



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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Humane Trap Myth

Often times, proponents of the fur industry will mention the "Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards" as evidence to support their claim that trapping is humane.

Contrary to its' misleading name, the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) was designed for the fur industry by the fur industry.

It essentially provides a 'seal of approval' for cruel traps.

Background of the AIHTS

In 1991, following pressure from the anti-fur activists, including The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, the European Union (EU) passed a resolution through the European Parliament to ban the use of leg-hold traps in all its member countries, and to ban furs coming from any country still using the leg-hold trap. The EU didn't want to be a part of such cruelty.

Canada, eager to continue using leg-hold traps, led the charge to undermine this import ban, by threatening the European Union with severe economic punishment and with battles under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Finally, Canada convinced the EU to exempt Canada (and Russia) from the fur ban. Proponents of the fur industry peddled a

so-called "International Agreement", which misled the EU into believing it would mean better welfare for trapped animals.

Under the agreement, traps had to be tested against the standards set out in the AIHTS and, if the traps met the standards they become "certified" and if the traps fail, they should be replaced.

In 1997 the EU, Canada and Russia reached an agreement and the AIHTS was ratified in 1998.

Note: The United States also signed an agreement with the European Union, to exclude the US from the fur import ban, and to legitimize the use of cruel traps.

This agreement has most of the same loopholes and problems as the one that Canada signed, with one additional loophole - authority over trapping in the USA lies solely with the state governments, so it is up to each state whether it is going to comply with the terms of the agreement.

How Does the Agreement Protect Animals?

It doesn't. Animals are still killed for their fur in cruel leg-hold, conibear and snare traps. These have been the main three traps used in Canada for over 40 years. The agreement simply put an international "Seal of Approval" on the same old cruel trapping methods.

Furthermore, the so-called 'new standards' are so obscenely low, they are useless from an animal welfare perspective.

No such thing as a humane trap

Leg-hold traps in or near the water will still be used. (60% of Canada's trapped animals are semi-aquatic animals trapped in or near the water).

So-called "padded" leg-hold traps will still be used. (Steel jawed Leg-hold traps with a bit of synthetic material added on to the steel jaws).

"Offset" traps will still be used. (Leg-hold traps with a 3/16" gap between the powerful steel jaws.)



Photo: Lynx in so-called 'padded' or 'soft-catch' leg-hold trap. This trap is approved under AIHTS.

Cruel Animal Research

To "test" traps for "certification", the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) used live animals for research. In field tests, researchers lured unsuspecting animals into traps and then studied how the animals suffered and died.

Points were given if the animal didn't fracture their leg, break their teeth, tore their tendons, ligaments or broke their spinal cord. Animals were also studied for internal organ damage, hemorrhaging, abrasions, limb amputation and the amount of time it took them to die or become "irreversibly unconscious". Was it going to be 5 minutes, 2 minutes or 1 minute?

Concerning oneself over a trapped animals' injury 'scorecard' or the type of trap that an animal suffered and died in, is completely irrelevant.

The fact remains that under the AIHTS - cruel trapping continues and animals still needlessly suffer and die for fashion and profits.

Put an end to this cruelty. Don't buy fur or fur trim.