

LIVE EXPORTS TO INDONESIA

Investigation

In March 2011, Animals Australia investigators visited 11 abattoirs in four Indonesian cities to document the treatment and slaughter of Australian cattle. RSPCA Australia conducted a full scientific assessment of the evidence from this investigation. The evidence is damning and again shows the willingness of live exporters to supply Australian animals overseas, regardless of how cruelly they will be treated.

Footage from this investigation was provided to the ABC's Four Corners program to enable evidence to be brought to the attention of the public. Previous evidence of cruelty to Australian livestock documented in Kuwait in November 2010 had been immediately provided to Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig. The Minister's failure to take appropriate action left Animals Australia and RSPCA Australia with no choice but to provide the evidence from Indonesia directly to the media.

The investigators who conducted this investigation, Animals Australia's Campaign Director Lyn White, a former South Australian police officer, and the Director of UK-based Tracks Investigations, also conducted the 2005/06 investigations in Egypt that led to the suspension of the live trade to that country and eventual ban on the export of sheep to Egypt. Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Livecorp admitted knowledge of the practices (tendon slashing and eye stabbing) that were routinely inflicted on cattle in Egypt.

The recent investigation in Indonesia revealed further terrible evidence of exported Australian animals being brutalised and, in the worst cases, tortured prior to slaughter. The scale of cruelty endured in Indonesia has been assessed as worse and more widespread than that inflicted on cattle in Egypt. During the Indonesian investigation, evidence was also documented of the impacts on cattle welfare of the Mark I cattle restraint devices commissioned under the MLA/Livecorp program. 103 such devices have been installed in Indonesian abattoirs since 2001, assisted by over \$1.2 million in Australian taxpayer funding.

Evidence shows that these boxes were installed to facilitate Australian cattle being subjected to the cruel traditional method of Indonesian roping slaughter that trips the animals onto their sides in readiness for the throat cut. Footage shows terrified animals falling violently onto a sloping concrete slab and during the process of trying to get up crashing their heads and faces against the sharp edge of a concrete blood drain. The force of these blows has chipped away at the cement and has been known to break jaws.

The world's leading slaughter expert Professor Temple Grandin of Colorado State University has viewed footage of the Mark I boxes in operation and has stated that they "violate every humane standard all around the world" and are "atrocious and completely unacceptable".

Of the 50 slaughters documented in Indonesia:

- every slaughter facility breached international animal welfare guidelines (the OIE code)
- most animals were subjected to abuse through eye gouging, kicking, tail twisting and even tail breaking
- cattle experienced an average of 11 cuts to the throat with one animal having his throat cut 33 times
- half of all Australian animals observed showed signs of consciousness more than 1.5 minutes after their throat was cut
- one animal with a broken leg was tortured for 26 minutes before being killed
- one animal that regained his feet after the throat cut and escaped on the slaughter-room floor then had his leg tendon slashed to disable him

The scale of the brutality documented in Indonesia on a nightly basis demands that the Gillard Government announce an immediate halt to the trade to Indonesia. Australia's live export industry's willingness to supply animals to countries where they will be brutalised and their culpability in facilitating that brutal treatment demands that the Gillard Government also announce an end date for all live animal exports.

**Animals
Australia**
the voice for animals

RSPCA 
for all creatures great & small

4.6 million Australian cattle have been exported to Indonesia for slaughter over the past decade. Here are the experiences of five of them, all filmed openly during a typical week in Indonesian slaughtering facilities.



Bill's story

For Bill, death couldn't come quickly enough. A beautiful white Brahman steer, he slipped and broke his leg in the holding pen during a struggle with slaughtermen. He was tortured for 26 minutes in a failed attempt to get him into the slaughter room. Bill was kicked in the face, gouged in the eye, hosed up his nose and had his tail broken before being killed in his pen. Bill met his fate in a major government abattoir in Medan. There was clear evidence that Australia's live export industry had been to this facility and yet still deemed it an acceptable destination for Australian animals. Their culpability and complicity in animal cruelty is undeniable.



Arthur's story

Arthur was a magnificent example of his breed – a beautiful cream Brahman of the Northern Territory. He met his end in a facility where staff had been trained under the MLA/Livecorp program and where workers follow 'standard operating procedures' using the Australian-designed Mark 1 restraint box. Arthur, like many other cattle, refused to cooperate and allow his legs to be roped, which aggravated the Indonesian worker. Arthur's punishment was to be slapped on the back then whipped in the face with the rope. He experienced six cuts to his throat and was still conscious one minute later. This 'best practice' procedure took over five gruelling minutes during which Arthur's fear and distress is obvious to all.



Brian's story

The facility where Brian ended up was just a bare concrete dwelling and the job of workers was to pull him down to the floor for slaughter. For Brian, this turned into a sickening man versus beast display where he was kicked, hit and whipped in the face, each time letting out a heart-wrenching bellow in pain.



Dudley's story

Stressed and exhausted from a tug of war with five men attempting to pull him into the raceway, Dudley collapsed on the ramp leading to the restraint box. Workers tried to get him back to his feet by causing him pain – jumping on his back, cracking his tail, hitting him with a stick and poking him in the eye. Dudley simply wasn't able to get up. Impatient, workers then ran another unfortunate animal right over the top of Dudley before physically dragging Dudley by a neck rope into the restraint box for slaughter. This process took over 20 gruelling minutes.



Tommy's story

Tommy's violent trembling as he watched his pen mates slaughtered around him is perhaps the clearest example of Australia's failure in our duty of care. A black Droughtmaster steer from a property in Western Australia, he stood shaking from stress and fear for 12 minutes while animals around him were killed and their carcasses cut up. One can understand why he struggled so much when it was his turn, but sadly his fear and resultant resistance only prolonged his suffering.