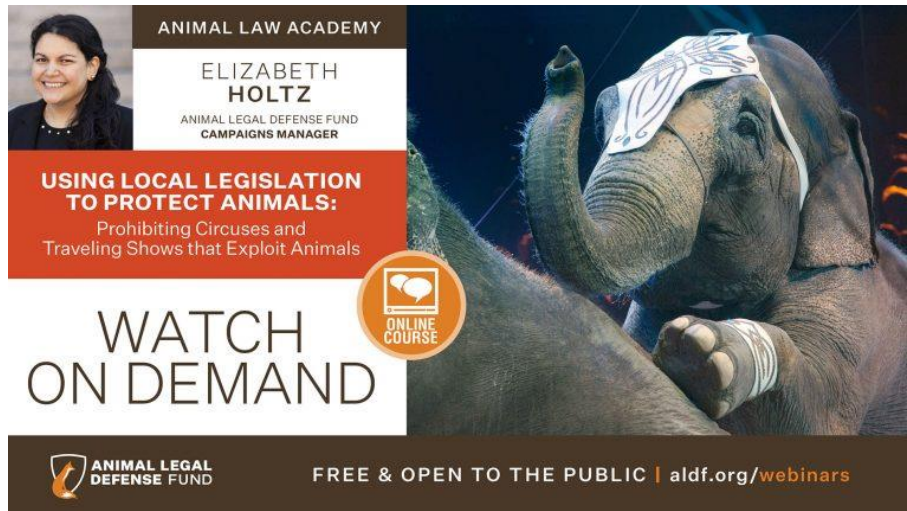


Using Local Legislation to Protect Animals: Fur Bans

Elizabeth Holtz, J.D.
Campaigns Manager



Using Local Legislation to Protect Animals – Previous Webinars



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ELIZABETH HOLTZ
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CAMPAIGNS MANAGER

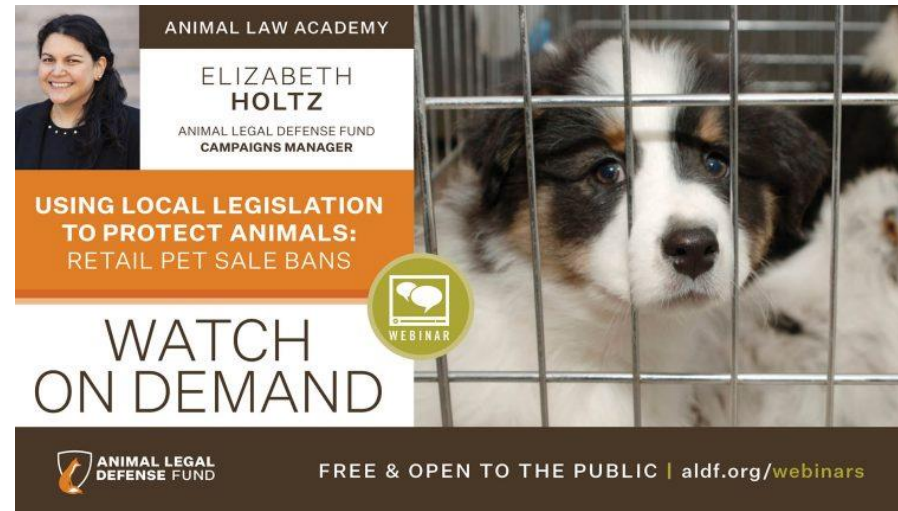
USING LOCAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ANIMALS:
Prohibiting Circuses and Traveling Shows that Exploit Animals

WATCH ON DEMAND

ONLINE COURSE

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USING LOCAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ANIMALS:
RETAIL PET SALE BANS

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aldf.org/retailban



Webinar Roadmap

- Local Legislation Matters
- Where Do Fur Products Come From?
 - Animals Exploited
 - Fur Farms versus Animals Trapped in the Wild
- Policy Issues
 - Animal Cruelty
 - Environmental Protection
 - Public Health
- Fur in Fashion
- Existing Laws
- Starting a Grassroots Fur Ban Campaign
 - Working with Legislators
 - Engaging the Community



