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EYES ON ANIMALS: CLOSED LIVESTOCK TRUCKS UNSUITABLE

The new generation of livestock trucks without side doors do not meet the European regulations and are unsuitable for transporting live animals, says Eyes on Animals. According to the law animals must be accessible during transport to enable feeding, watering and attending to sick and/or injured animals. On April 4th, the animal welfare organization is going to confront the NVWA (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) about this unlawful situation.

Closed trucks are completely dependent on electronics for air circulation and cooling. It has already occurred that over 300 piglets died by suffocation due to failing air-conditioning. Drinking water supply systems are also known to have failed. Because of the absence of side doors manual watering is virtually impossible. Side doors can be mounted on closed livestock trucks at any stage.

Lesley Moffat, Eyes on Animals director: "Some elements of the new closed livestock trucks are an improvement. The trucks can be quieter and warmer in the winter, which can increase comfort. But many of these trucks do not have side doors, access is therefore practically impossible. If there are 200 slaughter pigs or 400 sheep on board and a sick or injured animal needs to be cared for at the front end of the trailer, the chauffeur has no chance to reach it. Improving animal welfare and having fewer dead, sick or injured animals is what we should all strive for."

Herman Klompjan, livestock chauffeur: "A closed truck contributes to the welfare of young calves and piglets, because conditions on board make it more relaxed. But access to the animals is very important, especially during long distance transports. You have to be able to give food and straw; I speak from years of experience. The side door has to come back, as is prescribed in EU legislation established in 2005."

About Eyes on Animals:

Eyes on Animals is an independent inspection-based organization. Our inspectors conduct visits to livestock markets, farms and slaughterhouses and inspect and trail national and international livestock trucks. Eyes on Animals improves animal welfare in collaboration with the industry. Providing information and giving trainings to the police and transporters is also part of Eyes on Animals work.

Note for the editors:

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