



FUR FARMING

Frequently Asked Questions

What species of animal are killed for their fur?

Among animals commonly killed for fur are mink, rabbit, chinchilla, fox, coyote, raccoon, beavers, and others.

What is fur used for?

Animal fur is used to make clothing such as coats and hats, as well as fur linings. An estimated 50% of fur is used for trim, such as around hoods on coats, as keyrings, and as embellishments for hats and gloves.

How many animals are killed for their fur each year?

More than 100 million animals are violently killed for their fur every year.¹

How are animals kept in fur farms?

Eighty five percent of fur products comes from animals in fur farms. In fur farms, animals live miserable lives of extreme confinement and are denied the ability to engage in natural behaviors they would otherwise exhibit in the wild. Fur-bearing animals are often bred and maintained to maximize fur output with little or no

consideration for their health, comfort, and quality of life. This can lead to deformity and obesity, which increase their discomfort, and to the display of stereotypical behaviors due to the severe and chronic stress of their living conditions. The animals suffer throughout their short lives until the day they are brutally killed for their pelts.

Most states have no regulations governing the ways in which animals in fur farms are kept. Only six U.S. states were found to have any kind of specific welfare regulations, which mandate minimum standards of care for animals in fur farms.

How are the animals killed?

Methods used to kill animals for their fur include gassing, electrocution, and neck breaking. Fur-bearing animals are also caught and killed in body-gripping traps.

How are fur farms linked to COVID-19?

At the height of the pandemic, outbreaks of COVID-19 occurred in fur farms around the world, resulting in the premature killing of millions of mink. Not only was the virus found in mink on fur farms, but cases were also discovered in free-living mink, as well as cases where it appeared that COVID-19 passed from mink to humans, and back. There have been calls to shut down the fur farming industry following these events; not only to protect animal welfare, but also to protect public safety.²

Is fur trim a byproduct of the meat and fur industry?

The fur trim market is an equal, if not greater, threat to animals than is the making of fur coats. Fur trim is not what's "left over" from making full-length fur coats. Thousands of animals are killed simply to provide trimming effects for fashion. Even purchasing the tiniest bit of fur trim supports the cruel fur industry.³

Isn't fur part of our country's heritage?

Although historically, the fur trade played a role in the development of the early economy in the United States, it also wreaked havoc on species – in particular beaver populations, which were brought to the brink of extinction.⁴ There are many historical practices once seen as acceptable that are now viewed as horrific relics of a more brutal time.

Today, the fur industry is a threat to our environment and wildlife, contributing to higher energy costs, pollution, land destruction, and reductions in populations of wild animals, including endangered and threatened species, which may be accidentally trapped and killed. The fur trade is not a part of our heritage to be proud of.

Read more about fur in these reports by Born Free USA:

- [Silent Suffering in Our Own Backyard: Fur Farming in the United States](#) (2020)
- [Victims of Vanity II](#) (2016)
- [Victims of Vanity I](#) (2011)
- [Cruelty Uncaged](#) (2009)

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1. Fur Free Alliance. n.d. Fur Farming - Animal Welfare Problems. [online] Available at: <<https://www.furfreealliance.com/fur-farming/>> [Accessed 26 July 2022].
 2. Shah, S., 2022. Animals That Infect Humans Are Scary. It's Worse When We Infect Them Back.. [online] Nytimes.com. Available at: <<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/19/magazine/spillback-animal-disease.html>> [Accessed 26 July 2022].
 3. Humane Society International. n.d. *Canada's Fur Industry*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hsi.org/news-media/canada_fur_020509/> [Accessed 26 July 2022].
 4. Backhouse, F., 2015. *Once They Were Hats*. 1st ed. Toronto: ECW Press.

