

Seal hunt supported by humane environmentalist

BY JENNIFER SHEARS, VANCOUVER SUN JULY 5, 2012

escapes.ca

Re: The time has come to end the seal hunt, Column, June 28

I am an environmentalist, a conservationist, and I am a supporter of the humane treatment of animals. For these reasons, I am also a huge advocate for the seal hunt.

There are many reasons why the seal hunt should be encouraged, and they are based around the same few principles preached by organizations that are against the hunt. We should be promoting the use of seal products based on these principles:

1. Conservation: We live on a planet with finite resources. If we don't use abundant renewable resources in sustainable ways, all animals (including humans and seals) will be in trouble.

Seal skin is incredibly warm, durable, reusable and when you're finished with it, you can compost it. Harmful synthetics will be littering our Earth for thousands of years because they won't decompose. We can solve this "waste" problem by promoting and using renewable and biodegradable resources like seal skin.

2. Humane treatment of animals: Under natural conditions animal populations boom and bust. The "bust" occurs when populations have surpassed their carrying capacity, and the reductions often occur through starvation. This starvation is natural, but it's certainly not humane.

Humane harvests help keep animal populations to a level where all individuals can thrive long-term.

3. Healthy humans: Organic products, specifically food, are gaining popularity for a variety of health-related reasons. Seal meat and seal oil are as organic and natural as it gets. We should be promoting this around the world, where there are disturbing and inhumane food shortages.

Organizations against the seal hunt don't want to be swayed because the seal hunt is a money-making machine for them; however, we can influence the world by showing them that the goals of conservation, human health, and the humane treatment of animals are all achieved through the seal hunt and the resulting products.

Jennifer Shears Rocky Harbour, N.L.

© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun