

# Betrayal of Trust

The Slaughter  
of **Dogs** and **Cats**  
Is the  
Fur Industry's  
**Ugliest**  
**Secret**

Promoting the Protection of All Animals

*... the cruel and widespread slaughter  
of companion animals—  
domestic dogs and cats  
—for the manufacture of clothing,  
accessories, and trinkets*



An eighteen-month undercover investigation by The Humane Society of the United States/ Humane Society International and German independent journalist Manfred Karremann has exposed the fur industry's ugliest secret: the slaughter of companion animals—domestic dogs and cats—for the manufacture of clothing, accessories, and trinkets.

Investigators followed the blood trail from the sources, witnessing firsthand the brutal slaughter of domestic dogs and cats in China and other Asian nations. What we found shocked us. Many of these animals are raised in deplorable conditions in cold, unsanitary breeding compounds. Some are strays. Others are obviously pets who were most likely stolen. And the killing methods are grisly. Dogs—German shepherds, chow chows, and mixed breeds—are bludgeoned or bled to death. Cats are often strangled by wire nooses.

The investigation revealed that the pelts of these dogs and cats are exported to France, Germany, Italy, and elsewhere and turned into garments, accessories, and trinkets. These products are then shipped to destinations around the world, including the United States.

All this is not out of character for the international fur industry. It continues to support the use of steel-jaw leghold traps, snares, and Conibear® traps. It is also responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of animals raised in cages and killed inhumanely.

Now we know that the fur industry is also responsible for the deaths of millions of domestic dogs and cats. This slaughter is

so unconscionable that the industry has tried to obscure the truth with misleading labels. In fact, fur manufacturers told investigators that they would sew any label into dog and cat fur coats to make them more marketable.



# Dog and Cat Fur: The Facts

- **Millions of dogs and cats are killed annually for their fur.**

Usually **ten to twelve dogs** are killed to manufacture one coat; even more are killed if the coat is made from the fur of puppies. One coat made of cat fur is produced by killing up to **twenty-four cats**.

- **The fur industry dupes consumers about product materials.**

With rare exceptions, dog and cat products are not labeled as coming from dogs or cats; instead, the products are assigned false or misleading labels. For instance, a dog product may be sold as **gae wolf, sobaki, or Asian jackal**. Cat products are sold under many pseudonyms, including **wildcat, goyangi, and katzenfelle**.

- **Cruel methods are employed to kill animals for their fur.**

**Any method of killing animals for their fur is inhumane.** Animals fall victim to crude methods such as slow suffocation, being bled to death, hanging, or bludgeoning and clubbing. Dogs and cats are sometimes skinned alive. All of these methods inflict severe trauma and prolonged suffering on dogs and cats.

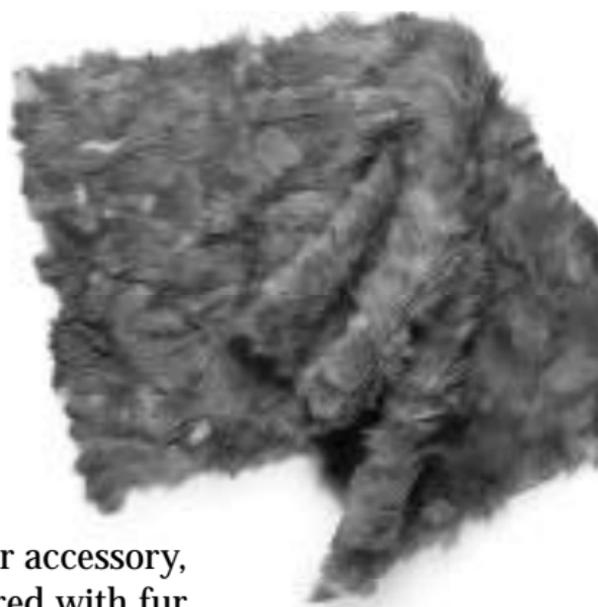
- **Dog and cat fur is marketed and sold to Europe and the United States.**

Dogs and cats may be killed in one country, their fur processed in another, and the finished products sold anywhere in the world. The chief use of dog and cat fur sold in the United States is not full-length coats, but **fur trim for gloves, hats, toys, and other accessories**. At the store of a major U.S. retailer, HSUS investigators recently found jackets trimmed with what the label referred to as “Mongolia dog fur.” DNA tests indicated that the trim was canine fur.

- **U.S. laws are ineffective in regulating the fur industry.**

The Fur Products Labeling Act, which specifically requires labeling on products made

of *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog) and *Felis catus* (domestic cat), exempts all fur-bearing products that cost \$150 or less. This loophole creates a huge port of entry into the U.S. fur market for dog and cat fur. Moreover, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—charged with regulating the import and export of wildlife, including products from both wild-caught and cage-raised fur-bearing animals—is not required to inspect or regulate products made from domesticated animals such as dogs and cats.



## What You Can Do

- Don't buy any fur, fur trim, fur accessory, or trinket covered with fur.
- Look for items made with synthetic or faux fur. No animals were harmed in their production.
- Ask retailers that sell fur products (such as fur-trimmed parkas, fur-covered animal statues, or fur cat toys) to stop selling these items.
- Tell others about the excruciatingly cruel treatment of dogs and cats by the fur trade.
- Urge your federal legislators to ban commerce in dog and cat fur.
- Learn more about the global fur industry's exploitation of fur-bearing animals.
- View our full investigative report and video on the Internet at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org).

## Materials Available from The HSUS On the Dog and Cat Fur Trade

- “What Is That They’re Wearing?” is a full-color exposé of the HSUS investigation.
- Our “Dog and Cat Fur-Trade Action Guide” lists steps you can take to end this cruelty .
- Cards for activists to give to store managers can raise awareness among retailers.
- Flyers for activists to give to consumers can raise public awareness of the issues.
- Fur-Free 2000™ campaign packets provide fact sheets and campaign materials.

To order, or for more information, contact The HSUS’s anti-fur coordinator at 301-258-3109 or the address below .

**2000**  
**FUR-FREE**

Fur-Free 2000™ is a consumer-driven, activist-oriented campaign designed to bring an end to the use of animal fur in the new century.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
202-452-1100 ■ [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

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