



# Long Distance Transport: Addressing the challenges and best practices NGO Perspective

Julia Havenstein  
Animals' Angels

WOAH Whole Journey Scenario Workshop on Long-  
Distance Transport in Europe  
16 - 18 December 2024, Paris, France

**Our  
members**

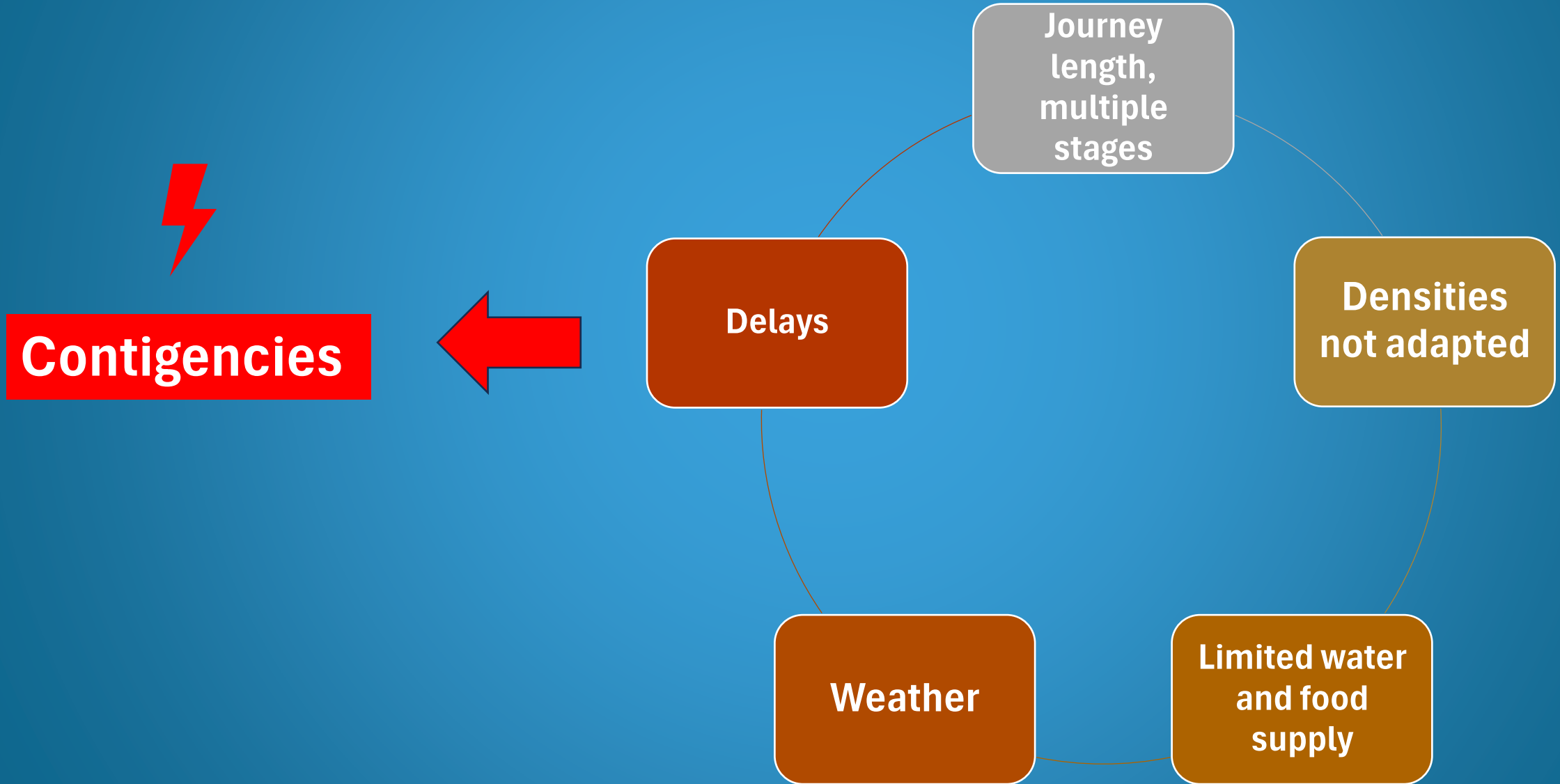


**Coalition of NGOs working on improving the lives of animals**

(farmed animals incl. transport and slaughter, wildlife, working animals, companion animals, research, aquatic animals)

**MoU with WOAHA**

# Main factors leading to animal welfare problems during export transports by road EU → Non-EU countries





## WOAH Terrestrial Code: Chapter 7.3. Transport of Animals by Land



### Article 7.3.1.

The amount of time animals spend on a journey should be kept to the minimum.

