



440,000

reasons not to eat kangaroo meat . . .

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS AND MEDIA RELEASE - Embargo till 26 October 2009

BEGINS

CALL FOR EU TO BAN ALL KANGAROO PRODUCTS

Joey's no longer going on walkabout!

Today, Monday 26 October, Philip Woolley, UK Representative for the Australian Wildlife Protection Council (AWPC) announced the launch of one of the biggest campaigns to have kangaroo products banned in the EU when he handed over a petition from thousands of concerned citizens to MEP, Arlene McCarthy (Vice Chairwoman, EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee) at her Manchester office.

The ban calls for all kangaroo products to be banned in the Member States to prevent the deaths of some 440,000 joeys (baby kangaroos) who die from being bashed to death once they are ripped from their dying mother's pouch. The young-at-foot (no longer in pouch) will run off and die from starvation and neglect.

The industry generates some AU\$250 million per annum and has never been a favourite industry with animal welfare groups. Russia has recently banned all imports of kangaroo meat on health grounds as it (Russia) has allegedly found traces of E.coli and salmonella bacteria in imported products. EU citizens are not offered the same protection, which is causing concern.

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Arlene McCarthy MEP said: “There is growing public concern about the trade in kangaroo products. Each year as a result of the trade, 440,000 joeys are ripped from their pouch and left to die when their mothers are killed. This is a cruel trade and, as with the successful introduction of cat and dog fur and seal product bans, I am supporting the Australian Wildlife Protection Council’s petition to the European Parliament calling for a ban on the import of kangaroo products.”

The campaign, supported by international animal welfare organisations, VIVA, Humane Society International and Sea Shepherd, calls for all citizens of the EU to sign the petition and write to MEPs asking for their support.

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