

## **A Short Note on Camels Exports From the Sudan: Importers Conditions and Associated Practices**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Camels' are exported from the Sudan either to Saudi Arabia through the Red Sea (shipping) from Swakin seaport, to other Gulf countries by air from Kassala airport or to Egypt through terrestrial roads. These countries import camels as food source or for racing.

The importer countries usually have their own conditions in which they either request animals free of certain diseases and/ or vaccinated against others. To achieve these conditions coordination between the General Directorate of Quarantines and Meat Hygiene, Veterinary Research Institute and exporters should be well identified. Due to this coordination one would expect the smoothness of the exportation processes following the implementation of all technical and administrative procedures. Sometimes, during the daily working, some problems arise leading to either delaying of the exportation processes or rejection of some camels' cargoes from the recipient countries.

In this article we are trying to highlight part of these problems taking Kassala and Swakin Quarantine Stations and their coordination with Kassala and Portsudan Veterinary Research Laboratories as guidance.

The shared condition between all importer countries is the 100% testing against brucellosis. During 2014 out of 13866 racing camels (To Gulf) tested for brucellosis in Kassala Veterinary Research Laboratory 1479 (10.7%) were positive. In Portsudan 542 (2.2%) out of 24916 were positive. In the ordinary situation all positive camels should be excluded from the cargoes, BUT??.

During the period from March 19<sup>th</sup> To December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a total of 13 (average = 1.1 ships/month) merchant ships loaded with 629 heads of camels were rejected from Saudi Arabia and returned to Sawakin seaport. The mentioned reasons are pseudotuberculosis, camel pox, brucellosis and others. In most cases the retesting revealed no confirmation for these reasons. Recently part of the Gulf countries requested the testing for the corona virus: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). This will lead to new costing and technical loads on the country.

All these and others will be elaborated on and discussed in this article.

**Keywords:** Camel export, Quarantine measurements, Brucellosis