



Communication to the press

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Massive defamation on Angora Industry

The animal rights group PETA released on 22.11.2013 a video denouncing the Angora Industry.

This movie is very one-sided and reduces the entire Angora Industry down to one single aspect, the hand plucking of spiky angora hair.

The video shows the cruel and torturous plucking of an angora rabbit. This method is used in China to gain a type of coarse angora fibre called "spiky angora". The annual production is about 400 to 500 tons, which means only less than 10% of the yearly angora fiber production.

Following some explanations concerning the production of angora fibre and the keeping conditions of angora rabbits:

Production of angora

China has a yearly angora fibre production of approximately 5 Million kg. 4500 tons are gained traditionally by shearing or by cutting the hair with scissors (called "shorn angora" or "soft angora"). This fiber which counts for more than 90% of the annual production is used for most of the known products as underwear or sweaters.

The specialty "Spiky Angora" is produced in China (4/500 tons) and in France.

The angora fibre in general becomes loose after approximately 95/120 days and can be brushed out or picked by hand very easily, without any harm to the animal. In France this is a traditional way of gaining the fiber (for video click here).

In China many breeders that produce the "Spiky Angora" don't wait for that period of time and the plucking is a painful cruelty to the animals. 200-250 tons of these fibers are sold to the Korean market to produce a kind of fur type sweater; approximately 150 tons remain in the Chinese domestic market. Nearly next to nothing comes to the European market.

"Spiky angora" used in Europe is preferably gained from French angora rabbits and mostly used for the production of hand knitting yarns.

Keeping of the animals

Industrial breeding farms as showed by the PETA-video are very rare in China, there are only a few farms existing with animals between 5000 and 20000 heads. Most of the angora rabbits are held by peasants to improve their income. These earnings are an important economic factor to their livelihood. To Chinese circumstances the angora rabbits are quite valuable and they are looked after appropriately.

Angora rabbits are delicate and sensitive; they need a correct environment to stay healthy. Therefore breeders are very keen to obtain a safe environment to the animals (see video of interview on www.angora-rabbits.de).

It is correct to condemn the Chinese practice of plucking the spiky angora.

But to discredit the whole Angora Rabbit Industry because of the wrong behavior and violation of a minor branch in China is not acceptable.

The PETA campaign is defamatory, manipulative and grossly negligent!

Further information can be found at the following websites:

www.angora-rabbits.de

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