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Ecologists regularly call for the kangaroo industry to be greatly expanded because it is a production system more attuned to Australia's fragile arid rangelands than European based agriculture. However it also comes under regular attack from radical animal liberation groups who want to ban imports of kangaroo products. To do so would be tantamount to supporting environmental vandalism in Australia. Kangaroos would still be culled by farmers but they would not be utilised.

Ruminant livestock produce the greenhouse gas methane and so contribute to global warming and biodiversity reduction. Methane from the foregut of cattle and sheep constitutes about 10% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Kangaroos, on the other hand, are nonruminant, forestomach fermenters that produce negligible amounts of methane. Farmers have few options to reduce the contribution that livestock make to GHG production. Using kangaroos to produce low-emission meat is an option for the Australian rangelands for the long-term benefit of both humans and kangaroos.

Kangaroo leather is one of the strongest, light weight leathers known. As a result it is the leather of choice for high stress, high performance applications such as premium soccer boots and other heavy duty sports and accessory applications. The light weight, strength and fine grain appearance of kangaroo leather also makes it desirable for fashion and casual footwear, apparel and accessories. Not only are Kangaroo Leather shoes extremely comfortable, many also consider them the most ecological shoes available

A number of key independent expert associations endorse the Kangaroo industry on the basis of its long-term environmental sustainability and responsibility. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) independently monitored the kangaroo harvest and have suggested that kangaroo harvesting could be one of the most humane slaughter methods possible. The kangaroos are killed instantly in their own environment without any of the stress of trucking and food deprivation involved in the beef or lamb industries.

Various organisations including CSIRO support the kangaroo industry for a wide range of reasons, mostly because they see kangaroos as a more environmentally friendly way to produce meat in Australia than introduced sheep or cattle. Kangaroos eat grasses not grain and the meat is low in fat and cholesterol. The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) believes that the Australian kangaroo population is a unique and valuable resource and that harvesting is a legitimate and humane use of that resource.

The kangaroo harvest is strictly controlled by the Australian government and its Kangaroo Management Program ensures that the harvest is both sustainable and humane. After 45 years of regulated commercial harvesting, kangaroo populations remain the same as the long run average, and are certainly more abundant than they were before European settlement.

Yours sincerely
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