

ZIETSMAN - HORN

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Dear Chairperson

My email and submissions of 19 August refers.

I wish to extend my most heartfelt apologies for this late email, which I trust will not be of too much inconvenience. However an important matter has only now come to my attention, which I consider to be worthy of your consideration.

In an online discussion with CBL breeders I learnt that the procedure that is followed, prior to slaughtering lions, is to anaesthetise the animal that is selected, in what is commonly known as darting. Whilst under sedation, the animal is then shot and killed with a .22 calibre rifle, this being considered the humane option.

I wish to point out some serious risks involved in following this method.

- 1) It is common knowledge that the anaesthetic used in these veterinary procedures can be lethal if it enters the bloodstream of humans. For the same reason, it can also be lethal to animals who feed on the carcasses of darted animals. For that purpose the products so used, are contra indicated for human as well as animal use, and carry a warning: “ **do not use in food producing animals**”
- 2) It is also common knowledge that these products are regulated as schedule 4 and 5 type medical supplies and may only be handled by suitably qualified veterinarians.
- 3) As a further warning one of the products typically used, is teratogenic. In layman’s terms, it causes abnormalities of physiological development during pregnancy, resulting in human congenital abnormalities and also in other non-birth developmental stages, including puberty. It is a well known fact that the meat of slaughtered lions is given to communities for consumption and the CBL trade is exposing these most uninformed and vulnerable communities to the serious risks outlined herein.
- 4) The problem goes further than this. The farm worker who performs the slaughter is also exposed to the same risk, if he should accidentally cut himself and contaminated lion meat or blood should enter his body.

- 5) Lastly, there is no guarantee that the product is not transmitted into the bone structure of the animal and that South Africa is not exporting poisonous products.

In environmental law, where it is not always possible to predict environmental consequences, the law requires one of three judgements in what is called the precautionary principle;

The first is cautious progress until findings of innocence is made.

The second is ordinary progress until findings of guilt is made.

The last is the “no go” approach until intensive research has been conducted into such a process. In the case where human lives are at stake, it is my submission that this last route should be followed and CBL slaughtering should stop IMMEDIATELY. I urge you to make such a finding.

I remain at your service

Yours faithfully

Carel Zietsman

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