POLL TIME



Local Legislation Matters

Priming the pump for legislative action at higher levels of government

California Is the First State to Ban Fur Sales

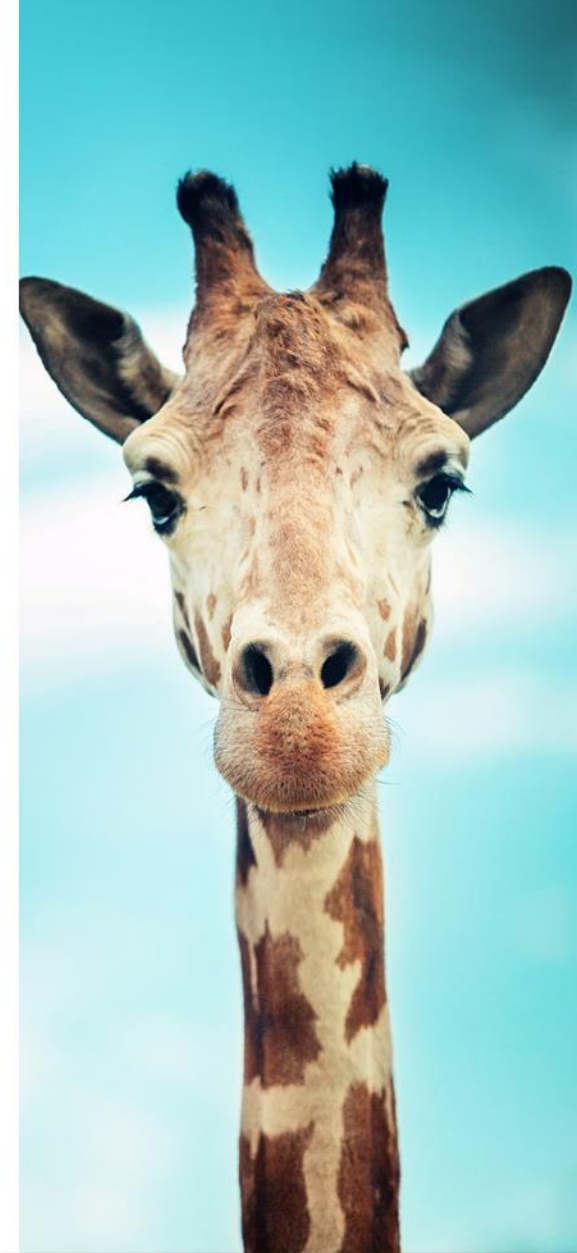
By Jordan Davidson | Oct. 15, 2019 10:47AM EST

ANIMALS



 : EcoWatch


<https://www.ecowatch.com/california-fur-ban-2640974298.html>



Why Focus on Animals Exploited for Their Fur?

- Animals killed for their fur suffer terribly – intensive confinement, neglect, painfully killed
- Public sentiment is on our side
- Momentum!



 : The Humane Society of the United States
<https://blog.humanesociety.org/2020/07/hsi-undercover-investigation-shows-foxes-bludgeoned-skinned-alive-on-asian-fur-farms.html>



Your City Could Be Next

“I hope that [this] inspires other cities and the country to take action. Certainly we need better federal regulations on fur farming. There’s no humane way to raise an animal to peel [his] skin off.”

– San Francisco Supervisor Katy Tang



📷: The Bay City Beacon
https://www.thebaycitybeacon.com/politics/supervisor-s-fur-ban-pits-high-fashion-against-modern-animal/article_b7f87ec2-0623-11e8-a1b9-57f64f48f5fa.html.html



The Fur Industry



📷: DutchNews.nl

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2020/06/nearly-600000-mink-killed-in-fur-farm-coronavirus-cull/>



Who Are the Animals Exploited by the Fur Industry?

- Minks
- Beavers
- Chinchillas
- Foxes
- Raccoons
- Rabbits
- Raccoon Dogs
- Seals
- Dogs and Cats



Meet the Mink

- Part of the family Mustelidae, which also includes weasels, badgers, and otters
- Solitary
- Highly territorial
- Aquatic
- Lives in dens or hollow logs



Fur Farms Versus Animals Trapped in the Wild



📷: Sentient Media, Jo-Anne McArthur/We Animals
<https://sentientmedia.org/dutch-parliament-votes-to-close-mink-fur-farms-following-covid-19-outbreaks/>

Animals killed for their fur come from two sources:

- Fur farms where they are intentionally bred and confined
 - Wisconsin – nation's largest producer of mink pelts with 67 fur farms/1.5 million pelts produced annually
- Animals trapped in the wild



Animals Trapped in the Wild

- Largely regulated at the state level
 - California is the only state to have banned commercial and recreational trapping
- In some states, legal to set a trap and not check it for days
- Trappers shoot, strangle, drown, and bludgeon trapped animals



📷: Los Angeles Times
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-09-04/fur-trapping-ban-california-law>



Animals in Fur Farms

- Minks
- Rabbits
- Chinchillas
- Raccoon dogs
(Asiatic Raccoons)
- Foxes

~100 million animals
killed annually



: Fur Free Alliance
<https://www.furfreealliance.com/croatian-meps-fur-farming/>



Policy Issues in Fur Farming

- Animal Cruelty
- Public Health
- Environmental Protection



Animal Cruelty – Life on a Fur Farm

- Tiny, filthy wire-mesh cages
- No protection from heat, cold, or rain
- Sometimes held in barns/sheds where ammonia builds up and burns their eyes and throats



