



INVESTIGATION

KARAKUL SHEEP AND LAMB SLAUGHTER FOR THE FUR TRADE



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SUMMARY

In the world of fur fashion, garments made of the pelts of fetal and newborn karakul lambs have gained great popularity in recent years. These pelts come from the karakul sheep, a breed raised primarily for its fur. A hodgepodge of names are used to describe this fur in the skin trade. Fur from fetal karakul lambs is called: *broadtail*, *breitschwanz* (German), *karakulcha*, or simply *cha* (Russian, Uzbek). The fur from newborn karakul sheep is called: *karakul* (also spelled *caracul*), *swakara* (coined from *South West Africa Karakul*), *namikara* or *nakara* (from *Namibian karakul*), *astrakhan* (Russian), *Persian lamb*, *agnello di persia*, (Italian) and *krimmer* (Russian). Sometimes the terms for fetal lamb and newborn lamb fur are used interchangeably.¹

In March 2000, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) documented the brutal treatment of pregnant ewes and newborn lambs at a farm and slaughter facility just outside the town of Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Graphic footage shows a pregnant ewe held down, her throat slit open and stomach slashed wide to remove the developing fetus: the “raw material” for broadtail fashions. Also caught on tape are heart wrenching images of frightened newborn lambs being displayed as “samples” for various pelt colors. Barely able to stand, these fragile animals nonetheless show fear and stress as they are roughly handled by slaughterhouse workers. Further footage shows the limp and bloody bodies of lambs slaughtered earlier that day.

HSUS investigators were appalled by the crude and inhumane methods used to kill these animals. Workers showed no knowledge of humane slaughter techniques, nor any concept of the suffering of these animals. Investigators also learned from their hosts that, contrary to popular belief, karakul and broadtail furs are not a by-product of the meat industry. What remains of these tiny animals after they are slaughtered and skinned is thrown away. These animals are raised for fur, not for food. “The main value of Bukhara sheep is fur and hides... The demand for [this] is high in both domestic and foreign markets due to its high quality and durability, its silky and bright nature . . .”²

The domestication and breeding of karakul sheep originated in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, and this remains an important area of production to this day, yielding about a quarter of the estimated 4-5 million pelts on the world market.³ Russia serves as a major manufacturing center for karakul and broadtail harvested in Uzbekistan and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. From here many pelts and finished products are re-exported to the wider world market. Other important source countries for broadtail and karakul production include Namibia, Afghanistan, and other countries in Central Asia.

In the course of this investigation, HSUS investigators toured a factory in Moscow that imports karakul and broadtail furs from Uzbekistan. Here they counted 30 pelts sewn together to make one full-length, black karakul coat.

Karakul and broadtail furs have gained great popularity in recent years. A quick list of the many designers currently using broadtail or karakul includes: Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Karl Lagerfeld, Givenchy, Michael Kors, Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Dior, and Valentino.⁴ Retail value generally varies according to the age at which the lambs are killed. Broadtail, the most expensive in terms of production, retails at the highest price: upwards of \$25,000 for one outfit. A karakul or Persian lamb coat retails at from \$5,000 to \$12,000.⁵

1 In this report the term *broadtail* is used to refer to fetal lamb fur, and karakul is used to describe newborn lamb fur.

2 Ibid.

3 Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), [Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan](http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html), <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>>, November 1995.

4 See Appendix A for a full list of designers

5 Furs.com. 1999. [Price Schedule](http://www.furworld.com/price.html). <<http://www.furworld.com/price.html>>.

INTRODUCTION

The fur trade has long denied the intentional slaughter of pregnant karakul ewes for the valuable pelts of their developing fetuses:

Broadtail is the pelt of prematurely born lamb produced by Karakul and Karakul crossbred sheep. These lambs are prematurely born as a result of exposure. There is a widespread misconception that the ewes are maltreated or killed. Such practices are not humane or economically profitable anywhere; furthermore, they are strictly forbidden by the Mohammedan faith of the Bokharan natives.⁶

HSUS investigators, however, found that this “widespread misconception” is in fact the truth: that pregnant ewes are routinely and systematically slaughtered without benefit of stunning or other humane slaughter techniques; and that broadtail, while indeed expensive to produce, is also quite profitable.

