



Photo: Matthieu Godbout

FUR KILLS...

Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Seals, Foxes, Mink, Lynx, Bobcats, and More

The fur industry doesn't care about cruelty and suffering. DO YOU?

THERE IS NO EXCUSE

In the distant past, wearing fur might have been necessary for people living in frigid climates, but today it is unjustifiable. We can now buy coats made of synthetic fiber or fleece to keep us warm and fashionable, but animals only have their own fur coats to survive freezing winter temperatures. Every fur coat, trinket, or piece of fur trim is callously ripped off the bodies of horribly abused animals, making huge profits for the fur industry, which doesn't care how much pain and suffering it causes its animal victims. The reality is that all animals used for fur endure horrific lives and brutal deaths, whether on large scale fur factory farms, where 85% of the fur sold for the fashion industry comes from, or when animals are trapped or shot in the wild.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS KILLED ANNUALLY

Throughout the world, between 50 and 100 million mink, foxes, bobcats, nutria, chinchilla, coyotes, beavers, lynx, and other animals—PLUS an astounding one billion or more rabbits—are brutally killed every year for their fur. Between Canada, Greenland, and Namibia, over 900,000 seals are bludgeoned to death with wooden or large ice pick-like clubs for their fur, many of them pups under three months of age. China imprisons millions of arctic foxes, raccoon dogs (a species of canine), domestic cats and dogs, and other animals to be killed for their fur, and is the primary supplier of raw unfinished fur in the world, providing at minimum 50% of the world's supply.

Animals on fur factory farms are subjected to extreme weather, are denied basic veterinary care, and experience brutal handling before their violent and torturous deaths. China employs very primitive killing methods and repeated undercover investigations have filmed fur farmers slamming animals against the ground to stun them, then skinning the struggling animals alive.



Photos: Swiss Animal Protection / EAST International



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Animals raised for fur suffer a miserable existence on fur farms. They are denied every basic instinct, and are subjected to overcrowding, temperature extremes, and toxic ammonia fumes from the accumulation of their own waste.

TRAPPING WILD ANIMALS Trapping entails setting baited and concealed steel-jawed traps and wire snares mostly on public lands, including the National Wildlife Refuge System, to capture coyotes, bobcats, beavers, fishers, lynx, otters, martens, wolverines, and other furbearing animals. Once caught, animals usually linger for several days and nights in sub-freezing temperatures in agonizing physical pain and emotional torment. Many animals slowly die of shock, starvation, or dehydration, while others succumb to exposure in freezing temperatures, suffocate in neck snares, are killed by other animals, or die from the crushing injuries of the trap itself.

Trapped animals suffer physical injuries, including broken bones and teeth, torn tendons, severed nerves, and other wounds. In their incomprehensible despair, animals often either chew through their legs or they twist their caught limbs until they break, so they can escape. Death for trapped animals is gruesome as well and completely unregulated. Trappers kill the exhausted and helpless animals by bludgeoning, stomping, drowning, shooting, or strangling them to death.

In addition to furbearing animals, traps often catch undesired animals trappers consider “trash,” including all kinds of birds, various endangered species, and cats and dogs. These animals are often killed and thrown away.

FUR FACTORY FARMS Animals raised on fur factory farms do not fare any better. There is no protection in place as neither the Animal Welfare Act nor the Humane Slaughter Act governs how animals are raised, housed, or killed on fur factory farms. As a result, even the most basic needs of animals are not met.

To cut costs, fur factory farms hold tens of thousands of animals in tiny, filthy, and barren wire cages stacked on top of one another. Huge amounts of ammonia from the animals’ urine and feces burn their eyes and lungs. Temperatures are extreme—either frigidly cold in winter, or swelteringly hot in summer with no temperature controls in place.

The anguish and despair of life in a crowded cage causes many animals to attack each other or self-mutilate, with biting at skin, tails, and feet a commonplace occurrence. Time is spent frantically pacing and circling endlessly, and even cannibalizing of cage-mates is routine. After a life of misery, animals on fur factory farms are torn from their cages and brutally killed by horrific methods such as gassing, poisoning, neck breaking, and genital or anal electrocution. There is no such thing as “euthanasia” for these animals as all killing methods are driven by each operator’s desire for low costs and thus accomplished with complete disregard for the animals’ well-being.

The only way to stop the brutal fur trade and horrific abuse of animals is to NEVER buy fur, including anything with fur trim! Additionally, asking retailers to stop selling fur or risk losing business has worked to persuade many companies to go and stay fur-free. Finally, supporting designers who won’t use fur, and avoiding designers willing to profit off this misery can convince designers to stop using real fur.



Visit www.furkills.org for more information about fur.

IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

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