



DALLA PARTE  
DEGLI ANIMALI

## LAV'S OPEN LETTER

LAV has always battled against all forms of animal exploitation, including the exploitation of animals for the purposes of human food consumption. The world for which we strive every day is a place where each and every animal enjoys its freedom and is not confined, for whatever reason, to a breeding farm awaiting its slaughter. On the path toward building this world, we ensure that animals still raised and slaughtered today are treated in full compliance with the legislation protecting them and with the Constitutional Charter, which in its Article 9 states "(The Republic), shall protect the environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, also in the interest of future generations. The law of the State stipulates the terms and conditions Regarding the welfare of animals."

Therefore, on the very grounds that chickens raised for the purpose of meat production are also sentient beings, whose welfare is as of now guaranteed by the Constitution as well, in light of the TV programme Report aired on Rai Tre<sup>1</sup> on January 9, 2023, we believe it is a matter of great importance to have the following questions posed to the company:

1. What is the company's view of the kind of conduct as shown in the Report coverage? How many culls on average occur in the company on a given day? Are the culls that occur in the company always an emergency?
2. What training system does the company have in place for its farm operators? Is the training compulsory? What criteria must it comply with and what does it actually consist of?
3. Does the farm also take advantage of contractors (e.g., on-call cooperatives)? If so, what training do these have?
4. What procedure does the farm have in place for the chickens that do not meet the commercial standards, such as not growing and staying smaller than others?
5. With regard to the concerns for the health of animals associated with the "fast growing" breeds, how does the company feel about the genetic selection of broiler chickens?

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6. Given the animal health issues associated with the use of fast-growing breeds, does the company plan to convert entirely to organic in the next few years, divesting itself of the use of fast-growing breeds altogether while simultaneously reducing the number of animals raised?

7. Is the Rusticanello chicken, the symbol of the farm's organic production, at all times free-range and/or for what length of its life?

8. In which instances and for what reasons does the “Rusticanello” chicken, symbol of the farm's organic production, not have access to the outdoors? If applicable, what percentage of the breeding cycle does the period without access to the outdoors amount to?

9. How many chickens are raised organically in proportion to the total number of chickens bred by the farm?

10. Is the specification on labeling of Unaitalia, to which the farm adheres, available for public inspection? Where can it be accessed? Do all the farm's products follow these specifications?

11. What are the protocols the company currently employs for the handling of sick and suffering animals? How many staff and how many veterinarians does the farm have available to care for these animals per herd?

12. Are there any differences in the number of veterinarians on hand between conventional and organic farming?

13. What is the data on the on-farm mortality for the respective types of farming (conventional and organic)?

14. What further steps will the company take in the future to ensure the welfare of its flocks and in particular organic flocks?

Looking forward to prompt responses from the company, we shall remain available for further dialogue concerning the aforementioned issues.

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