Nationality: DUTCH. No name displayed. White cab with grey articulated trailer carrying sheep in 3 tiers.

2220hrs. (5) Registration: BN XH 63 front/ OB 29 JS rear.
Nationality: DUTCH. Name F. de JONG.
Three tier articulated trailer carrying sheep.

BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

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KAALE reported this vehicle to Animal Health (AHVLA) in the docks because one of the sheep in the top tier was squashed up against the ventilation slats so hard that it had almost come right out of the trailer. It has to be said that F de JONG appears to have very little regard for the animals carried, and must have been travelling at considerable speed to cause the sheep to slide to one side of the trailer; resulting in one to be jammed so forcibly against the side.

Even some of the police giving protection to this trade were shocked at this one.

2200hrs. (6) Registration: DRZ 4492 front and rear. Nationality: SOUTHERN IRELAND. Name WILSON MCCURDY. (Wilson McCurdy has a large fleet of animal transporters - eleven to date that we know about). This vehicle carried sheep in 3 tiers.

2245 hrs. L.W. Boyd and Van Veen already loaded onto vessel ‘Joline’ (which was bow on to the shore this trip). Animal Health up a ladder inspecting (?) F de Jong, using a hand held torch; hardly the best way to locate an injured or distressed sheep.

Facilities for transporter inspection at Ramsgate are nil, apart from the ladder and the torch. Compliant with EU Regulation 1/2005 for animals in transport; one has to ask? -- very much doubt it.

When the animal export trade was at Dover a large, drive through, well illuminated shed was used for inspections. This inspection shed was equipped with a tall wheeled stepladder, which provided Animal Health (AHVLA) inspectors with a stable platform, and better access to the middle and top tiers of trailers. However no such facilities exist at Ramsgate, apart from a hand held torch!

2248hrs. F de JONG now drives straight on to the vessel ‘Joline’ with a steep run down the link-span to reach the ship. When on the ship, much shunting back and forth with the reversing beep-- beep going on all the while.
2255hrs. Suddenly, the last three transporters in a huge hurry to get on the ship (they do not appear to have been scrutinised by Animal Health (AHVLA)).

The transporter with the white cab and the grey trailer, the Scania griffin logo transporter and finally Wilson McCurdy, drive rapidly on amid very loud screeching as the chains used to secure the lorries to the deck are dragged and tightened by the ship’s winch.

2305hrs The bow door of the ship is raised and the ‘Joline’ is ready to leave.

2312hrs ‘Joline’ leaves Ramsgate bound for Calais.

NOTE: With reference to statements made in KAALE report J29, and an incident when a member of the public recounted her experience of Animal Health inspecting a transporter in the docks – Animal Health has since been in touch with KAALE to say “Animal Health do not wear orange jackets, they do not make cursory glances and there is nowhere for them to speed the lorries to”.

Make of this what you will.

This is KAALE report ‘J30’ compiled on Saturday 1st October 2011
And distributed on Monday 3rd October.

Please note:

For legal reasons which be made clear in the next few weeks, ‘KALE’ (Kent Against Live Exports) has now resumed its name back to the original of ‘KAALE’ (Kent Action Against Live Exports).