



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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Updated April 2010

Fur Trade (General) FAQ's

What's wrong with wearing fur?

Each year in Canada, approximately two million animals are killed for their fur. Animals trapped in the wild break teeth and bones trying to escape from cruel traps. On fur farms caged animals are gassed or electrocuted. To make fur products, the skin of an animal with the hair/fur still attached is stripped from the carcass. After preparations, it is sent into production to be dyed, chemically treated and ultimately, transformed into a coat, piece of trim, toys, pet toys, accessories and novelties. Once a symbol of wealth and status, today fur symbolizes insensitivity towards animals and the environment. It is a product of extreme cruelty and greed.

Do you think it's ok to wear vintage fur?

While some people believe that wearing vintage fur may not be directly contributing to an animals' death, it sends the same unacceptable message as a new fur—that is killing animals for fashion is ok. The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals recommends that you avoid all fur, real, vintage or even fake.

Doesn't the fur industry support the livelihood of Native people?

The fur industry would have you believe that the First Nations people living in the northern remote territories do a large amount of trapping. The fact is only about 3% of all the furs in Canada come from our three Northern Territories combined. Low pelt prices, fluctuating demand and high expenses (ie. gasoline, trapline permits etc.) mean that for many Natives and non-Native trappers alike, fur trapping has become a hobby or a seasonal supplementary income. Trapping is not a livelihood.

The Fur Council of Canada says that most furs are farmed animals and these farms follow the Recommended Codes of Practice developed by Agriculture Canada.

It's extremely alarming that under Canada's "recommended" code of practice, Aleutian Disease, which is spread through feces, un-cleaned water, or un-cleaned cages, often plagues caged minks. This code is only recommended and not enforced by law. Keeping wildlife in small wire cages is unnatural, and often leads to neurotic behaviors. Many pace frantically, circle endlessly, and self-mutilate. Whatever code allows this cruelty to go on is simply heartless.

If a trapper or a First Nations person traps an animal to eat, isn't it less wasteful if they use the pelt for something else rather than just discard it?

The fur industry is responsible for the death of two million animals each year in Canada. These animals break teeth and bones trying to escape from cruel traps or they are gassed or electrocuted on fur farms. The fur trade is a commercial industry driven by profit. This is not an issue of sustenance; it is an issue of scale. First Nations people are not eating two million wild animals a year.

If a truly humane trap that kills the animal instantly was found one day, would you still be against trapping?

Yes we would still be against trapping. There is no such thing as a humane fur trap. Trapping can never be humane.

The Fur Council of Canada says that fur is back. What do you think?

Cruelty is never in fashion. There are lots of ways to show you have style, wearing fur isn't one of them.

Wasn't the leg-hold trap banned years ago?

Leg-hold traps are still legal and being used today in Canada. The Fur industry has made some minor modifications and re-named the traps in an effort to deceive people into thinking they are a different humane trap. A leg-hold trap is a leg-hold trap, is a leg-hold trap.

Isn't the fur industry highly regulated?

The so-called standards for the fur trade are written by the fur industry for the fur industry. These regulations simply protect profits, not animals. The industry will often refer to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). This agreement essentially redefined the term "humane", so trappers could continue to use leg-hold and other cruel traps.

How can I tell real fur from fake fur?

It is very difficult to tell real fur from fake fur. Many fur products are trimmed and dyed to look like fake fur. People often assume that because something is cheap that it can't be real fur. Dog and cat fur is relatively cheap because these animals are easy to raise and kill due to their gentle and trusting nature. In Canada, most if not all textiles are required to be labelled, while fur is not. When the label discloses only the use of textile materials and omits fur, many consumers are misled to believe that every single part of that jacket, including the fur trim, is made from synthetic material.

What can people do to help fur-bearing animals?

Do not buy any fur, even if you think it's fake fur. Tell your friends and family what's happening, talk to your neighbours, help distribute our brochures and posters, help distribute our video footage and please write to your MPs.

For more information, please visit furbearerdefenders.com.
