



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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## Dog and Cat Fur: Legality and Labelling in Canada

It is legal to import dog and cat fur into Canada, and it is legal to sell dog and cat fur in Canada.

Under the Canadian Textile and Labelling Act, animal pelts or hides are not required to be labelled. Canadian textile regulations only require that the existence of fur fibres, once removed from the skin of an animal and woven with textile fibres, be declared on a label.

In a July 2007 letter from Canada's Former Minister of Industry, Maxime Bernier says, "While I understand your concerns, I must inform you that there are currently no restrictions regarding animal identity labeling or the importation and sale of dog and cat fur products in Canada."

Furthermore, Canada's Competition Bureau is only responsible for the *mislabelling* of fur. (Meaning, if someone voluntarily labels fur then it cannot legally be falsely labelled. However, the label can be as vague as "fur fibre".)

## Asia-Pacific Trade - Dog and Cat Fur's Doorway to Canada

China is already Canada's second largest trading partner, and a key trade partner for fur products. Under Canada's Pacific Gateway Strategy, Canada is aiming to drastically increase trade with China.

As more foreign markets close their doors to dog and cat fur, Canada will become an even more appealing market for individuals looking to profit from this cruelty.

## Around the World: Dog and Cat Fur Trade Legislation

**Australia:** In 2005, the Australian Government banned the import of domestic cat and dog fur products.

**European Union:** In 2008, the European Union banned the import of dog and cat fur into any of their 27 member countries, and encouraged individual countries to consider tough penalties against retailers and importers who were found to be in violation of the law.

**Switzerland:** In 2008, Switzerland banned the import, export and trade of all skins from cats and dogs.

**USA:** On November 9, 2000, the Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 was signed, prohibiting "...imports, exports, sale, manufacture, offer for sale, transportation, and distribution in the United States of dog and cat fur products." The Act is designed to deter any operations that may cause brutality, suffering, or torture to cats and dogs and that may expose them to unjustifiable, inhumane living conditions."

The Act provides that any person who violates any provision may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each separate knowing and intentional violation, \$5,000 for each separate gross negligent violation, or \$3,000 for each separate negligent violation.