

Laird Prosecution:

Graeme Laird pleads not guilty to a charge of animal cruelty in the Midland Magistrates Court 31 December 2009.

Case to be heard 6 July 2010.

An investigation arose when an Animal Welfare Inspector found a sheep at Midland Saleyard in April 2009 with 2 broken legs. The State Animal Welfare Law Enforcement Inspector called Midland Police who responded within 10 minutes and shot the extremely distressed animal.

It is alleged that after having unloaded the rest of the sheep from his truck, Mr Laird knowingly left a sheep with at least one broken leg in a pen and drove away-therefore failing to address the suffering of the animal. The Department of Local Government Animal Welfare Unit charged Mr Laird with cruelty under the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

Live Export Shame opinion is if the inspectors were not checking the yards at 10.30pm in April 2009 and found the sheep, the animal would have been left to either suffer and die slowly sometime during the night from the serious and extensive injuries sustained or the staff at Midland Saleyard would find the sheep during the morning and shoot it.

There is no doubt to Live Export Shame the sheep had every right to assistance in ending its suffering in the most humane manner possible. In fact this is what the animal welfare legislation demands but rarely delivers. Leaving an animal in the alleged state is unacceptable and we are most certain that this act is not isolated but occurs often on farm, at yards, feedlots; from and to where ever sheep are transported.

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