Various studies of broadtail production have also referenced the routine practice of slaughtering pregnant ewes for their fetuses. One such study, which explored the use of abortifacients, begins, “Fleeces of fetuses killed at 129-133 days of gestation are a commercial product of Karakul sheep farming.”⁷ An abstract from another study states: “From day 132 of pregnancy ewes were killed and foetuses were removed and skinned.” In this study, “old Karakul ewes were treated or not with a hormone preparation.” The study found that the fetuses from the hormone-treated ewes “gave more pelts of marketable size than the control.”⁸

The breed of sheep used to “make” broadtail is the karakul sheep. Karakuls are not only exploited for the fur of developing fetal lambs, but also for the fur of newborn lambs. Fur from newborn karakul lambs is frequently referred to as *Persian lamb*, although there is nothing truly Persian about it. The first karakul pelts exported from Central Asia to Europe came via Persia, and this is how they came to be called *Persian lamb*.⁹

The confusion in names aside, the most basic distinction among karakul lamb furs lies in their textures, and these are determined by the age at which the slaughter occurs. The only real way to judge this is by the look, feel, and texture of the pelt. Fetal lamb fur is lightweight and flat, with a wavy texture and luminous sheen, rather like crushed velvet. Fur from newborn lambs is thicker, with a tight-patterned, curly texture. There are many gradations of pelt characteristics in between fetal and newborn lamb, depending on the stage of development. The fur taken from a fetus fifteen days before the natural birth is smoother than that of a fetus taken five days before birth. Similarly, the curled texture of a newborn lamb is tighter and glossier three hours after birth than it is three days later. Texture, pattern, and luster are the most important qualities for the fur trade. The smoothness and luster of the fur from fetal karakul sheep commands a higher price at auction than that of newborn lambs, but fashion dictates which is most popular from season to season.

6 Furs: Glamorous and Practical (Toronto, New York, and London: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1954), 33.

7 V. E. Starkov, “Interruption of pregnancy in Karakul ewes in order to obtain fetal fleeces,” *Veterinariya* (Moskva), No.5, 1990, 47-48.

8 Ya A. Sultanov and A.M. Lysov, “Quality of karakul pelts after different planes of feeding of the pregnant ewes”, *Ovtsevodstvo*, No. 7, 1972, 34-36.

9 Agnes C. Laut, “Fur farming for broadtail, Persian lamb, Astrakhan and Krimmer,” *The Fur Trade of America* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1921), 66.

According to rules under the U.S. Fur Products Labeling Act (16 C.F.R. Part 301),

The term ‘Persian Lamb’ may be used to describe the skin of the young lamb of the Karakul breed of sheep or top-cross breed of such sheep, having hair formed in knuckled curls. 301.8(a)

‘Broadtail Lamb’ may be used to describe the skin of the prematurely born, stillborn, or very young lamb of the Karakul breed of sheep or top-cross breed of such sheep, having flat light-weight fur with a moire pattern. 301.8(b)

‘Persian-broadtail Lamb’ may be used to describe the skin of the very young lamb of the Karakul breed of sheep or top-cross breed of such sheep, having hair formed in flattened knuckled curls with a moire pattern. 301.8(c).

In this report the term *broadtail* is used to refer to fetal lamb fur, and *karakul* is used to describe newborn lamb fur.

KARAKUL LAMB FUR INVESTIGATION

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN: COLLECTION CENTER FOR KARAKUL PELTS

On March 27th, 2000, HSUS investigators, led by Rick Swain, chief investigator for The HSUS, arrived in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. They had traveled from Moscow accompanied by a furrier and translator with whom they had established prior contact. In Tashkent they traveled by hired car to a tannery and collection place for karakul lamb pelts. The tannery consisted of several buildings situated around a central courtyard. Inside one building, investigators documented thousands of dried pelts from lambs destroyed at various stages of development, from fetal to newly born.

BUKHARA, UZBEKISTAN: KARAKUL FARM AND SLAUGHTER FACILITY

The next day, investigators and their guides flew to Bukhara, the “motherland” of karakul fur-sheep breeding. On March 29th they traveled to a karakul farm and slaughter plant, just outside the town of Bukhara. A plant manager offered to guide them on a tour of the farm and slaughter facility.

As they walked towards the slaughter facility, they passed a separate, fenced enclosure containing an ewe with a newborn lamb. Videotape captures the translators’s guileless comments: “The mother is frightened... it is newly born, just born.”

Karakuls possess a strong flocking instinct and the ewes are very protective and attentive mothers, according to information about the breed published by Oklahoma State University’s Department of Animal Science.¹⁰ Investigators noted the strong bonds between mother sheep and their lambs throughout this investigation.

