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▶▶ EYEWITNESS REPORTS LAYBY HORROR



Hell on Wheels

While driving from Los Angeles to Chicago, Saverio Truglia stopped at a layby in southern Utah to make a sandwich for lunch.

"Suddenly", he said, "the air became laden with the smells of live hogs". He tried to ignore the pungent odours blowing toward him.

"What I couldn't ignore", he said, "was the heated life-and-death struggle occurring inside the semi's perforated steel shell. Snouts and mouths jutted through air holes while human-looking eyes stared to the outside".

Truglia went over to the trailer and peered inside. He saw "a sea of enormous pink hogs, all struggling for space in the cramped container. Those pigs that somehow got lifted up by the dense crowd were riding the others, with front hooves gouging the bloody backs of those who managed to keep all fours on the ground. This caused considerable panic and certainly pain in the surrounding animals".

Knowing how intelligent pigs are, Truglio spoke to the pigs at the Utah layby. His voice momentarily calmed them, long enough for him to shoot a roll of film. Then the driver pulled the semi away, headed for the slaughterhouse.

Photos © Saverio Truglia



Photographer Saverio Truglia recorded these pigs' final journey.

A Driver's Story

As one pig lorry driver in the US told PETA, drivers use electric prods to load the "hog trailers" to bursting, and they avoid weighing stations at all costs. Many pigs suffer rectal prolapse as they struggle to squeeze between others. "They're packed in so tight", the driver told us,

"their guts actually pop out – a little softball of guts actually comes out".

He also told us how one pig who got loose and had never been in the hot sun crawled under the lorry for shade. The other driver took a crowbar and beat her teeth out of her head. Then he ran the lorry over her. He also told of another driver who "killed six hogs with a 'hot shot' electric prod – three down the throat and three up the rectum". Some drivers also use gaff-type metal hooks

Pigs Take a Detour From Slaughterhouse

Paul was 5 months old when he and nearly 200 other pigs were discovered inside a lorry bound for the slaughterhouse that the driver had parked and abandoned. Raised on a factory farm, they were covered with urine burns from living in stacked cages and open cuts from being jabbed by workers. Some pigs were dead, and some were having seizures. They trembled at the sight of people, and having been raised immobile, when they were unloaded at a sanctuary they stumbled and could barely walk.

A "pork producer" claimed them but, when asked to pay for the cost of their care, refused and signed them over to the sanctuary. There, tender loving care healed them. Now Paul frolics happily with the other pigs and loves to have his tummy rubbed.



SAVED!

a panic – you can see it in their eyes – and some die of heart attacks.

The unloading at the slaughterhouses is as ugly as the loading. After being confined all their lives, the pigs' legs and lungs are so weak that they can barely walk. But when they see space ahead of them, some of them begin running for the first time in their lives. Like fillies, they jump and buck, overjoyed with their first feel of freedom. Then, suddenly, they collapse and cannot get up. They lie there, trying hard to breathe. Then drivers hook their legs up to winches to pull them and often pull their legs and shoulders right off them.

At the slaughterhouse, some pigs are dismembered and skinned alive when the stun gun misses its mark.

Other photos by Saverio Truglia can be viewed at SaverioTruglia.com.

to load the pigs – they insert the hooks into every orifice of the animals, including their eyes and mouths.

No Return Ticket

In winter, some pigs die frozen to the sides of the lorries. In summer, some die from heat exhaustion. Some fall and suffocate when additional animals are forced to pile in on top of them. All are in



Save a Pig's Life

Swap pork for mock meats like Vegideli Organic Vegetarian Rashers and Fry's Special Organic Hot Dogs.