# Journey length, multiple stages

## Aspiration vs. Reality



**Very long journeys  
justified by economic  
interests**



- **Journey time not minimized**
- **Multiple unloadings/re-loadings**
- **Insufficient number of drivers**



- Delays due to**
- **poor organisation**
  - **unforeseen events**



**Article 7.3.5 point 6: Space allowance**

- ✓ Animals must be able to lie down in normal lying posture
- ✓ (not on top of each other)
- ✓ Able to thermoregulate
- ✓ Space to adopt a balanced position
- ✓ Natural standing position without coming in contact with the roof
- ✓ Natural airflow not hindered
- ✓ Other factors which may influence space allowance include:
  - vehicle/container design;
  - length of journey;
  - need to provide feed and water on the vehicle;
  - quality of roads;
  - expected weather conditions;
  - category and sex of the animals.

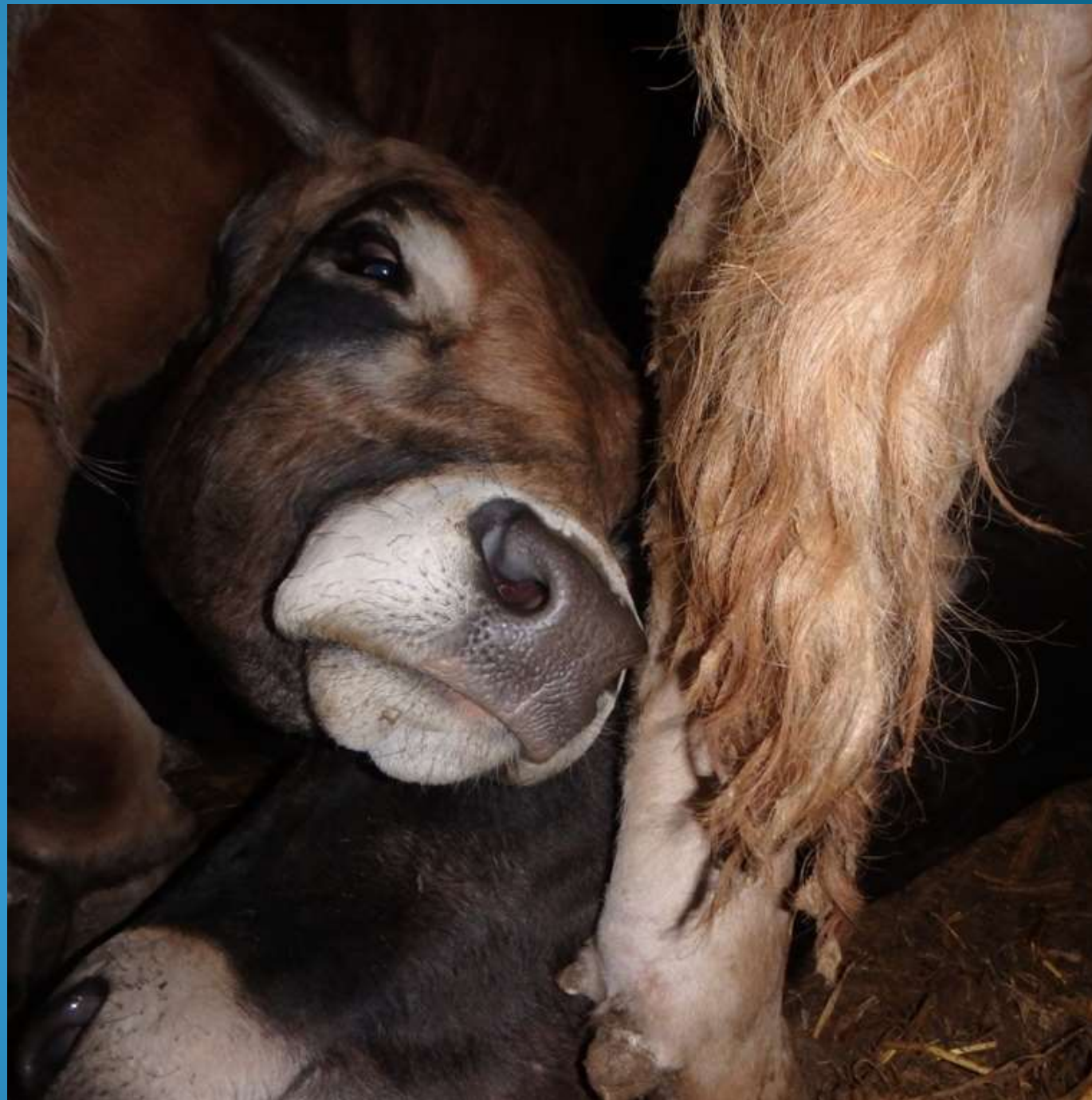
# Densities not adapted

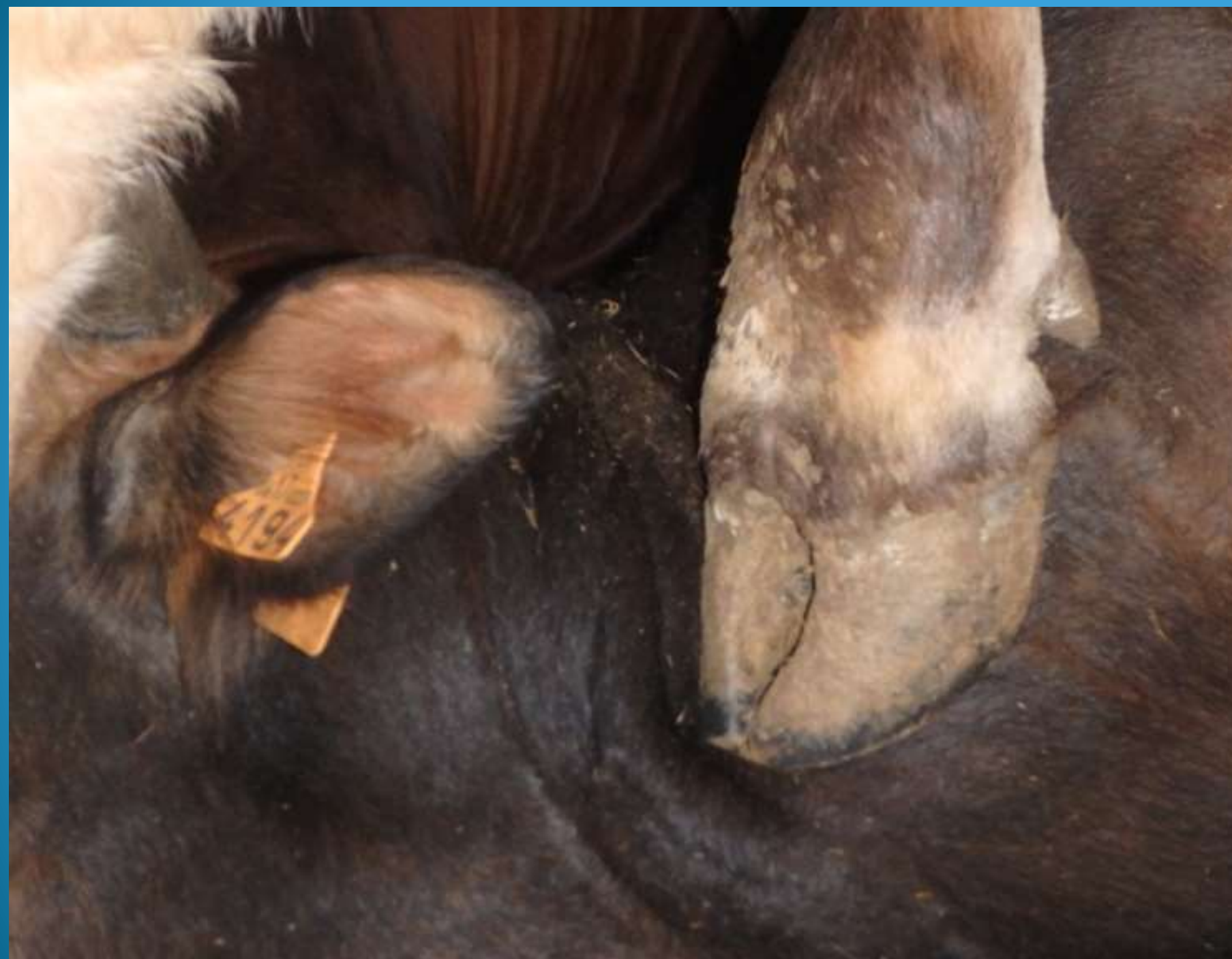
## Aspiration vs. Reality

- Even in very long transports
- Even under extreme weather conditions
- Even heavily pregnant animals
- Even when long waiting times must be taken into consideration



**Animals are not granted sufficient space on board the vehicles**





- High risk of injury
- Exhaustion
- Food and water supply hindered
- Monitoring not possible
- Emergency access/treatment not possible

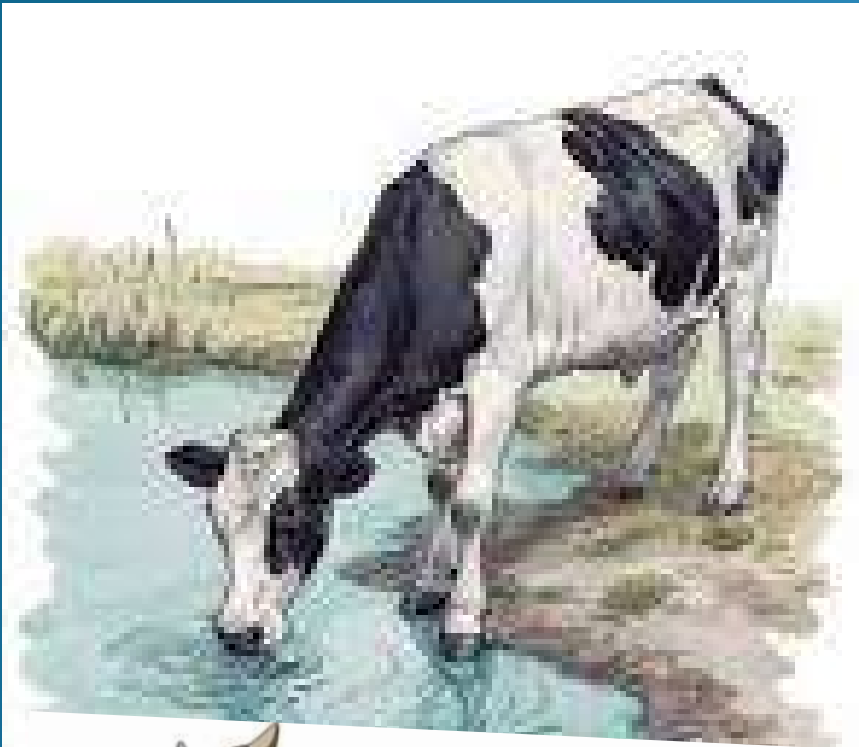




## Better practice: Long Journeys – Reduced Density:

- ✓ Animals can rest
- ✓ Less risk of injuries
- ✓ Less stress and exhaustion
- ✓ Possible to ensure that all animals receive water and food
- ✓ Animals can be inspected
- ✓ Easier to separate animals when necessary





## WOAH Terrestrial Code: Chapter 7.3. Transport of Animals by Land

### Article 7.3.5. point 7: Rest, water and feed

Suitable water and feed should be available as appropriate and needed for the species, age, and condition of the animals, as well as the duration of the journey, climatic conditions, etc.

### Article 7.3.9. point 5: Water and feed requirements

If journey duration is such that feeding or watering is required or if the species requires feed or water throughout, access to suitable feed and water for all the animals (appropriate for their species and age) carried in the vehicle should be provided. There should be adequate space for all animals to move to the feed and water sources and due account taken of likely competition for feed.

