Ban Live Exports Rally 14th August 2011

On Sunday 14th August 2011, hundreds of our supporters who care about animals and were horrified at the cruelty to Australian cattle shown on the recent Four Corners expose congregated on the Esplanade Reserve in Fremantle to be the voice for the voiceless. The WA Rally was organised by Stop Live Exports and was part of a national event that was called by Animals Australia and the RSPCA and was held simultaneously in every major city in Australia.

Throughout the night before the Rally, the rain fell in sheets and at 7.00am the next morning the weather wasn’t looking any more promising. Our trusty team of SLE volunteers battled on regardless and by 11.30am we were ready to go and like a sign from above, the sun came out! And the people came, a trickle at first and then in ever increasing waves, placards held high. It’s hard to gauge crowd numbers at a glance but we estimate that the final turnout was in excess of 1,500!

We started at noon with some great music from Dilip and the Davs followed by passionate and rousing speeches from Lisa Baker MLA, Member for Maylands, Senator Rachel Siewert, Chris Tallentire, MLA Member for Gosnells, Lyn MacLaren MLC Member for the South Metropolitan Region and Lyn Bradshaw, National and State President of the RSPCA. Lyn White’s speech was also played over the airwaves during which you could have heard a pin drop and there wasn’t a dry eye on the Esplanade reserve.

The spirit of the day was amazing – happy, friendly, supportive and caring. Children planted their wishes in the Wish Garden and coloured in pictures of lambs and cows. Levy the sheep put in an appearance, as did a beautiful calf called Daisy, a goat and dogs of all shapes and sizes. There were babies and pensioners, bankers and teachers – just ordinary Australians from all walks of life coming together to speak out for those that cannot.

What We Have Been Up To

Apart from the big Ban Live Exports rally reported above, here are some of the other things that have been keeping us busy:

- On Thursday 8th September a large group of our supporters held a protest in the Victoria Quay in Fremantle to highlight the plight of some 50,000 sheep that were already on board the Al Shuwaikh that arrived in Fremantle en route to the Middle East. These poor animals had originally been on-board the Al Messiah that broke down off the coast of Adelaide, which meant that they had been in transit since the 9th August and still had to endure the three week journey to the Middle East. 300 had already died by the time the ship was recalled to Adelaide and a number of similar protests by Animals Australia supporters in Adelaide had failed to stop the live export industry from showing mercy to these animals and keeping them in Australia. We felt that we too couldn’t let this issue go unnoticed since it so clearly demonstrated the inherent cruelty in the live animal export trade. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out in protest.

- Our volunteers have been busy over the past few months manning community outreach stalls in Fremantle and Joondalup and we have heaps more coming up. Please let me know if you’d like to help out at future stalls – it’s a fun way to meet members of the public and educate them about live animal exports. You’ll be surprised by how many people you will meet who abhor the trade just as much as you do!

- Some of our volunteers have had successful meetings with their State and Federal MPs – these meetings are extremely beneficial as they demonstrate the community support on this issue. Lots of you have also written letters to the media and to your MPs.

- We have over 2,300 Facebook friends on our new page (please join us!)
Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held Saturday 5th November 2010, from 3.00pm at our office, located at 35 High Street Fremantle. All members are welcome. If you would like Committee nomination forms, they are available by emailing Sandie at sandie@stopliveexports.org.

We will follow the AGM with a planning and brainstorming meeting and we’d like to invite our members, volunteers and supporters to come along and share their great ideas with us. This is your opportunity to let me and your committee know what activities you would like SLE to undertake next year so that these can be fed into the 2012 Strategic Plan.

If you’d like to attend the AGM, the brainstorming session or both, please let me know as soon as possible on sandie@stopliveexports.org. If we get enough interest, we might change the venue to somewhere larger than our High Street office and I will advise accordingly.

Quiz Night

What a splendid night it was! Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors who donated great prizes and to everyone who came along to share in the fun. The evening raised almost $5,000 so was a huge success. Katrina Love, one of our tireless supporters and now a new SLE Committee Member, was the brains and energy behind the event so special grateful thanks to her.

New Merchandise

We have some new t-shirts in stock! Available are black or grey Stop Live Exports logo shirts and pale blue special edition Cow and Ram logo t-shirts, all in sizes for men and women (S, M & L) and all styles with short sleeves. There is an order form on the back of this newsletter or email us on stopliveexportsoffice@iinet.net.au.

Potential Donation to SLE

EthicalJobs.com.au donates $4,000 to four small community organisations every 3 months - the idea is to support small organisations doing great work for a more sustainable, just world. And they’ve chosen Stop Live Exports as one of the four organisations to donate to for the next three months.

They ask their website users to help make the decision by letting them vote in a poll on how the donation is split between the organisations that have been chosen. (If you visit the homepage on www.EthicalJobs.com.au you can find the donation poll in the bottom left corner).

The more Stop Live Exports supporters that visit the site and vote for us, the larger the donation to us is. Each vote on the poll at EthicalJobs.com.au increases the proportion of the $4,000 that will come to us at the end of November.

It would be great if you could let your wider networks know about the poll, so they can vote for us too.

Goodwill Wines

We have a fantastic partnership with Goodwill Wines. Every time you order a case of wine, we receive $20. The wines are excellent quality (so not at all like your usual fundraising wine) as they source the wines by going direct to the vineyard for the best available.