 : Sentient Media, Jo-Anne McArthur/We Animals
<https://sentientmedia.org/fur-farming/>




Animal Cruelty – Life on a Fur Farm

Animals are deprived of the ability to engage in any of their natural behaviors



As a result, self-mutilation, repetitive behavior, cannibalism, and infanticide are common



 : Oikeutta Elaimille
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oikeuttaelaimille/>



Animal Cruelty – Death on a Fur Farm

- Killed via suffocation, electrocution, gassing, or poisoning
- Frequently skinned alive while still conscious and without any painkillers



Public Health




Fur farms are breeding grounds for zoonotic disease — a disease caused by a pathogen that has jumped from animals to humans



Poor sanitation + intensive confinement + stressed animals = disease



Public Health: Fur Farming and COVID-19

 National Geographic

Coronavirus is killing the Dutch mink industry

F
tt

 The Guardian

A million mink culled in Netherlands and Spain amid Covid-19 fur farming havoc




 CNN

Spain orders cull of nearly 100,000 farmed mink after animals test positive for Covid-19

... outbreak at a farm, where the animals are bred for fur, after a number ...
mink after seven workers on the farm tested positive for Covid-19 and ...



Public Health: Fur Farming and COVID-19

 Science Magazine

COVID-19 hits U.S. mink farms after ripping through Europe

The nearly 250 mink farms in the United States produce some 2.5 million pelts annually. BirdImages/iStock.com. COVID-19 hits U.S. mink farms ...
1 day ago



 Deseret News

Coronavirus detected at Utah mink farms

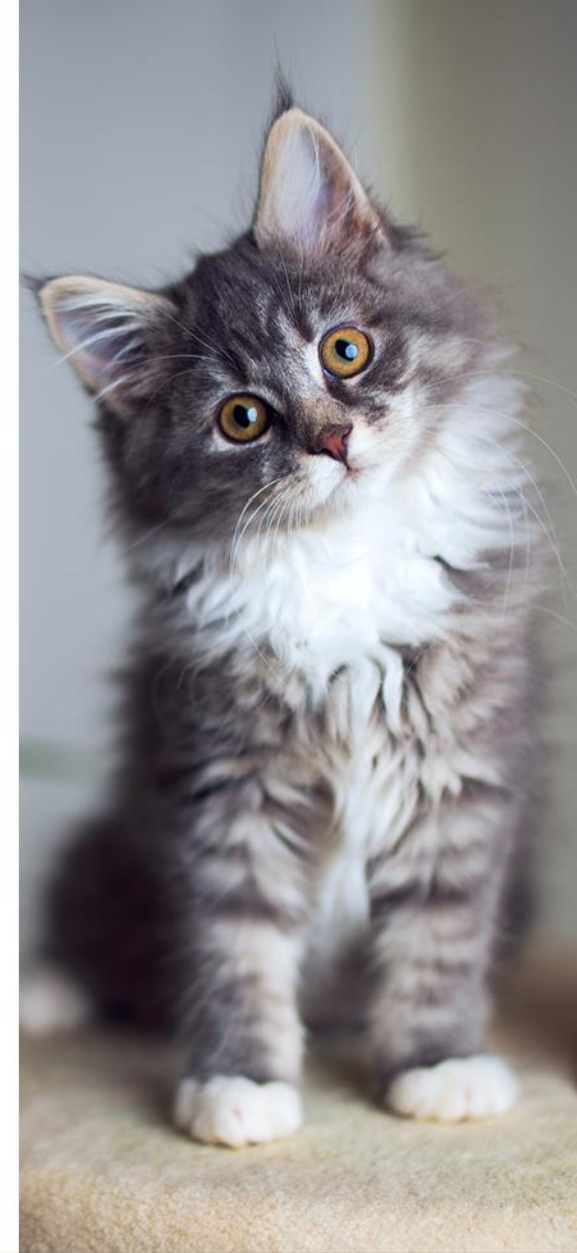
SALT LAKE CITY — At least five mink at two Utah mink farms have tested positive with SARS-CoV-2, the animal virus linked to COVID-19 in ...
55 mins ago



 Ars Technica

Coronavirus creeps into US mink farms, “unusually large numbers” dead

The pandemic coronavirus has made its way onto two mink farms in Utah, leading to “unusually large numbers” of dead animals, according to a ...
19 hours ago



Public Health: Fur Farming and Zoonotic Disease

“[And] there’s fur farming, usually raccoon dogs. If you see people with fur trim around these nice ski jackets, it’s probably come from a Chinese fur farm. There’s a sort of irony to it – you see wealthy people in the West, with a bit of fur trim, saying: ‘It’s disgusting, these wet markets in China.’

Consumption in the West drives a lot of the problems behind infectious diseases.”

