



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

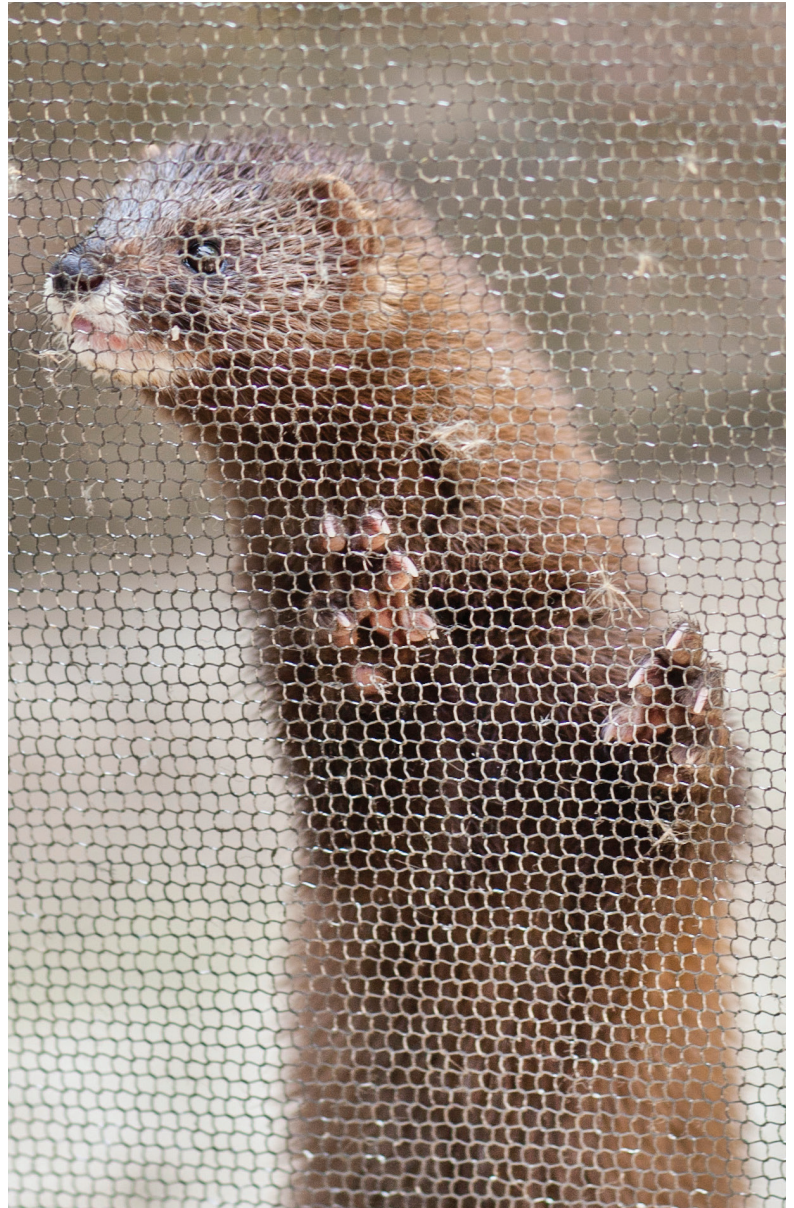
Whenever animals are intensively confined without regard for their health or welfare, as in fur farming, there are public health risks. Fur farms are breeding grounds for pathogens that ultimately result in zoonotic diseases — harmful germs carried by animals that can spread to people and cause illness. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Though the fur industry portrays fur as “natural,” in reality, fur production involves breeding large numbers of genetically similar animals to kill them. Intensively confined by the thousands, animals on fur farms produce a tremendous amount of waste that contaminates the soil and waterways. Additionally, during the tanning and dying process, carcinogenic chemicals like chromium and formaldehyde are used to preserve the pelts. These chemicals leach into the environment and threaten the health of both the workers in fur processing plants and consumers who eventually wear the products.

A GROWING TREND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

After several major California cities enacted fur sale bans, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of new fur products in 2019. In 2020, fur bans were proposed in the Hawaii, New York, and Rhode Island legislatures. Several cities, including New York City and Wellesley, Massachusetts, are considering bans, as well. Internationally, fur farming has been banned or is being phased out in dozens of countries including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom.



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