# Food and water supply

## Aspiration vs. Reality

**Drinkers not Suitable  
for Transported Species**

**No Drinkers/Not in All  
Compartments**

**No food on board for the  
animals**

**Drinkers not working**

**Drivers Carry no Hose/Adapter  
and do not Know Where to  
Refill the Tank**

**No possibility to organize food  
in contingency situations**





Better practice: Long Journeys – Food on board + Devices to provide water manually to the animals:



- ✓ All animals are provided with water
- ✓ Food available in case of the delays/ emergency situations



§

**Article 7.3.5. 11: Other considerations**

Extreme weather conditions are hazardous for animals undergoing transport and require appropriate vehicle design to minimize risks. Special precautions should be taken for animals that have not been acclimatised or which are unsuited to either hot or cold conditions. In some extreme conditions of heat or cold, animals should not be transported at all.

In some circumstances, transportation during the night may reduce thermal stress or the adverse effects of other external stimuli.





# Weather conditions

## Aspiration vs. Reality

Animals are transported under very high and very low temperatures



- **No thermo-regulation possible**
- **No/insufficient water**
- **Insufficient airflow**
- **No shade**
- **Heat stress**
- **Additional suffering**
- **Heat stroke**



- **Frost bite**
- **Forced to be contact with outer walls of the vehicle**
- **Insufficient food to respond to extra energy need**
- **Frozen watering system**
- **Insufficient isolation**
- **Additional suffering**



Better practice:

**Extreme weather conditions: No long journeys**



**POINT  
OF NO  
RETURN**

# Delays at borders leading to contingency situations



## What causes the delays at the border?



- Missing payments
- Lack of preparedness
- Import rejection due to
  - Diseases
  - Mistakes in the health certificates
  - Wrong indications regarding the weight of the animals
  - Discrepancies list of ear tags
  - Short notice changes in the import requirements
  - Missing import authorizations

etc. ... the reasons can change on short notice




7.3.11: Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey

- **The welfare of the animals should be the first consideration in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey.**
- In case of import refusal, animals should be unloaded (isolation facilities)
- The Competent Authority (CA) of the importing country should provide urgently in writing the reasons for the refusal;
- If the matter cannot be promptly resolved, the Competent Authorities of the exporting and importing countries should call on WOAH to mediate.
- If a Competent Authority requires the animals to remain on the vehicle, the priorities should be:
  - to allow provisioning of the vehicle with water and feed as necessary;
  - to provide urgent access to an independent veterinarian(s) to assess the health status of the animals,;
  - to provide access to allow continued assessment of the health and other aspects of the welfare of the animals, and the necessary actions to deal with any animal issues which arise.
- WOAH should utilise its informal procedure for dispute mediation to identify a mutually agreed solution which will address animal health and any other welfare issues in a timely manner.

# Delays at borders

## Aspiration vs. Reality



In case of import refusals or other delays at borders:

**The welfare and health of the animals is neglected**

It seems that highly alarming cases are not becoming less, but more frequent.

+++Emergency message+++

**September 2023:** Consignment of 41 cattle from Romania stuck at the Turkish border Kapıkule. Nearly one month on board the vehicle

**January 2024:** Two consignments of bulls from Portugal stuck at the Moroccan port of Tangier. Three weeks on board the vehicles.

**Sommer 2024:** Consignments of pigs from the EU stuck at the border to Kosovo during high temperatures

**September 2024:** At least four consignments of cattle including heavily pregnant cattle from the EU stuck for a week and up to a month at the Turkish border Kapıkule

**October 2024:** At least one consignment of cattle from Romania stuck for two weeks at the Turkish border Kapıkule



## January 2024: Cattle from Portugal detained for three weeks on board the trucks under custom's custody at the port of Tangier, Morocco

### Reason:

Commercial dispute over payment of import tariffs

### Result:

- One dead bull
- Sick and injured animals
- Immense animal suffering caused

### Questions:

- Why were the animals not duly attended?
- Why were the animals confined on vehicles for three weeks?
- Why were the animals not properly supplied with water and food?
- Why were the animals not attended by a veterinarian?
- Why were the animals forced to stand in a mud of excrement for three weeks?

