



LAV Press release - 24 February 2016

**GREEN HILL (Brescia): RULING ISSUED BY THE APPELLATE COURT TOO!**

**LAV, THE CIVIL PLAINTIFF EXULTS, CLAIMS ARE WELL-FOUNDED: MASS KILLING OF BEAGLES, SYSTEMATIC MISTREATMENT AND GAPS IN CONTROLS NAIL DOWN THE IN-HOUSE VETERINARIAN, THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER AND THE DIRECTOR OF GREEN HILL NOW LIABLE TO PENAL PROSECUTION. THE "LAB-USE" AND "DISPOSABLE" GUINEA PIG-DOG THEOREM PROVEN TO BE FALSE. AND NOW, ON 9 MARCH THE GREEN HILL "BIS" TRIAL FOR 5 NEW PEOPLE FOUND GUILTY, INCLUDING ASL VETERINARIANS AND STAFF OF THE DOG BREEDING FACILITY.**

**FROM 5 TO 6 MARCH, LAV WILL BE PRESENT IN HUNDREDS OF ITALIAN SQUARES FOR ITS "END ANIMAL TESTING" CAMPAIGN.**

It is not true that it was all rosy at Green Hill, anything but a facility of excellence in its sector! This was also confirmed yesterday evening by the Appellate Court that issued a new memorable ruling against the Brescia-based dog breeding facility that used beagles for scientific research after a complaint filed by LAV in 2012.

**The Appellate Court confirmed the sentence issued by the Court of first instance against Renzo Graziosi, veterinarian, Ghislane Rondot, director of "Green Hill 2001", both sentenced to 1 year and 6 months in jail, and Roberto Bravi, executive manager of the breeding facility, sentenced to 1 year and compensation expenses. A 2-year suspension of activities was also confirmed for the accused as well as the seizure of the dogs.**

Thus Green Hill will remain closed: on the other hand the EU has not filed any request to eliminate the prohibition of breeding dogs for testing imposed by the Italian Law in 2014.

*"Unnecessary mistreatment and "mass" killings as well as gaps in controls: also the Appellate Court, through its order, has disproven every "alibi" for the sole in-house veterinarian that alone should have taken care of 3,000 dogs, on behalf of the managers of the facility – states LAV – thanks to this new ruling, moral uprightness and fairness are confirmed when applying the law to living beings that are capable of feeling suffering and pain, and with ethological needs that must be complied with even if there, at stake, the economic interests of an American multinational such as Marshall. Thus, thanks to this landmark judgement, an unprecedented one for the number of rescued animals and its innovative feature from a legal point of view, the "lab-product", "disposable" dog theorem has been proven false.*

*"The legal battle surely does not end here - continues LAV – The gaps in the controls by the veterinarians of Brescia's ASL (Local Health Unit), already clearly emerged also during the trial of first instance as well as in the Appellate Court, in fact will be the subject of a specific trial that is due to start on 9 March 2016: five defendants in total including ASL staff and veterinarians. A strand of investigation that must be read and faced with foresight, as it is neither "a case" nor an accident that, in the last few months, the Public Prosecutor's Office in Brescia has initiated a number of astonishing judicial investigations and trials involving veterinarian staff of the Brescia's ASL with regard to a number of scandals: besides Green Hill, other veterinarians were involved in the investigation on the Italcarni slaughterhouse based in Ghedi (BS) where one of the defendants is also undergoing another trial under charges of animal mistreatment, false declaration and failure to report ear cropping and tail docking of adult dogs and puppies which are considered a crime. They are civil servants that for professional deontology and service owed to the State are called to ensure adequate controls, out of respect for animals and legality.*

*To show its support for no animal testing, the beagles and the dozens of thousands of other animals that today are still bound to be used for scientific research, as of **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 March** LAV will be present in hundreds of squares for the "**End Animal Testing**" campaign and a national petition addressed to the Ministry of Health, Beatrice Lorenzin, to put an end to using animals for research on abused substances such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs. To find out the nearest square where you can sign the petition, visit the page "LA LAV IN PIAZZA" <http://www.lav.it/lav-in-piazza> on the website [www.lav.it](http://www.lav.it).*

LAV Onlus  
Viale Regina Margherita 177  
00198 Roma

Tel +39 064461325

Fax +39 064461326

Email [info@lav.it](mailto:info@lav.it)  
Sito [www.lav.it](http://www.lav.it)

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di Utilità Sociale ed Ente Morale



The trial, due to start at 11:00 a.m., started just after 3:00 p.m., with the Public Prosecutor, Ambrogio Cassiani rejecting all the objections raised by Green Hill's lawyers.

"Every single point of the charges against Green Hill was proven", declared the Public Prosecutor, who mentioning Court of Cassation ruling 5979/2012 according to which "mistreatment amounts to depriving dogs of behavioural patterns", highlighted that - as also held at the trial in the Court of first instance - at Green Hill there was no compliance with "dog ethology, for example the dogs were not allowed to exercise", whilst "controls" inside the Montichiari facility "were scanty". Cassiani also reminded that evidence of mistreatment included the stereotyped behaviour of dogs and the swelling of saw dust.

The Public Prosecutor continued underlining how the "business strategy" of Green Hill included "killing dogs affected by mange" despite mange is not an "incurable illness that requires killing". It is therefore evident that the "pathologies of the beagles at Green Hill were not treated as there they were not interested in curing animals".

Lawyer Campanaro (LAV) filed a statement of opposition in favour of the beagles.

The lawyer of Green Hill, Frattini, started by claiming an "ostentation of beagles" forgetting that the trial concerns thousands of killed and mistreated beagles. Frattini also declared that the inspections carried out by the Ministry apparently found dogs in perfect health, overlooking approximately 6,000 dead dogs, documented at the trial in the Court of first instance.

The defendants' lawyer continued unfairly maligning the "associations that allegedly defend animal rights", perhaps ignoring that LAV is recognised by the Ministry of Health and has been operating in the sector for over 40 years; he stated that defending the sentence against Green Hill in the Court of first instance is a "threat" for the defendants' lawyers and the judges, referring to imaginary banners, and requesting for the lifting of the sentence, as well as the restitution of the dogs for which no security deposit was paid. The request to uphold the sentence, according to LAV, is a principle of democracy, civilization and justice.

At 4:30 p.m. the judicial panel of the Court, comprising judges Enrico Fischetti, Eliana Genovese and Eleonora Babutri, met in Chambers. The sentence was at 6:49 p.m..

#### **THE PHASES OF THIS LEGAL BATTLE ALSO FIGHTING FOR CIVILIZATION**

- For years citizens, committee, coordinated groups have demonstrated in Montichiari (Brescia) and in other cities to stop Green Hill
- 28 April 2012: some demonstrators entered the Green Hill dog breeding facility
- 18 July 2012: following a complaint filed by LAV, the beagles bred at Green Hill were seized and LAV was appointed as one of the legal custodians of the dogs.
- Approximately 3,000 beagles were rescued
- Law Decree 26/2014: Italy prohibited dog breeding for scientific research. In Italy Green Hill will not be able to reopen, under no circumstances.
- 23 January 2015: three convictions in first instance by the Court of Brescia against Green Hill (veterinary, director and executive manager)

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