



DALLA PARTE
DEGLI ANIMALI

LAV Press release, Friday the 7th on February

KANGAROO HUNTING - AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE TO LAV: "ONE OF THE BEST 'WILD HARVEST' OPERATIONS IN THE WORLD"!!

LAV: THE DEFENSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES AT THE COMMERCIAL HUNT FOR KANGAROOS, WHICH CONTINUES UNDISTURBED DESPITE THE SERIOUS DEVASTATION OF THESE MONTHS, IS SHOCKING.

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY LAV WILL ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ITALIAN COMPANIES USING KANGAROO LEATHER

["Stop hunting kangaroos in a land devastated by tremendous fires"](#): this is the appeal we made last January 9th to the Ambassador of Australia in Italy, Gregory Alan French, to try to contain the already serious impact of months of fires that are devastating the ecosystem.

A context that aggravates the survival possibilities of wild animals, and of kangaroos in particular, already "normally" victims of a ruthless commercial hunt, as we documented last October, before Australia was hit by devastating bushfires, with the screening of the documentary film ["Kangaroo: a love-hate story"](#) and the publication of a [dossier](#) which highlights the leading role of Italy, the first European country that imports kangaroo skins (over 2 million skins from 2012 to 2016) and the involvement of well-known Italian companies in the production of soccer shoes, motorcycle suits, but also luxury footwear and accessories.

On February 8th, LAV will organize protests against some of these companies with the sole purpose of urging them to definitively renounce the use of kangaroo leather.

*"Companies like **LOTTO**, which prides itself on its attention to the environment in the Corporate Social Responsibility section of its website but has not yet responded to our request to renounce the use of kangaroo skins. - **comments Simone Pavesi, manager of LAV Animal Free Fashion** - Or as **DAINESE**, that uses kangaroo skins for motorcycle suits for professionals and enthusiasts, and which has never responded to the LAV request (repeatedly renewed since June last year) of a meeting to discuss the critical issues of this "supply chain" "*

And while already last October DIADORA, also following a transparent dialogue with LAV, banned the use of kangaroo leather, an announcement followed by the same decision also taken by VERSACE, other companies to date have not given any signal repentance; in the sports sector, for the production of soccer shoes: **PANTOFOLA D'ORO** and **DANESE**; in the motorcycle sector: **DUCATI**, **GIMOTO**, **ALPINESTARS**, **VIRCOS**. Luxury clothing and footwear: **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO**, **MORESCHI**, **MOMA**,

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FABI, but also **PRADA** (despite having already communicated to LAV that it has no longer purchased kangaroo leather in the last year).

Compared to the current impact of fires on kangaroo populations, if the position of the Australian authorities could be predictably aimed at reassuring the interlocutor, Ambassador Gregory Alan French's statements in the letter in response to the LAV were absolutely unexpected and disconcerting: ***"The Australian commercial meat and kangaroo leather industry started in 1959 and is considered one of the best wild harvesting operations in the world. Kangaroo meat comes from sustainable sources in accordance with quotas that are scientifically established and regularly monitored."***

Kangaroo hunting is the largest and bloodiest massacre of wild animals on Earth! More than 2 million adult kangaroos are killed each year, to which tens of thousands of puppies are added, often still in the mothers' pouch. Particularly bloody killings also due to the fact that hunting takes place at night, a period in which these animals are more active, and which consequently makes it even more difficult to kill kangaroos with a single shot to the brain as required by the (voluntary) Code of Conduct written by the Kangaroo Industries Association Australia (KIAA).

If a mother is killed with a young, this must be killed immediately by a blow to the head strong enough to crush the skull and destroy the brain - also allowed to throw the young kangaroo against the pick-up - stunning and immediate beheading or single rifle shot to brain or heart.

Yet for the Australian Ambassador, the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos for Commercial Purposes establishes: ***"[...] standards of human conduct [...]"***.

LAV renews its appeal to the Italian companies involved in this carnage to definitively renounce the use of kangaroo leather in their productions.

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