

# FASHION to DIE FOR



*A little something to sling around the neck, or dress-up your coat or sweater. Do you know the difference between faux and fur? Remember, in some stores, both can be found on the same rack.*



**FUR-FREE**  
**CENTURY**  
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

**Promoting the protection of all animals**

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**The facts  
about fur trim**

*Young people love the latest fashions. But before you buy your favorite teenager a fun accessory, make sure it isn't made of real fur. Some items will not be labeled.*



## **It's All The Rage**

FUR TRIM IS DEFINITELY IN fashion. Take a look at fashion magazines or store catalogs and you'll see fur trim on everything from expensive coats and suits to bedroom slippers and gloves. Walk into any store—including discount stores—and you'll find fur-trimmed and fur-lined garments and accessories. The fashion industry has fueled fashion demand, and fur trim is big business. In 1996, the last year the fur industry revealed a breakdown of retail sales, fur-trimmed and fur-lined items were valued at 46 percent of all fur garments sold in the United States. Since then, the percentage of fur-trimmed items has, by all accounts, increased.

## **It's Really an Outrage**

WHAT MAY LOOK TO THE unwary consumer like a bit of scrap

fur trimming a pair of gloves is deceiving. Consider the following:

- An animal dies for each fashion item, whether it's fur-trimmed or all fur. Fur trim is not made from scraps of fur used to manufacture other, all-fur garments.
- Currently, nearly all foxes raised in fur factory farms are turned into trim.
- Industry analysts foresee the number of animals killed for trim will soon outnumber those killed for all-fur garments in U.S. and western European markets. Historically, this has been the case in both Russia and China.

*(Sandy Parker Reports, Sept. 4, 2000)*



COMMON VICTIMS OF THE FUR trim trade include fox, mink, chinchilla, raccoon, coyote, finraccoon (an Asian

## The Faces of the Victims

species related to the dog), lamb, and rabbit. Blue fox (the fur industry term for

cage-raised arctic fox) is the primary type of fox used, followed by silver fox (also cage-raised). Trapped foxes—red, grey, and arctic—are also skinned for the trim trade. Mink include both those raised on intensive fur factory farms and those that are trapped from the wild.

In 1998, a Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) investigation into the killing of domestic dogs and cats in Asia, specifically for the fur trade, revealed that dog and cat fur was also used on trimmed garments, even those found in the United States. New federal legislation has been passed in the United States to ban the sale of dog and cat fur products, but there's no way to ensure against ongoing violations of the law.

In 2000, an HSUS investigation also revealed the horrific slaughter of newborn and unborn karakul lambs whose fur also appears as trim on high-end garments.

*Common victims of the fur trim trade include, from top to bottom, raccoon, ermine, mink, red fox, arctic fox, and karakul lamb.*



ANIMALS KILLED FOR FUR TRIM ARE trapped in the wild and raised in cages.

The steel-jaw leghold trap persists as one of the most egregious forms of animal cruelty. Banned in most nations, it is the

## A Life of Suffering— A Cruel Death

most commonly used trap in the United States. The trap forcefully springs shut on the leg of its

victim. Injuries result not only from the impact of the steel trap jaws, but also from the desperate animal's attempts to escape restraint. Other traps, such as the body-gripping Conibear trap, all too often do not live up to their claim of instant-kill, leaving victims to languish in pain from spinal or abdominal injuries before they perish.

Consumers may be lulled into thinking that "farmed" furs are more humane, but fur farms or ranches constitute institutionalized cruelty. Fur animals are confined to small, barren wire cages, which prevent them from natural activities. They suffer from rapid spread of disease and unnatural behavior such as self-mutilation, cannibalism, and incessant pacing—behavior induced by the combination of boredom, frustration, and deprivation.

The fur industry defends its actions by arguing that the caged animals are not mistreated because it is in the fur farmer's best interests to take good care of the animals to produce the best pelt. However, the trim trade doesn't place the same emphasis on pelt quality, color, and uniformity required in the production of full-fur garments.



*Steel-jaw leghold traps cause significant pain to wildlife and unintentioned victims, including cats and dogs.*

What does this mean for the animals?

As increasing demand for trim drives up the price for lower grade pelts, the care of the animals diminishes.



Death on a fur farm may mean the end of suffering for an animal, but the death itself is often cruel. The most common method of death for foxes, for example, is anal electrocution. Other methods of killing include gassing and neck breaking.

ANIMAL FUR IS AN UNNECESSARY luxury, worn for vanity and produced through the suffering and death of millions of animals every year.

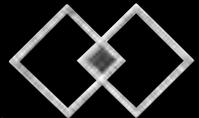
## Fur or Faux?

Fur proponents may try to blunt the truth about fur by claiming that a fur coat is necessary to stay warm in cold climates. However, there are alternatives that look like fur, protect as well as fur, and don't kill animals. In the case of trim, there isn't even an argument to be made that the trim is "necessary" for anything but fashion's whim.

Caring consumers may not always know what they're buying. They may assume that any fur sold in discount stores, for example, must be faux. They may think they can rely on the label, but garment labels don't always reveal that the trim is real animal fur. Or what animal was killed for the trim. That's because a loophole in the federal Fur Products Labeling Act allows fur products that cost under \$150 to be exempt from consumer protection provisions. Even salespeople might not know whether or not a fur item is real animal fur.

## What You Can Do

- Don't buy garments, accessories, toys, or trinkets made of, trimmed with, or lined with animal fur. If you receive a gift made of fur, explain to the giver and the store why you can't accept it.
- If you like the furry look, go faux. Today's synthetic furs come in a wide range of styles and prices. When you buy faux, you save an animal's life.
- Read the label on any garment or accessory trimmed with fur. Don't buy anything labeled as animal fur of any kind. If the label doesn't say the trim is synthetic, look closely at the base of the hair to see if it's attached to skin (animal fur) or fabric (faux). If you can't be sure you're buying faux, don't buy it.
- Ask stores where you shop to stop selling fur, or to at least separate the animal fur items from the faux fur, and to clearly identify the source of the trim.
- When you receive catalogs containing fur items, let the retailer know you object to those items.
- When you read a newspaper or magazine article that promotes the wearing of fur and fur trim, write a brief, polite letter to the publication, urging them not to support cruelty.
- Visit our website, [www.haus.org](http://www.haus.org), to learn more about the issues surrounding fur.
- If you already have full-fur garments (coats, jackets, etc.), send them to The HSUS. We will recycle them to wildlife rehabilitators who use them as bedding for orphaned wild animals.
- Wear The HSUS's Compassion in Fashion pin when you wear faux fur garments or accessories to show that you say "No!" to fur. Or wear it anytime you want to show your opposition to fur. (The pins are available from The HSUS; you can order them through our website or contact us for an order form.)



To order or for more information, contact The HSUS's anti-fur coordinator at 301-258-3109 or the address on the back of this brochure.