**- No justification possible!**





Łì yā ù ğì ýġ ġāv ğì ýĀ ? \ 8 —Ā ÿi cŭrēŭōĀ ì šì ýžĀŷv ŭ ĀĐì ýŭr ēŭŷĀĉ ġŷĀ ēōĀř ì ĀŦ ýŷšř Āvŷĭ ì ýĀēōŌēy.tŭ° ŭ ħŷýĀĀř v ŭŕĉ 4#- Ā ēŷĀŷ ŭĀř ì Ā ōŷ° ġŷž9Ā

**Kì ézvŭ8**

ÀŃŌĀřŷĀř ì Āŷ.ŭēġì Ā ħĀ ì y.éýōŷĭ ĤĀ ì ŭ äv ŭžĀřŷĀř ì Ā ì ēŭř ġì ýäĭ ġēā žĀŷv ōĀ° ŭŷĀē.ŷ ēā î

**Kì ž° ŭŏĀ**

—Ā ì ēĭ Ā ì šì ýžĈ#- Āřĭ È ġŷŷŭŷġē.ŭēi žĀĐ ì ēĭ ŷĀ Ā v È ŭŷĭ ýžĀŷŷŭĭ î ŷĀ šŷ ŭŷ ì ŭžĭ Āēŷŷŷ ē.ŷĀ° ĭ ì ýŷŷŷġē° žĭ î

**K° ì žävŭž8**

Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷġĭ î Āŷ Āšēi Ā ġŷŷĀř Ā ŭġv ēŷĭ ĀēĀŷ° ġŷġē  
 Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷġĀ° ŭŷĀēġì ŷŷĭ ì î †Ā  
 Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷŷ ŭŷ ŷŷĭ î Ā ŷŷĀēi ř ŷġŭ žĀŷŷŷ#- Ā ēŷĲ†Ā  
 Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷġĀŷŷŷŷĭ ýŷŷĀ° ŷŷŷē î Āē šŷĲ ēā ýĀēŷŷĭ Āŷŷŷĭ †Ā  
 Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷġĀēġì ŷŷĭ ì î ĀġŷĀēĀēi ā ýŷŷŷēŷŷŷ†Ā  
 Ò ř ŷĀē ì ýĭ Āř ì Āēŷŷŷ ēžĀŷŷġĭ î Āŷ Āčēŷŷĭ ĀŷŷĀēĀř °î Ā ħĀ ŷġŷĭ ŭŷ ŭŷĀŷŷŷŷ#- Ā î ēŷĲ†Ā

**- No justification possible!**





(c) Animals' Angels,  
Animal Welfare Foundation, Karren



# October/November 2024: Confinement of 47 Cattle from Romania, 15 days on board a vehicle

## Reason:

- Import rejection because the animals came from a region afflicted by ovine plague (PPR).