– *Dr. Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance and the “world’s most famous virus hunter”*




Environmental Impacts of Fur

Fur production involves numerous toxic chemicals + heavy metals including carcinogens like chromium and formaldehyde...



...which leach into the environment, harm workers, and may be absorbed through the skin of people who wear fur



 : Eco Warrior Princess
<https://ecowarriorprincess.net/2020/04/mink-dutch-fur-farm-confirmed-with-coronavirus-fur-farming-bans//>



Environmental Impacts of Fur

Farms create tremendous amounts of waste that contaminate the soil and waterways and contribute to climate change



 : PETA UK

<https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/one-more-reason-to-ditch-fur-the-environment/>



Environmental Impacts of Fur

'Eco-friendly' fur ad banned

Fur breeders' campaign ruled misleading by ASA

Mark Sweney

@marksweney Email

Wed 21 Mar 2012 03.28 EDT



23



▲ The fur breeders' ad: furry misleading? (click for full image)

An ad campaign claiming that it is "eco-friendly to wear fur" has been banned, after the advertising watchdog dismissed assertions that choosing fur is good because it "lasts a lifetime" and "helps conservation".

The European Fur Breeders' Association ran a magazine campaign with the headline "Why it's eco-friendly to wear fur".

: The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/mar/21/eco-friendly-fur-ad-banned>



Fur in Fashion

“Fur? I’m out of that. I don’t want to kill animals to make fashion. It doesn’t feel right.”

– *Donatella Versace*

VOGUE

FASHION BEAUTY CULTURE LIVING RUNWAY SHOPPING VIDEO

RUNWAY

Donatella Versace Says Fur Is Over

BY BROOKE BOBB
March 14, 2018



: Vogue

<https://www.vogue.com/article/donatella-versace-fur>



Fur in Fashion

Approximately 300 brands and retailers have adopted fur-free policies including:
Macy's, Coach, Chanel, Burberry, Michael Kors, Armani, Bloomingdale's, Gucci, and Prada

PEOPLE.COM > STYLE

Luxury Fashion Brands That Are Anti-Fur

Prada is the latest high-fashion brand to join the growing list of fur-free companies

By [Colleen Kratofil](#) | May 22, 2019 11:40 AM



: People

<https://people.com/style/fur-free-luxury-fashion-brands/>



Existing Laws

Which cities, states, and countries have laws regarding fur sales or fur farming?

- International
- Local
- State



POLL TIME



Fur Farming Internationally

Mink Pelts Produced Annually

- China – 35 million
- Denmark – 17.8 million
- Poland – 8.5 million
- Netherlands – 5.5. million
- USA – 2.7 million
 - **Wisconsin**, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Minnesota
- Finland – 2.5 million



International Laws

Countries with Fur Farming Bans

Include:

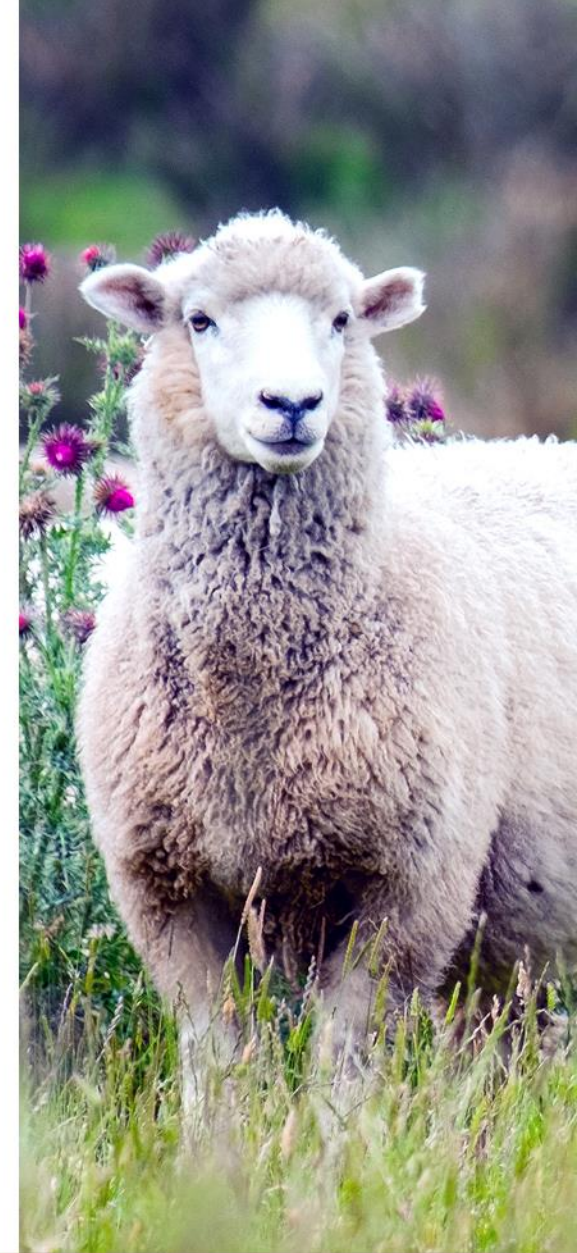
- The U.K.
- Serbia
- Luxembourg
- Germany
- Czech Republic
- Croatia
- Belgium (2023)
- Norway (2025)
- Slovakia (2025)



