



DALLA PARTE
DEGLI ANIMALI

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MINKS: NEW DISCOVERY OF LAV IN ITALIAN FARM.

MORE THAN 1,000 BODIES OF MINKS (DEAD BECAUSE FED WITH DETORIOUS OR INFECTED POULTRY WASTE) STORED IN THE COLD ROOM FROM THE MONTH OF AUGUST, TOGETHER WITH THE FOOD FOR SURVIVAL ANIMALS. MADE PUBLIC BY THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES ONLY AFTER 5 MONTHS AFTER HAPPENED.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/eKdBLGvUhSs>

LAV: NEW PROOF OF THE INCONSISTENCE OF THE "RESPONSIBLE" CERTIFICATIONS OF WHICH THE FUR INDUSTRY IS PROUD IN THE MATTER OF "ANIMAL WELFARE"

The exclusive images released by LAV and made with undercover investigation, show thousands of mink bodies stacked in plastic crates (fruit) inside the cold room at the farm and right next to the meat (broiler chickens) destined for feeding other 30 survived minks.

The internal walls of the cold room are also soaked in the blood of the animals, demonstrating that it is not the first time it has been used to store carcasses.

The news of the death of the mink was learned and spread by Italian ngo LAV which at the end of the year, on 29th December, received from the local health authorities (ASL n.1 Abruzzo Region - Avezzano-Sulmona-L'Aquila), and with months of delay from the application, the data relating to what should have been the normal monitoring that the LAV has been carrying out for over a year to know the results of the anti-covid screening ordered by the Ministry of Health to intercept outbreaks in these farms and from which, instead, a very serious fact of mismanagement of animals emerged: on the basis of the documents that LAV was able to acquire, it appears that on 30 August 2021 a **"sudden and massive death of 1,035 animals"** happened and the causes would be attributable to a serious, and painful, food poisoning.

Immediately in the days following this information, LAV was able to "infiltrate" a person in the farm and document the macabre discovery with exclusive images. The mink farm is the one in Castel di Sangro (AQ).

The facts were confirmed by authorities with an article published at 21 January by the newspaper Il Messaggero.

"It is scandalous how the Fur Industry continues to boast of its so-called responsible certification, such as the Welfur project, and in particular in reference to Animal Welfare when it is clear that animals suffer not only from the serious deprivations they

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are experiencing, but also due to the lack of attention and care with which they are managed "- **declares Simone Pavesi, Head of LAV Animal Free Fashion.** The episode of Castel di Sangro, with the death of 1,035 minks from food poisoning is the latest scandal of "made in Italy" fur discovered by LAV after our announcement of the 2 coronavirus outbreaks - in 2020 in Cremona, and 2021 in Padua - and the documentation in November 2020 of the violations of the minimum biosecurity standards in these farm ". **Pavesi concludes.**

Immediately excluded the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection and other viral infections typical of mink (such as Distemper), from the results of the pathological investigations conducted on at least 54 carcasses and that LAV was able to acquire, it results that all dead animals have subcutaneous hematomas in the abdomen with laceration of the abdominal wall and leakage of the intestinal loops, pulmonary congestion, hepatic congestion, cerebral hyperemia, reddish kidneys. **A death characterized by extreme suffering.**

The toxicological tests for suspected poisoning and conducted on the liver, gastric contents, digestive system contents gave negative results.

Bacteriological tests revealed the presence of polymicrobial flora and anaerobic bacteria in the liver, intestine, kidneys, lungs, spleen of all carcasses. The bacterial strains appear to be Escherichia Coli and Enterococcus faecalis.

Based on the diagnostic tests conducted by the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Abruzzo-Molise (laboratories of Isernia and Teramo) it is therefore confirmed that the main cause of the sudden - and painful - death of 1,035 minks is due to food poisoning, due to the feeding with deteriorated or infected meat.

In the video released by LAV, the result of an undercover investigation, the farmer is filmed without any Personal Protective Equipment while he is in close contact with minks (despite the fact that biosecurity measures have been in force for over a year by the Ministry of Health, as anti-Covid measures), and shows the machinery he himself built for the "normal" suppression of mink at the end of the production cycle to obtain furs. Note that the legislation (Reg. CE / 1099/2009) that regulates this delicate operation to avoid suffering to animals provides, for mustelids (minks), the use of "direct or progressive exposure of conscious animals to a gas mixture containing more than 40% of carbon dioxide" and indicates gas concentration, duration of exposure, gas temperature as fundamental parameters to monitor. Furthermore, in order to avoid stressful situations or episodes of aggression, it is necessary to kill a single animal at a time.

**The "gas chamber" improvised by the farmer, presumably used in recent years, instead consists of a box (made of wood and metal) which, as is clear from what he said, is filled with animals and connected to the exhaust of a chainsaw!
Still on the basis of the declarations issued by the farmer, the animals were then skinned in a closet without paying any attention to the minimum health standards.**

At the Castel di Sangro farm there are currently only 33 "breeding" mink survivors of intoxication.

As foreseen by the fur farming ban, which became effective with the entry into force of the 2022 Budget Law on January 1, these 33 minks together with the other approximately 6,000 in the other 4 Italian farms should be transferred to structures managed by associations on the basis of provisions that will be defined by Interministerial Decree (Ministry of Ecological Transition, Agricultural Policies, Health) by 31 January.

LAV has already written a letter to the Ministers of Agriculture, Stefano Patuanelli, of Health, Roberto Speranza, and of the Ecological Transition, Roberto Cingolani, with which we ask, among other things, and in relation to the period of the disposal, to "reaffirm the prohibition of killing of mink present on farms".

In the meantime, however, it is confirmed that no farmer will be able to make a profit on the killing of minks that are still on the farms, precisely because of the explicit prohibition of killing them in order to obtain fur.

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