

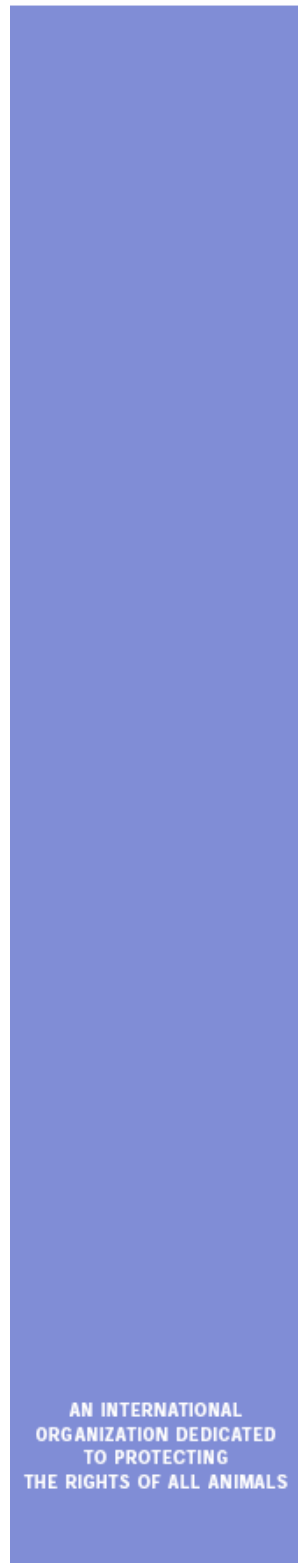


PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

March 13, 2008

The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister of Australia

1 page via fax: +61 2 6273 4120

Dear Mr. Rudd,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA's more than 1.8 million members and supporters worldwide. As you must know, the past month has brought renewed controversy around Australia's failure to develop humane alternatives to the mulesing mutilation. International clothing giant H&M pledged to stop buying wool from lambs who have been mulesed, followed by 17 other major Swedish retailers. As well, a coalition of 31 European retailers said they were considering or had decided to stop using wool from mulesed lambs. And now, 10 Danish retailers have withdrawn their support of mulesing and the Western Australia Department of Agriculture has announced it will stop mulesing.

The wool industry has not responded adequately to this issue and that is why it is losing support: in addition to its alleged bribery attempt, it continues to use deceitful language in an attempt to trick retailers into continuing purchases of cruelly-produced wool. Specifically, some Australian sheep farmers are now (or soon will be) marking their products as "nonmulesed," although lambs will still be mulesed using a different yet equally painful procedure called "clip mulesing," in which strong clips are clamped onto the living folds of skin on lambs' backsides so tightly that they kill the animals' flesh and skin, causing it to rot and scuff off. Nedim Buyukmihci, D.V.M., Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, points out that "[n]ecrosis involves inflammation and is painful" and believes that the clips "will cause acute pain."

As a February 13 article in the *Weekly Times* stated, "Sheep [who] have been mulesed using clips ... would qualify for a nonmulesed declaration."

The storm will only continue brewing if clips are used instead of actual humane solutions, like good husbandry practices and a switch to bare breech sheep. International clothing retailers won't accept this bait-and-switch tactic, and will demand that their wool come from lambs who haven't been mulesed using either shears or clips, so any resources put into clip mulesing will be wasted.

It is time for the Australian Government to step up, as the roar of disapproval will only increase, and put an end once and for all to cruel shear and clip mulesing mutilations.

You may reach me anytime at +1 757-622-7382.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President