International Laws

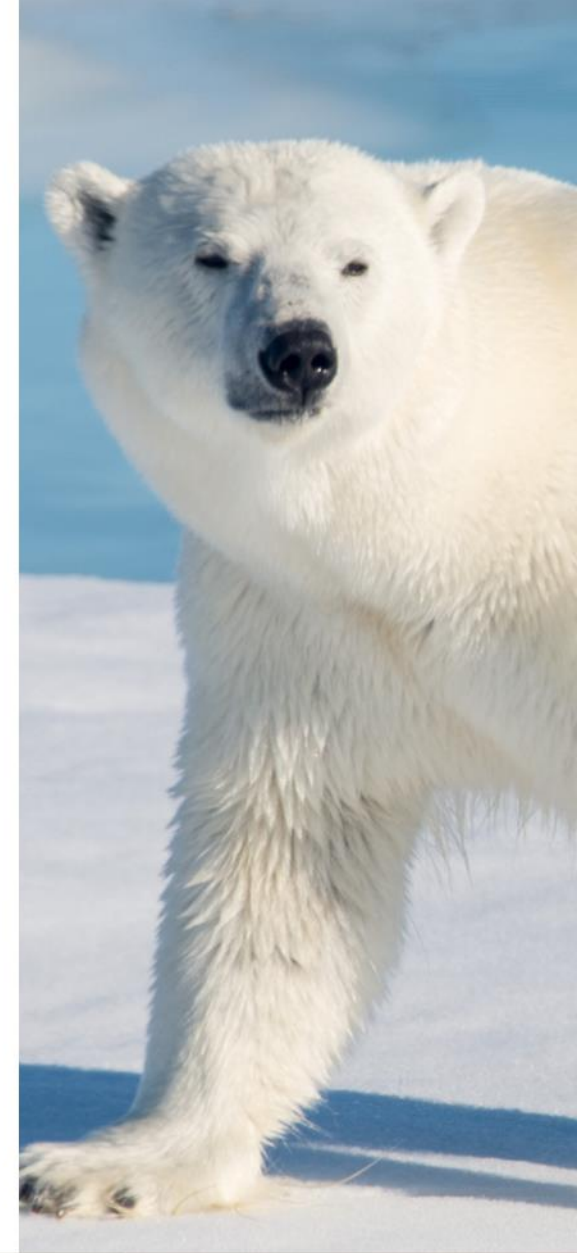
Additionally:

- Switzerland and Sweden have such strict welfare regulations that fur farming is essentially outlawed
- India banned the importation of fur in 2017
- São Paulo, Brazil banned the import and sale of fur in 2015



Fur Sale Bans – What Are They?

- Fur sale bans concern the sale of fur, NOT the use of fur
 - Typically prohibit the sale of new fur products like coats and hats. These bans often extend to accessories that have fur adornments like pom poms or collars, as well as home décor.



What Cities Have Fur Sale Bans?

West Hollywood – 2011

Berkeley – 2017

San Francisco – 2018

Los Angeles – 2019



CALIFORNIA
2019



San Francisco Fur Ban Challenged in Court...And Upheld



Press Release

San Francisco Fur Ban Upheld as Challenge is Dismissed

Court dismisses International Fur Trade Federation's complaint in victory for animals

Share    

July 16, 2020



California Bans the Sale of Fur!

The law:

- Bans the sale of new clothing and accessories (like bags and key chains) that are made of fur or have fur pieces (like a fur pom pom)
- Fur is defined as “animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto.” Essentially this means animals like chinchillas and mink, the animals we traditionally associate with fur products. It does not apply to items like cowhide or sheepskin.

The New York Times

The California Fur Ban and What It Means for You

Is this the beginning of the end of the mink coat? Here's what you need to know.



