

SO, WHY THE PUSH TO EAT 'SKIPPY'??

It's true that European farming of livestock has wreaked havoc on our environment. The solution to the environmental pollution caused by the livestock industry is staring us in the face. As Albert Einstein said "Nothing will benefit human health or increase the chances for survival on earth as will the evolution to a vegetarian diet".

Australia's \$85 billion tourist industry is being jeopardised. But as long as there is money to be made by commercial kangaroo industry, this ugly business will continue. Read about the industry at www.smuggled.com/vac.htm. Let's support nature-based eco-tourism at <http://www.rootourism.com.au>

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg! The kangaroo is the spirit of Australia, and is our greatest national icon.

Australia should be ashamed of the way we treat our kangaroos. At the rate we are killing them and with droughts, bush fires, killing by landowners, illegal killing, road-kill, habitat destruction for development, government 'culling' programs etc, it has been estimated that kangaroos are at risk of extinction in the wild by 2020 (www.stopkangarookilling.org).

Please sign the petition calling for a moratorium at:
www.gopetition.com/petitions/kangaroo-extinction.html



"It's embarrassing for Australia that we eat our own wildlife... I'm here to tell you it's just not right. Simply do not buy, use or eat kangaroo products"

- Steve Irwin

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WHY WE AND OUR PETS SHOULD NOT EAT KANGAROO MEAT



...UNHEALTHY...

...INHUMANE...

...UNSUSTAINABLE...

...KANGAROO MEAT IS UNHEALTHY

Killing animals in the dust, dirt and flies can never approach standards of hygiene mandatory in an abattoir. A Government report 'Australia's Preparedness for Emerging Wildlife Diseases', states that wildlife disease is a threat to human health. There is little doubt that diseases can be contracted from eating kangaroo meat.

Kangaroos are subjected to constant anxiety while hunted by shooters. Stress releases myopathy toxins in their bodies. The corpses are driven around on a dusty unhygienic truck all night then placed in inadequately refrigerated 'chillers' for up to two weeks, leading to contamination with faeces, maggots, *E.coli* and more (see www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUZrKj6ClBg).

Kangaroo meat can contain *salmonella*, *staphylococcus* and *streptococcus* and toxoplasmosis outbreaks related to kangaroo meat consumption have resulted in multiple illnesses. In 2008, three kangaroo processing plants closed down. **In August 2009, Russia banned all imports due to *E.coli* contamination.** Canada has banned the importation of kangaroo meat. Eating kangaroo meat can also cause anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction) and bowel cancer.

During periodic locust plagues kangaroos are constantly and unavoidably sprayed with toxic nerve poisons (including organophosphorous insecticides) as they range back and forth. Pets can die from eating kangaroo meat. If it is preserved with sulphur dioxide it can cause vitamin B deficiency. Dr Richard Malik, from Sydney University's Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science, told Today Tonight that pets affected by sulphur dioxide become wobbly on their legs, may develop a head tilt then progress to seizures, paralysis and death.

For more information visit www.nokangaroo.meat.org

...KANGAROO KILLING IS INHUMANE

The commercial industry assures us that kangaroos are humanely killed according to 'the code of practice.' However, the killing is performed often from moving vehicles in the bush at night, unsupervised, by shooters whose proficiency is questionable. Many kangaroos are shot in the face or neck and left to die painfully of starvation and gangrene.

The adult females who are killed often have an in-pouch joey and an at-foot joey. **The in-pouch joey is decapitated, stomped on or bashed to death** against a tree or truck. The at-foot joey flees to die of starvation, hypothermia or predation. See this cruelty at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCmKNYOBvW8 (Warning: graphic content, adults only).

...THE KANGAROO INDUSTRY IS UNSUSTAINABLE

The Department of Environment talks about the 'sustainable harvesting of renewable resources.' However their own figures show that in most states where kangaroos are hunted they are at 'quasi-extinction' levels, which, according to the Murray Darling Report, is defined as less than 5 kangaroos per square kilometre. Also the kangaroo industry has killed off the biggest males. In Queensland and South Australia the average age of commercially killed kangaroos is only 2-3 years i.e. barely of breeding age. In 2007 up to 80% of the kangaroos killed in some parts of NSW were females.

According to government websites kangaroo populations have crashed up to 70% from 2001-2006, due mainly to the drought and unrelenting pressure from the kangaroo industry. In 2008 the quota was 3.8 million making this **the largest slaughter of land-based wildlife on the planet.**

...KANGAROO MEAT CANNOT REPLACE CATTLE

Kangaroos are not farmed and in fact cannot be farmed. They cannot be herded or driven into yards or abattoirs because they get too stressed (capture myopathy). The lactic acid builds up in their muscles causing the meat to go rancid and become inedible. Nor can they be transported live (only in extraordinary circumstances, if sedated).

Kangaroos need a lot of space to roam and cannot be confined in overcrowded areas. Kangaroo-proof fencing is very expensive (DPI recommends 12 wires alternately electrified, 2.13 metres high).

Farmers would never substitute kangaroos for sheep and cattle. Compared to cows kangaroos are small, lean animals. An adult yields 6.9kg of meat, only 0.25kg of which would be human-grade. The current annual human-grade kangaroo meat production is only 600 tonnes (from 2.5 million kangaroos) compared to 1,700,000 tonnes of beef. So, **in order to produce enough meat to replace beef the entire kangaroo population would have to be killed several hundred times every year.**

Kangaroos can only give birth to one joey a year and the survival rate for joeys is low, especially during drought times. While sheep "produce" meat, skin and wool - kangaroos "produce" only meat and skin. A ten year old adult male red kangaroo weighing 60kg can only "produce" roughly 6kg of prime cut meat, while lambs can be slaughtered at 3-6 months of age to "produce" 20kg meat (Preuss, 1999). A two year old cow can "produce" 200kg of meat, so clearly kangaroo "farming" is not economically viable.