



**Eyes on  
Animals** | Watching  
out for their  
welfare

## **(EN) Welfare Tips for Industry- August 2013**

### **Reducing noise means increasing well-being of your animals**

Ever noticed that almost everything built to move, pen-up, restrain or load animals is often noisy and created with material that either bangs or squeaks?

Dr. Temple Grandin, along with many other well-known animal behaviourists, as well as most of the old-fashioned good livestock handlers, knows that reducing loud noises (particularly sporadic ones) is vital to reducing stress and fright in your animals.

We encourage all of you to walk through your farm, your livestock trailer or your slaughterhouse to identify noise-creating objects and then use your creativity to reduce the volume!

Here are a few examples to inspire you.

(We would love to hear from you- should you have taken action to reduce noise in your facility or livestock vehicle, let us know. We would be happy to put it under our Thumbs Up section on our website and use your example to encourage others to do the same).

- 1. Leeuwarden cattle market (NL) and Vion pig slaughterhouse in Groenlo (NL) placed rubber shock absorbers on their gates to reduce noise.**



2. Livestock truck manufacturers, such as Berdex in the Netherlands, have placed rubber on key points to subdue the bang made when doors and ramps are opened up and when animals walk on the ramp.



3. Transport companies, such as Hunland in Hungary, have themselves also added rubber to key points on the doors of their full-metal trucks to reduce loud banging and offer better protection from damage.



4. Compaxo pig slaughterhouse in The Netherlands (no photo available) has replaced doors that used air-pressure to open and close with low-noise manual hinges to get rid of the agitating air-hissing sound that was causing stress in their pigs. Training personnel to close doors gently behind them instead of letting everything slam shut also can help.

5. The French slaughterhouse, Viande Nature Jura, places a thick rubber mat (see left photo), with anti-slip ridges on it, onto the metal floor of the kill box for horses and cattle (see photo right). This not only prevents the animals from falling but reduces greatly the noise created by hooves of a large animal stepping on metal. It is cleaned regularly and is also a super cheap solution to noise and slip!