In Los Angeles, members of PETA held a "Fur Is Dead" rally along Hollywood Boulevard in 2018. Frederic J. Brown/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

 : The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/style/fur-ban-california.html>



Exceptions to the California Law

There are exceptions for:

1. Used fur products
2. Fur products used for religious purposes (an example would be the fur hats worn by Hasidic Jews)
3. Fur products used for cultural purposes by a Native American tribe



How to Pass an Ordinance – Fur Bans

Hope + Realism + Determination

=



POLL TIME



How to Pass an Ordinance – Fur Bans

- Coalition Building
- Working with Legislators
- Engaging the Community

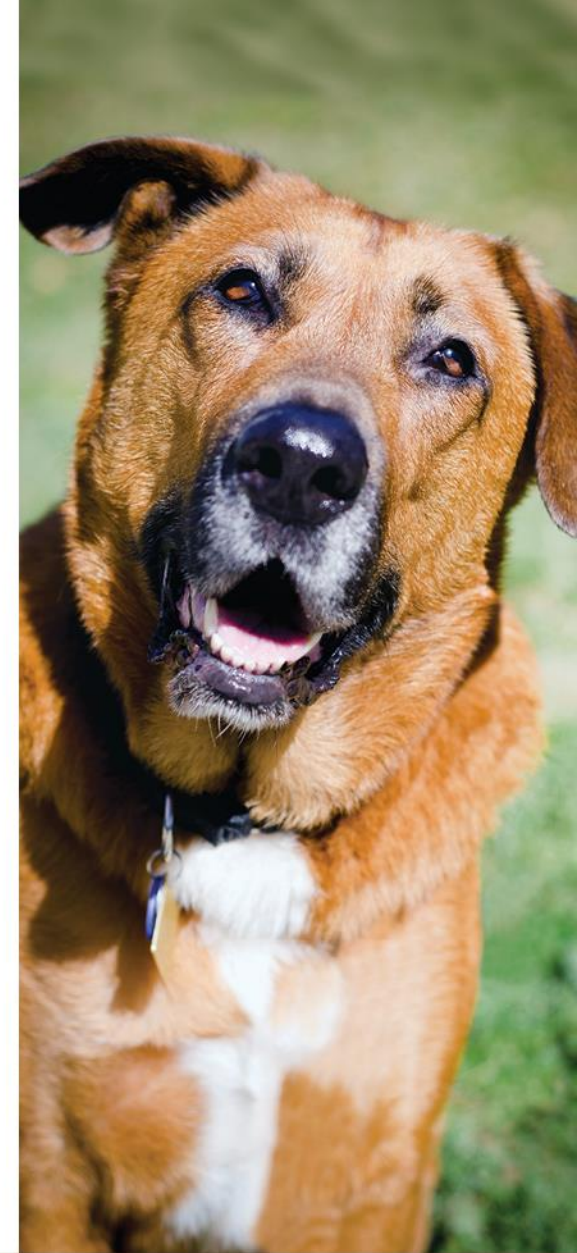


Coalition Building

A group of individuals and organizations with an agreed-upon purpose, working to influence a specific target

Who could be in your coalition?

- State and national animal protection groups
- Animal rescues and shelters
- Faith-based groups
- Environmental protection groups
- Local fashion groups



Working with Legislators - Meetings

- Email the councilmember to set up a meeting with them or a staff member
- Bring supporting documents, including your FAQs + factsheet, as well as a copy of the California and San Francisco laws



Working with Legislators – FAQs + Factsheets



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FUR BANS FAQs

DO FUR SALE BANS IMPACT PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO WEAR FUR?
No, these laws only apply to the sale of new fur products.

HOW IS FUR PRODUCED?
The vast majority of fur items come from animals who are raised on fur farms in factory-like conditions. Animals, including foxes, minks, and rabbits, are typically crammed into tiny wire cages and unable to engage in most of their natural behaviors. They frequently resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. On some fur farms, animals have no protection from the heat and cold. On other farms, animals are kept in cages in barns that are poorly ventilated and high concentrations of ammonia — a byproduct of animals' waste — burns their eyes and throats.

To maintain the integrity of their skin and fur — the "pelt" — animals are usually killed via suffocation, electrocution, gassing, or poisoning. Sometimes, they are bludgeoned in the head or face repeatedly. In anal or vaginal electrocution, the electrodes are attached to the animal's face and genitals to induce a heart attack. Animals are frequently skinned alive while still conscious.

While most commercially sold fur comes from fur farms, some animals are trapped in the wild. Trapping is largely regulated at the state level, and most states provide only minimal protections for fur-bearing animals. In some states, for example, it's legal to set a trap and not check it for days. Desperate and terrified, animals will sometimes chew their own legs off in an attempt to escape. Trappers may shoot, strangle, drown, or bludgeon trapped animals.

aldf.org | PAGE 1

What are fur sale bans?
Fur sale bans typically prohibit the sale of new fur products, including items like coats and hats. These bans often extend to accessories that have fur adornments like pom poms or collars, as well as home décor. Existing fur sale bans have included exemptions for secondhand fur products as well as products used for religious or tribal purposes.



