



DONKEY SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

INCORPORATED
ABN 82 148 300 307

On the behalf of the members of the Donkey Society of Victoria I would like to express their opinions of the impending approval of the live export of donkeys overseas to China.

Our members are appalled at the mere mention of these beautiful animals being slaughtered as we are dedicated to the care, breeding and welfare of donkeys.

However most members concede that it may be necessary to cull wild donkeys in central Australia as their increasing numbers impact on the outback and the livelihood of people. If these donkeys are rounded up and transported locally and slaughtered in Australia they will not suffer the extreme cruelty that the live transport overseas will cause.

We are reminded of the unimaginable suffering that Australian donkeys encountered in the early 1970's when they were transported across Australia to the eastern states in overcrowded trucks, taking many days without being unloaded, watered, fed or rested. These donkeys cost nothing, so the dealers didn't worry about the loss of life that this caused. The donkeys suffered transport sickness resulting in severe stress, dehydration, pneumonia, laminitis and eventually organ failure. Many never made it to the east and others died later in our cold winter months.

Such was the cruelty that the Donkey Society at the time lobbied and attended numerous meetings with members of parliament and the RSPCA until eventually the Animal Cruelty Act was brought before the legislative council. As a result from 1976 it became compulsory to have RSPCA inspections en route. Then in 1978 the issuing of permits to transport horses and donkeys from Western Australia was stopped, this certainly helped to reduce the suffering.

Our main concern is that of live transport overseas of highly intelligent vulnerable animals that do not tolerate extreme conditions, but surely it is more acceptable to slaughter the animals within Australia where there are strict controls to monitor the welfare of these animals, then the by products can be sent overseas.

Live export is unacceptable, cruel and unnecessary, we must learn from the past and show respect and compassion for our Australian donkeys.

Yours in caring

Clare E Davis - OAM

Welfare Officer - Donkey Society of Victoria Incorporated

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