

# Re: Cologne, Germany

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- *From:* benlizross <[benlizro@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:benlizro@xxxxxxxxxx)>
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John Atkinson wrote:

"Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote...

Leslie Danks wrote:

Helmut Richter wrote:

[...]

"keulen" as a verb used to mean "slay with a club" but is now obsolete.  
I assume this is also where the use as "mass slaughter of contaminated animals" comes from.

Keulen meaning to "collect up and kill" is still used in the veterinary sector (for example: <http://tinyurl.com/e65na>). Also, young seals are "culled" every year off the coast of Canada. In this case the animals are not contaminated. The chosen technique is to club them to death, but perhaps that is a coincidence.

No, culling a herd means reducing the number (perhaps because you don't have enough resources to support them all). Baby seals aren't culled, they're hunted for their fur.

Well, the people who carry out the operation say they're culling them.  
(Those pesky seals breed like mad and eat up all our fish, doncha know.)

Re: Cologne, Germany

John.

It can also be used of killing a certain number of a wild population in order to keep the numbers down, e.g. deer in NZ and I'm pretty sure I've heard it applied to buffalo and maybe even elephants. The claim was simply that "cull" could be related to the german –keule, which does not require identity of meaning. But Keule "club" seems a more likely possibility.

Ross Clark

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