BANNING THE SALE OF FUR PRODUCTS

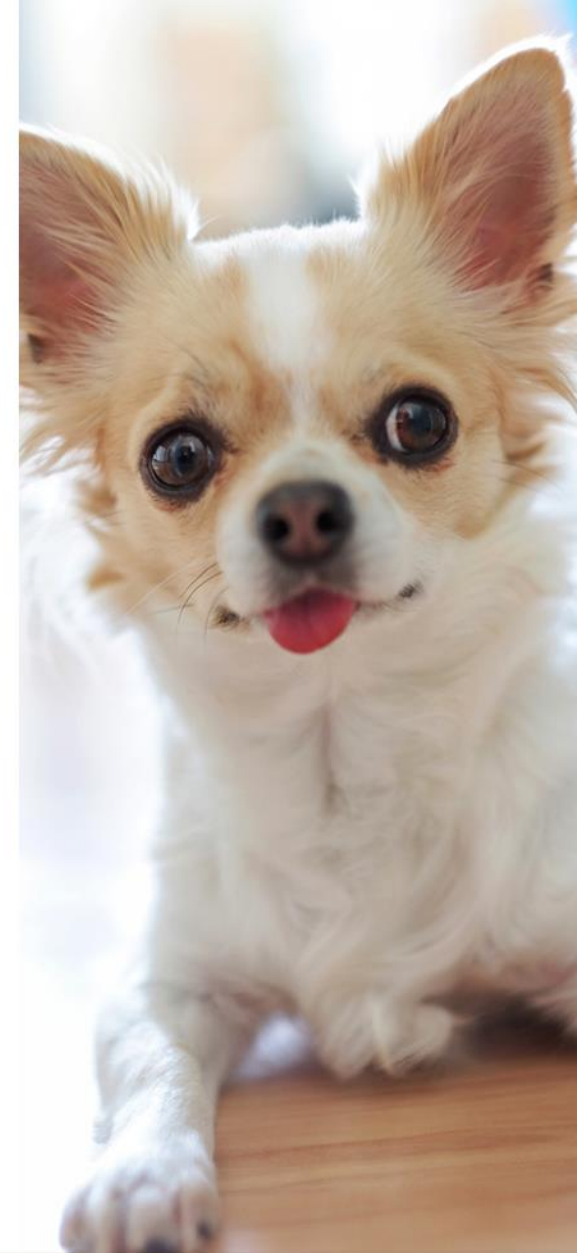
Millions of animals are killed every year by the fur industry. Increasing awareness of the abuse and neglect endured by animals killed for their fur, coupled with the rise in quality faux-fur products, has led advocates and elected officials to prohibit the sale of new fur products.

PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM CRUELTY
Animals bred on fur farms are typically confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives. Often, these cages are outdoors and stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. Unable to engage in many of their natural behaviors, animals on fur farms routinely self-mutilate, obsessively pace, and commit infanticide. Animals are usually killed by gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, or poisoning. Undercover investigations have routinely documented animals being skinned alive.

FUR IS UNNECESSARY AND OBSOLETE
Many alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur are now available. Major fashion brands are moving away from fur — in light of changing consumer preferences. Hundreds of retailers, brands, and designers at all price points — including Macy's, Versace, and Gucci — have announced fur-free policies.

PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS
Whenever animals are intensively confined without regard for their health or welfare, as in fur farming, there are public health risks. Fur farms are breeding grounds for pathogens that ultimately result in zoonotic diseases — harmful germs carried by animals that can spread to people and cause illness. In the spring of 2020, SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease abbreviated as COVID-19, was found on more than a dozen fur farms in the Netherlands. Dutch health officials believe several farm workers initially spread the virus to minks. The Dutch members of Parliament voted to ban mink fur farming immediately (it had been scheduled to be phased out by 2024) in light of the pandemic.

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aldf.org/furban

Engaging the Community – Action Alerts

- Make it as short as possible
 - Explain the issue in two sentences
 - Tell people what to do (call or email their city legislators)
- Make it easy
 - Include contact information for legislators + sample language for people to use
- Residents Only

🚩 California – Take Action! Protect millions of animals – including mink, foxes, rabbits, and seals – from being brutally killed for their fur.