David and Ali from Goodwill Wines were affected by the Victorian bushfires and decided to start Goodwill Wines after receiving support from Australia Red Cross as a way of paying it forward. The wines have a special Stop Live Exports label, featuring our very own Ambassador, Levy Lamb so they make great gifts. To order, go to http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/stop-live-exports

Stop Live Exports days at present are Mondays and Thursdays – I cannot undertake any SLE duties on Tuesdays and Wednesdays because I am at my other job at Murdoch University. However I can always be contacted on sandie@stopliveexports.org and will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

The office is maintained for administration, meetings and for storing merchandise etc but is only manned on an irregular part-time basis. So if you phone us and don’t get a response, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are always very happy to accept any assistance from new volunteers because there is always lots to do so if you’d like to get more involved and perhaps man a community outreach stall or help with some admin work etc, please don’t hesitate to let me know. Every little bit helps and the more the merrier!

Administration of Stop Live Exports

We’ve been having a few glitches with our membership database recently so please forgive us if your name didn’t display correctly on the envelope! Normal service will be resumed shortly!

We rely heavily on the efforts of our stalwart volunteers to keep things running along smoothly in the day-to-day running of the office and they do a fabulous job! My position as Campaign Manager is a part-time position (16 hours a week) and I am the only paid member of staff – everything else happens because of the wonderful work of our amazing volunteers. My
**Port Watch**

The Port Watch Program is being started up again and will be co-ordinated by Katrina Love. This is a vitally important activity, as there are very few animal welfare inspectors in WA and most animal shipments are not being correctly monitored. If we can provide evidence that standards are being breached, then this puts us in a stronger position to lobby for more inspectors, compulsory training for truck drivers and higher enforceable standards. Training will be provided and you will never do a stint on watch alone, there will always be at least two of you at any one time. We aim to monitor each and every shipment that leaves Fremantle port. If you would like to get involved, please contact Katrina urgently on lovekat@iprimus.com.au

**WSPA Humane Chain Campaign**

On December 3rd and 4th the Labor party will hold their National Conference. This National Conference is the Labor party’s highest decision-making forum. The conference usually takes place only once every three years, and during it they’ll consider amendments to the Party platform and a number of resolutions. This is a critical window of opportunity and WSPA needs your help! They are looking for 100 Captains around Australia to lead their electorate in lobbying activities, aimed at encouraging the Labor party to change their stance on live animal exports.

If you decide to take on this challenge and help millions of animals, WSPA will supply you with a free Captain Action Pack full of the tools you’ll need to be a campaigner for animals. You’ll also be assigned a WSPA Buddy for support the whole way through, who will help you carry out a few key actions, including getting petitions signed and contacting your local media. All you need is the will and a couple of hours spare each week leading up to the National Conference.

If you would like to join in this exciting initiative contact Jodie on JodieJankevics@wspa.org.au as soon as possible. We are looking for Captains in the following areas: Durack, Forrest, Moore, Pearce, Perth, Stirling, Swan, Tangney.

**WA Labor Conference 2011 Animal Welfare motion passed**

At the WA Labor Conference in July 2011, a momentous Animal Welfare motion introduced by Lisa Baker Member for Maylands was passed. The section covering live exports is as follows:

**On Live Export:**

64. Labor recognises that:

a) There are strong economic, job and animal welfare reasons for transitioning from the live export trade to domestic processing of animals for local consumption and the chilled and frozen meat trade.

b) While the live export trade continues, livestock for slaughter from Australia will be treated humanely while being transported and in the country of destination.

65. To this end, Labor will:

a) Require that livestock be transported, unloaded, held and slaughtered in accordance with OIE Guidelines and stunned using appropriate humane restraints immediately before slaughter, and that there will be independent monitoring and enforcement of these standards.

b) Ensure adequate transitional arrangements are in place to facilitate the expansion of a chilled and frozen meat trade.

c) Develop and implement an alternative and sustainable economic base for the pastoral industry in the north of Western Australia.

d) Work with the Commonwealth government, industry and importing countries to promote the trade in chilled meat from animals humanely transported and slaughtered in Australia.

e) Pursue, as part of trade negotiations, the elimination of policies of foreign governments, such as subsidies and tariffs, which distort competitive neutrality between the meat processing and the live export industries.

f) Promote Australian chilled and frozen meat in potential new markets through intensive international promotional campaigns, such as the emerging markets in China.

We all need to vote for Labor in the next state election!
Help support STOP LIVE EXPORTS by purchasing our merchandise!

ORDER FORM

Please mail to Stop Live Exports, PO Box 499, Fremantle WA 6959

Black and grey logo t-shirts: Women's S □ Women's M □ Women's L □ Men's S □ Men's M □ Men's L □
Black □ Grey □ Quantity _____ $25 each (plus $7 packaging and postage, up to 3 shirts)

Special edition Cow and Ram logo t-shirts in light blue: Women's S □ Women's M □ Women's L □ Men's S □ Men's M □ Men's L □
Quantity _____ $25 each (plus $7 packaging and postage, up to 3 shirts)

T-Towels: Quantity _____ $12 each (plus $7 postage for up to 4 t-towels)

Sheep and cow soft toys: (10cm high) $5 each (plus $7 packaging and postage for up to 4 toys, then 50c extra per toy thereafter)
Quantity _____ soft toy cows & _____ soft toy sheep.

Caps: Quantity _____ $10 each (plus $7 packaging and postage, up to 2 caps)

Calico Shopping Bags: Quantity _____ $7 each (plus $7 packaging and postage, up to 4 bags)

Donation to Stop Live Exports $ __________

TOTAL (all items, including postage) $ ___________________

Title: _____ First name: ________________________ Second name: _________________________ Address: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Postcode: _____ Telephone (H): ___________ (W): ___________ (M): ___________

Payment method: Cheque □ Cash □ Bank Card □ MasterCard □ Visa □

Card number:_ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ Expiry date: _ _ / _ _ Name on card: ________________________ Signature: ________________________

If you would like to include anything in the next newsletter please email info@stopliveexports.org

Please note:
Merchandise is only available within Australia.