

## WELFARE

people who make a difference

## AMANZIMTOTI SPCA

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Text: Toni Brockhoven

### ■ SHIPPING LIVE ANIMALS

Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC) has been looking at the issue of animals being transported by sea for slaughter at overseas destinations. The Ban Animal Trading branch of BWC has been active against this in East London. This includes the team taking legal action to prevent the most recent transport. Astonishingly, the judge ruled in the defendant's favour, even after viewing footage of the cattle transport, stating that he found "cruelty was prevalent and that has to be resolved in future."

Sadly, this makes BWC believe that it is about the money. Shipping live animals is cheaper, regardless of the horrors the animals will endure before their arrival and the terrible death in store. In the case of South Africa, the ship's destination is Mauritius, which does not have animal welfare as a priority.

While **BWC is against the use of animals for any reason, including food, the reality is that these animals are going to die.** The question is asked, why not ship the results of local slaughter? These communities require live animals to slaughter for religious purposes. But if the animals are slaughtered in South Africa in the manner prescribed by the religious authorities, does this not satisfy these requirements?

Investigations have brought to light the terrible suffering endured by these animals. Cattle, sheep and goats are shipped via the East London route. While just loading can take up to 24 hours, the journey itself for the animals is a nightmare, being below deck for up to 12

days. Animals can and do become seasick. Any sudden or unexpected movement can result in falls causing broken bones, and they will arrive standing in their own waste, which can cause the breakout and spread of disease. This is the result of having been enclosed below deck for at least a week. This also produces an overpowering ammonia build-up which discourages animals from lying down. No bedding is provided.

There is no veterinarian on board to tend to any injuries or illnesses, or for emergency euthanasia. Water is not left for the cattle and feeding schedules are sporadic. Upon their arrival, the cattle left standing can be too weak to leave the carrier. Downed (injured, unable to stand) cows are pulled by ropes to the next transport vessel. The weak ones are beaten, shocked and even stung on their testicles to force them to move.

Beauty Without Cruelty has thrown their weight behind the South African lobby petitioning the government to stop the trade. Internationally, the welfare of live export has again come under criticism as a ship with a delivery of 7,000 animals from Australia, intended for Israel (a two-week journey), became stranded off the West Australian coast.



Beauty Without Cruelty will have rallies against live export in various cities around the country during August and early September. Please see [www.bwca.co.za](http://www.bwca.co.za) or join their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BeautyWithoutCrueltySA](http://www.facebook.com/BeautyWithoutCrueltySA) for information and updates.

### ■ FUNDRAISING EVENTS Amanzimtoti Fun Day



Michelle Hannan (left) with local supporters enjoying their *Animaltalk* magazines

On 12 April 2014, a day blessed with sunshine, the Amanzimtoti SPCA held their open day at their Toti SPCA premises. Catering for both children and adults, the organisation showed guests around the premises while explaining all operations such as their boarding facilities, end-of-the-month clinics and their kennel sponsorships. Families were also shown their "memory wall" as well as the stunning range of dogs/puppies and cats/kittens who were available for adoption.

**It was explained that the public can help by volunteering at the shop (there is a book store on site with a thrift shop), walking the dogs, donating food, donating their unwanted resalable goods, as well as something as simple as sharing the events and animals up for adoption from their Facebook page with their family and friends.**

Special treats were planned for the kids for the day such as a jumping castle, Easter egg hunt and face painting. Toti SPCA's regular volunteers cooked up a storm by making bacon and egg rolls as well as hotdogs and cold drinks for the children. Local DJ Shaun Callaghan entertained the guests, playing the famous *Who Let the Dogs Out*, which was very fitting for the day.

The Amanzimtoti SPCA would like to thank *Animaltalk* for generously giving them copies of *Animaltalk*, *HQPony* and *HQ* magazines to hand out to their guests. "I just want to say thank you to all who supported us on the day. We really do appreciate it as every bit helps. Thank you to the amazing staff, volunteers and our manager Tracey Girling for all of their hard work and support that they give, because without them our open day would not have been possible," marketing manager Michelle Hannan said.

Text: Michelle Hannan