



DALLA PARTE
DEGLI ANIMALI

LAV Press Release

GREEN HILL, SUPREME COURT REJECTS APPEAL: THIS IS THE FINAL CONVICTION!

THE LINE OF DEFENCE BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A DISPOSABLE DOG-PRODUCT "FOR LABORATORY USE HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED

THE LAV (Anti-vivisection League) (www.lav.it) AS CIVIL PARTY CLAIMING DAMAGES: THE SEAL OF THE SUPREME COURT ON THE CONVICTION OF THE BREEDING FACILITY EXECUTIVES FOR WANTON KILLING OF THE BEAGLES, SYSTEMATIC ABUSE AND OMISSION OF ROUTINE CONTROLS

This is the third and final conviction for Green Hill, the Brescia-based breeding facility of beagles destined for use in experiments: the Supreme Court has rejected all articles of the appeal presented by the defence lawyers of the Breeding facility.

For the LAV, which has acted as Civil Party in this complex legal battle, this marks an unprecedented and epoch-making victory:

*"Following the convictions of Green Hill executives passed by the Courts of first and second instance for "abuse and needless slaughter" which had already nailed the Veterinarian, Co-Manager and Director of the beagle facility to their penal liabilities with an overall sentence of 4 years, the suspension of business activities for two years and seizure of the dogs, the Supreme Court has definitively demolished the hypothesis based on the "disposable" dog-product for "laboratory use" concept by placing its seal on the correct jurisprudential interpretation of the Law for violations committed against so many dogs. This is an innovative and forward-looking interpretation which places our country at the forefront with regard to the defence of ethological needs, even in the case of dogs being bred and destined for experimental purposes - **explains the LAV** - In other words, according to this extremely important sentence and according to what had already been stipulated by the Court of Brescia in the two previous sentences, cruelty is unjustifiable even in a production context of high potential suffering as in a facility engaged in breeding dogs for experimental purposes. This orientation is in line with an increased public awareness of animal rights and also with the ban on breeding dogs for experimentation and other restrictions introduced in our country in 2014 with the Legislative Decree no. 26/2014 on animal experimentation: by means of this Decree and now, thanks to this sentence of the Supreme Court, Italy makes an authentic leap forward in the legal protection of animals".*

Following the sentence of the Supreme Court, passed on 22 November, the Court of Brescia will have to announce its ruling in the so-called "**Green Hill bis**" hearing in which two veterinarians of the public health department are accused of misrepresentation of the facts and omission, along with some employees of the company being accused of perjury: "This will be an important opportunity to ascertain complicity and omission in acts of abuse and wanton slaughter", concludes the Lav.

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The Association thanks lawyers Vittorio Arena and Carla Campanaro for the valuable assistance provided, together with the staff of the LAV legal department, and dedicates this decisive sentence to Dr. Maurizio Santoloci, director of the LAV legal department for many years who passed away prematurely in January, after having supported us in our battle against Green Hill and in many other cases.

THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE TWO CONVICTIONS OF GREEN HILL EXECUTIVES:

- The exorbitant number of dogs which died from lack of proper medical treatment: 6023 beagles died from 2008 to 2012.
- There was only one veterinarian on the premises to care for 3000 dogs, and from 18.00h to 7 in the morning, the animals were literally abandoned to their own devices even if they were sick. The beagles did not receive proper treatment (e.g. an emblematic case mentioned by the Public Prosecutor was that of a puppy suffering from hemorrhagic diarrhoea, treated with eye ointment!)
- Beagles **operated** with isoflurane without prior anaesthetic, which caused indescribable suffering
- The conduct of public health department veterinarians inspecting the farm was obviously negligent. The practice of giving prior warning of health department inspections to Green Hill was deeply embedded and said inspections were carried out inadequately. The Public Prosecutor defined the inspections made by the Istituto Zooprofilattico of Brescia as “superficial”. However, no one went to investigate how and why the dogs died on these premises.
- The incompleteness of Green Hill records and registers: for example, the loading/unloading register was not in order, making it impossible to know exactly how many beagles were on the premises.
- The use of poor quality sawdust for litters caused the death of about 104 puppies, despite the fact that the facility’s employees have always denied this fact: the Green Hill manual actually describes the procedures for dealing with such cases, involving a good deal of pain.
- The spine-chilling photograph of a Green Hill employee who, in the presence of a dead beagle with its brain tissue on view, raises his middle finger.
- The exploitation of brood bitches
- Green Hill’s intention to take advantage of the invasion of some demonstrators during the protest of 28 April 2012 to “put down a greater number of beagles suffering from mange”.

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- The lack of exercise areas for the dogs.
- The promiscuity of the animals and their frequent contact with faeces and diseases.
- The practice of taming the dogs by hanging them from a harness causing them to lose any form of sensorial awareness.
- The environmental factor:
 - 1) The internal environment of the sheds was not biologically pure (which is a requisite for animals destined to be used in experimentation), in fact, the ventilation system drew air from outside.
 - 2) The heat and damp (accentuated by up to 65% in shed no.3 by water being thrown onto the roof) constituted a factor of stress for the animals and a concomitant cause of health problems (e.g. mange, diarrhoea)
- According to the e-mail messages acquired by the Public Prosecutor, the legal representative of Green Hill, Ghislane Rondot, attempted to ask the FBI to spy on the animalists engaged in the demonstrations against the beagle breeding facility because the company feared the possible presence of an “informer” among its employees for the purpose of passing compromising information and images from inside to the associations and institutions pressing for the closure of the facility.

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