

BA to stop carrying sheep for slaughter

LONDON (Reuter) British Airways PLC said Wednesday it is ending flights of live sheep destined for the dinner table after protests from passengers.

"Many of our customers have expressed strong views objecting to the carriage of sheep for slaughter," Robert Ayling, the airline's group managing director, said in a statement.

"I reviewed the matter yes-

terday . . . including taking account of the animal welfare issues, and we have decided to withdraw from this market," he said.

Animal lovers on board a recent BA flight from Perth to Singapore reacted with shock and revulsion when they found out their flight was being delayed while 40 live Australian sheep, packed into narrow crates, were stowed in the hold.

The sheep were being flown to Singapore where they were to be transferred by ship to Saudi Arabia for ritual slaughter.

Among the passengers was Member of Parliament Sir Teddy Taylor, who wrote to British Airways in protest.

"This is fantastic for animal welfare and I pay tribute to British Airways for having acted so speedily," he said.

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