



**Feedback on
Live Stock and Live Stock
Products Importation &
Exportation Bill 2023**

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We very strongly oppose and condemn this bill due to the facts listed below. We kindly request you to consider these highly critical facts and scrap this bill completely.

Animals are treated as commodities

The main problem with exporting live animals is that when living beings are treated and designated as profit-making commodities, it becomes difficult to understand and account for their rights and welfare.

Toxic gases produced onboard

Live animal exports are also susceptible to high levels of toxic gases like ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide, mainly due to the animals and their excrement being in the same place for a long period. These gases are harmful to both humans and fellow animals on board. Among other things, ammonia can cause damage to the lungs, brain, and central nervous system in humans.

The horrifying death of animals onboard the ship

The key issues that animals face are mental stress, heat stress and dehydration, disease, injury, and discomfort caused by being transported in unnatural conditions. Several animals die due to this.

The primary reasons for these deaths were heat stress and injury, because of this, many animals get cooked alive and succumb to the soaring temperatures and claustrophobia.

Poor quality ships used for transport sink in the sea

Many vessels that carry the animals are also not in the best condition to do so but are nevertheless used to charter long journeys. This was one of the primary reasons for the death of more than 14 thousand sheep when a ship overturned off the coast of Romania. In June 2022, a ship carrying about 16,000 sheep from Sudan sank, killing the majority of the sheep. In Sep 2020, a ship carrying 6000 cattle from New Zealand sank in the ocean near Japan killing all the animals and crew (except one human)

Unimaginably cruel journey for over a month on a ship

Journeys across countries are long, often spanning over a month. Animals spend over a thousand hours crowded into the ship's hold, unable to express themselves or seek relief.

There is no space to even lie down and sleep, and lack of space allowance alone leads to sickness and death. There is no bedding provided, nor is the space kept clean.

Excrement stains the sides of the ship, and animals are often trampled, their faces and bodies forced onto the filthy ground.

Onboard cargo ships and in the back of transport trucks, there is no air conditioning. Soaring temperatures stress the animals' immune systems, as they are surrounded by faeces for days. When the excrement forms into thick manure, it causes animals to get stuck and die of starvation. There are not enough vets to care for the huge number of stressed-out, sickly animals on board.

Cruelty at the destination

For most animals, this is not the end of the journey. Once they arrive at their destination, they are hauled onto a truck on the way to their final destination—either to be slaughtered or used for milk, entertainment, or research. The unfamiliar sights, sounds, and movements of frequent loading and unloading cause animals severe mental distress. Animals are often not able to digest the artificial pellets, which are a substitute for grains and a pasture-based diet.

Pregnant animals are transported in cramped conditions for months

Pregnant animals from being transported, this rule is not always adhered to. As a result, babies are born in a cramped environment that is both physically and mentally toxic. Many do not make it.

Physical violence against animals

Live animal export is also susceptible to physical violence. Investigations uncovered that calves being exported live for veal were jumped on, hit in the face, and beaten up. On top of the mental stress, starvation, and hydration, being physically beaten is also part of the journey

Cats and Dogs part of live animal transport – Unheard off

No other country in the world has categorised cats and dogs as livestock and had allowed their export/import on a large scale. This is extremely shocking

Lack of vet onboard

The ships carrying several thousands of animals for several weeks, do not have a vet on board, which leads to the injured, infected animals travelling in horrible conditions for several weeks.

Supply to wet markets that are the root cause of contagious disease outburst

It is also important to note that live animal export also supplies wet markets. Wet markets are hotbeds for disease and are still thriving all around the world. And while wet markets have been most commonly associated with China since the onset of COVID-19, reports have shown the presence of live markets in the United States and around the world.

Environment pollution

But live export is not only bad for animals. This cruel trade is also devastating the environment and putting people at risk. Hundreds of tonnes of sewage can be produced every day on a live export ship full of cattle. Unlike passenger ships which use black and grey water systems to treat waste, live export ships pump untreated sewage directly into the ocean.

Every year, tens of thousands of animals who die on board live export ships are disposed of at sea, either as whole carcasses or as bone and blood after being passed through a grinder. The potential impacts of this on our fragile ocean ecosystems are as yet unknown but the Western Australians for Shark Conservation (WASC) suggests that this could be having a serious impact on the migratory patterns of sharks.

Abuse and fully conscious slaughter in a foreign land

India when it exports livestock to other countries, does not have any control over the welfare of animals on a foreign land. Several countries have very poor animal protection laws, even those laws are not enforced.

Fully conscious slaughter, slaughter in full visibility of other animals etc. are done and is the height of barbarism.

The inhuman living condition of workers onboard ship

What shocked me most was the disregard for humanity and the poor conditions that many seafarers are forced to endure. Some companies seem to see seafarers as expendable, as confirmed by so many pirate hostages with no ransoms paid. (Dr. Lynn Simpson livestock vet's account)

Health risk of citizens of importing country

Live export poses health risks for citizens of the importing country as well. The high stocking density of a live export ship, combined with the long and arduous journey, increases the chance of animals becoming infected with Salmonella or E. coli. Add to this the reality that many animals are slaughtered in slaughterhouses that would fail basic hygiene audits to ensure that meat is fit for human consumption.

Barbaric & ruthless practices cannot be allowed

Live animal export is barbaric and ruthless. The animals suffer in every stage of this journey. Animals are sentient, meaning they have the awareness and brainpower to experience a range of feelings. They should not be subjected to such brutal torture.

Studies have shown that animals, including cattle, can experience feelings of nausea, dizziness, weakness, breathlessness, helplessness, depression, anxiety, fear, panic and hypervigilance. That's not an exhaustive list.

Scientific publication on the impact on animal welfare in live animal export / import

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8532794/>

Link to NGO website that exposes the cruelty in live animal export / import

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/why-is-the-rspca-opposed-to-the-live-export-trade/>

Going against the constitution, laws and ethics of our country

Our constitution advises compassion towards animals. Our laws enforce the welfare of animals and the ethics of India is also being compassionate to any living being. Live animal export / import goes against all these.

Once again, we very strongly condemn & oppose this bill which disregards even very basic ethics of humankind.



Cattle forced to live on its own excretion for several weeks



Dead bodies of sheep from a ship that sank



Without any medical treatment such injured animals are left to suffer for several weeks in a horrifying condition



Cow killed as its head gets trapped in between the rails in a ship



Animals cramped in a ship for several weeks in this condition

**Live
Animal
Export /
Import Bill
- Feedback**

Elsa Foundation
Animal & Biodiversity Charity