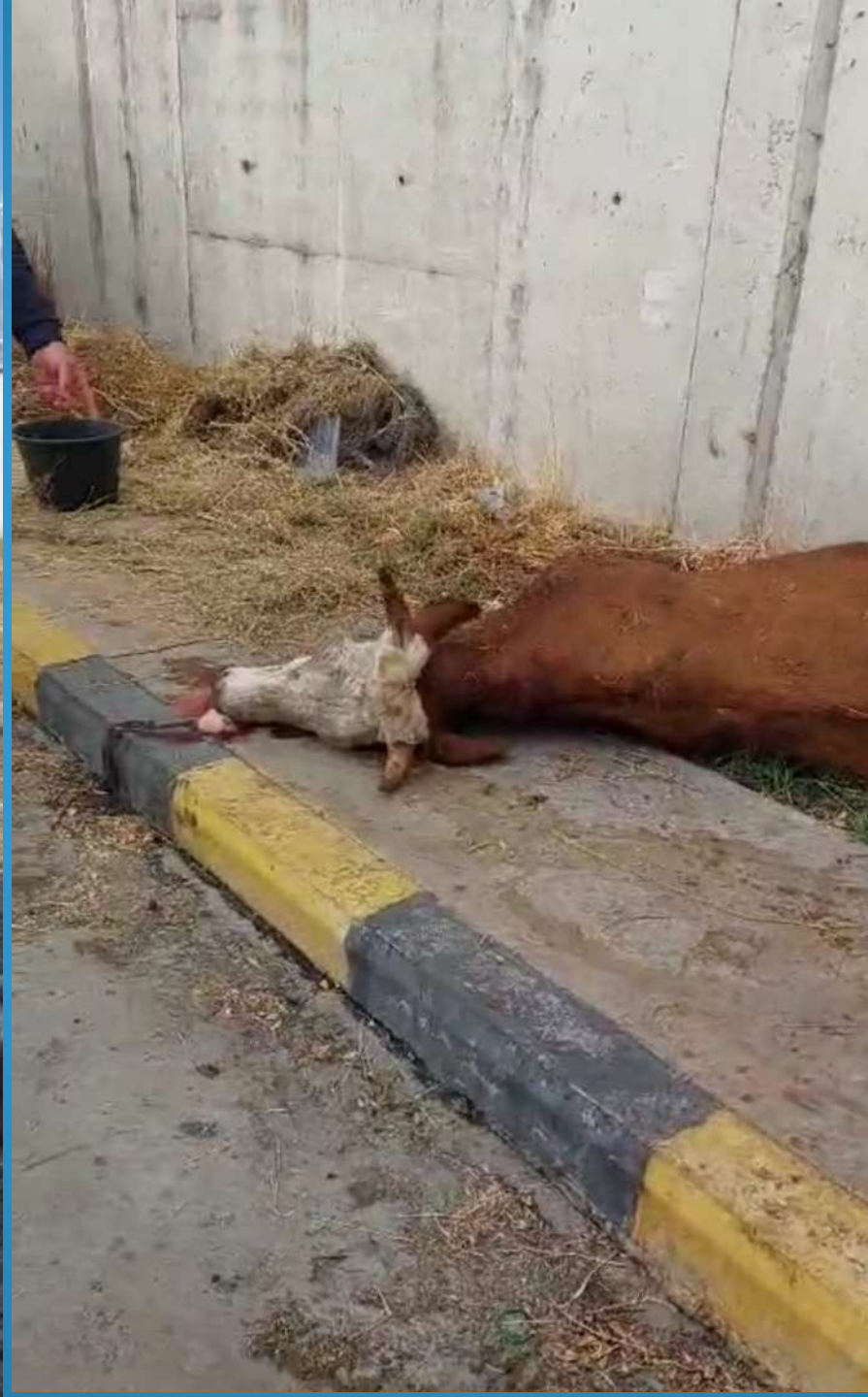
## Result:

- Six cattle died
- Immense suffering caused to the animals

## Questions:

- Was there a realistic risk of disease spread?
- Why were the animals not duly attended?
- Why were the animals confined on vehicles for 15 days?
- Why were the animals not attended by a veterinarian?
- Why were the animals forced to stand in a mud of excrement for 15 days?
- What about the risk of spreading PPR when the dead body of an animal of the consignment was thrown in a rubbish bin at the customs area in Kapikule?





As in any area of international trade, in the international trade with live animals, mistakes, discrepancies and misunderstandings occur. This is unavoidable and it is human.

But it is incomprehensible and not acceptable how contingencies with animals on transports are handled.

To leave animals suffer and die in agony is cruel.

This may not happen again.



## **Urgent measures required**

- Suspension of exports of live animals when re-import/return to the EU is not possible
- Export of live animals only to countries which have demonstrably the same or higher animal welfare standards implemented as the EU
- Uniformed preauthorization process for exports
  - Transport permission only after official pre-authorization from the importing country, validation of authenticity of the corresponding document.
  - Real time access to navigation system
  - 100% rate of retrospective checks
  - Reduction of loading density considering journey length, weather, state of pregnancy
  - EU database with control posts in non-EU countries
  - Presence during loading of official vets
  - Uniform checklist for the authorization (verification of place of destination, check of control post reservation, check of shortest route, check of number of drivers)

**Thank you for your efforts to improve animal welfare during transport!**

Contact:

[julia@animals-angels.de](mailto:julia@animals-angels.de)

[www.animals-angels.de](http://www.animals-angels.de)

[www.icfaw.org](http://www.icfaw.org)



15 Oct 2024, 22:45