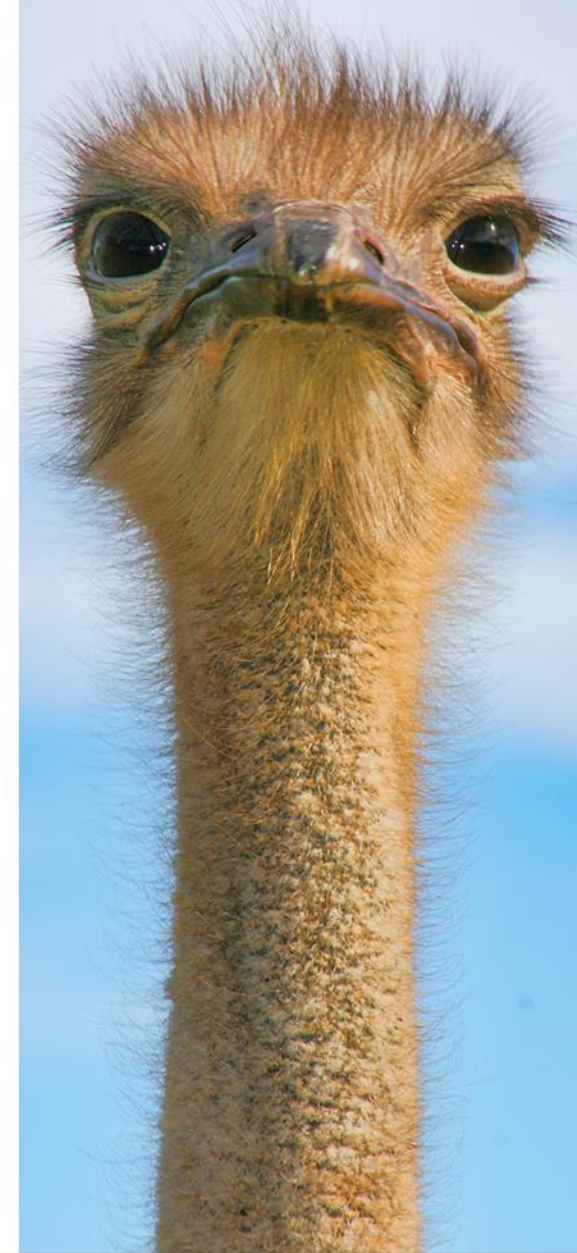
Please contact your assemblymember and urge them to support AB 44, the Fur Products Prohibition Act, as soon as possible! With your voice, California could become the first state to ban the sale of fur.

Find your assemblymember and their contact information here:
<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Sample message: I am ____ (name of assemblymember's constituent). I am calling to urge the assemblymember to support AB 44, and make California the first state to ban the sale of fur.

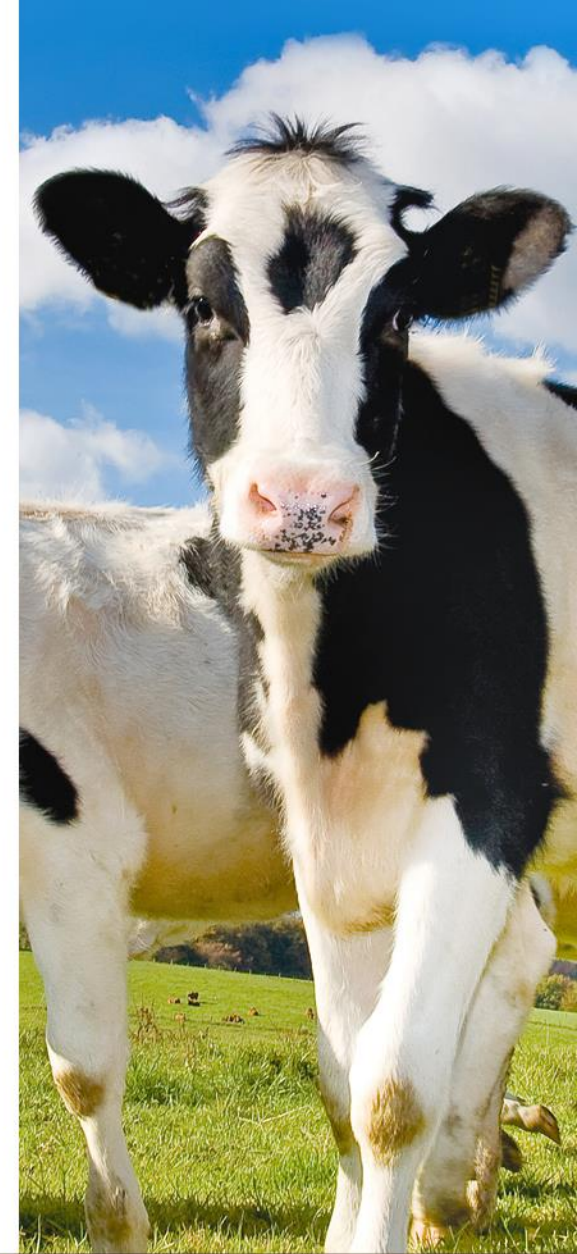
Thank you for taking action for animals!

Want to take your advocacy to the next step? Join us for Humane Lobby Day on June 4th in Sacramento: aldf.us/2vJ68mq



Engaging the Community - Testimony

- 2 to 3 minutes
- Introduce yourself
- Be concise and use your strongest arguments
- Encourage other community members and community leaders to testify



Thank You!



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