Further on, investigators passed a herd of approximately 150 karakul sheep. These were pregnant ewes corralled inside a fenced-in area near the farm and slaughter buildings. The plant manager explained that these sheep were scheduled to be slaughtered for karakulcha [broadtail] later that week. The farm maintains a total of 10,500 sheep and several hundred are slaughtered each week, he said.

At this particular farm, slaughter takes place inside a small, white cement structure with two blue doors.

The kill floor was located about ten feet inside the entrance. As we entered we could hear what sounded like the cries of lambs. A worker was skinning a dead lamb that was hanging from a hook. Against the far wall... was a pile of about twelve dead lambs...¹¹

One by one, the plant manager picked out several limp bodies from the pile, explaining the qualities of pelts from lambs slaughtered at different stages of development:

¹⁰ Department of Animal Science , Oklahoma State University, Breeds of Livestock: Karakul, <<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/BREEDS/SHEEP/>> 1996.

¹¹ HSUS Investigator’s Log, June 6, 2000.

Galach (phonetic) - 30 days before the natural birth... very smooth, like naked... used for handbags, swimsuits, hats, and gloves;

Karakulcha [broadtail] - somewhat later... [probably two weeks to ten days before the natural birth];

Karakul/ Karakulcha [broadtail]- somewhat later still... [probably ten days before the natural birth];

Karakul - the only one naturally born.



The plant manager explained that pregnant ewes are usually slaughtered after they have already produced three to five lambs. He then left the room to fetch an example of the last stage of karakul, a live lamb scheduled to be slaughtered later that day. Videotape shows the plant manager holding up the newborn lamb by the front legs.

“This is ‘sur-color’,” says the translator, “famous Bukhara Karakul.” The plant manager places the tiny animal on a shelf on which are arrayed several long knives, the tools of slaughter. The lamb’s fur is golden-brown with delicate, tight curls. He is small and frail, barely able to stand. He is taken away, and next, another “color sample”- this one black - is placed upon the shelf. He appears terrified as he stumbles about on his new legs. “Isn’t he cute? The poor thing,” says the translator.



Slaughter of a Pregnant Ewe for Karakulcha (Broadtail)

Moments later two workers enter the room hauling a pregnant ewe by her front and back legs. Graphic footage captures how she is slaughtered. There is no stunning, no attempt to use any “humane slaughter” techniques. The ewe is flopped onto the floor and held down on her back. She kicks with her legs in a vain attempt to flee. One worker controls the lower half of her body by stepping on it with his foot. The butcher makes a pass at her throat with a long knife. Her legs continue to kick as she struggles. The butcher slashes her throat once again, this time deeper. A fountain of blood gushes onto the floor around her. The butcher then twists her head all the way around, until it comes off in his hands.

Approximately two minutes after the sheep’s throat was cut, the workers picked up the now headless body by the legs and placed it on a wooden cradle-like structure... [V]igorous movement in the dead sheep’s abdomen, evidently the unborn lamb kicking, is visible in the videotape...

Workers pushed on the sheep’s abdomen several times. There was no further visible movement. About thirty seconds after the movement in the sheep’s abdomen stopped (or was no longer visible), the workers shackled and hoisted the sheep’s body and started skinning it...

After the skin was removed... another worker tore open the uterus and pulled out the lamb, holding it up for us to see. The worker then tossed the lamb [fetus] onto the floor and we left the kill area.¹²

HSUS investigators were next taken to an area where the “wet” (unprocessed) pelts are salted and laid out in the sun to dry for several days.

After they are skinned, the tiny carcasses of fetal and newborn lambs are disposed of as excess matter, too meager even for food.

¹² Ibid.

KARAKUL BREEDING

Studies of karakul sheep in Namibia have shown that this breed is capable of reproduction throughout the year.¹³ At the Bukhara farm visited by HSUS investigators, breeding takes place from late September to early October, and is accomplished by means of artificial insemination. Sheep are matched to produce the various desired colors. The exact date and time are recorded to ensure the most opportune time of slaughter. Normal gestation is approximately 150 days (five months).¹⁴

In 1995, the karakul flock in Uzbekistan stood at about 4 million animals, according to Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, a report issued by the Business Communication Centre of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In structure the flock consisted of: 60 per cent females; 20 per cent younger reserve animals; 15 per cent “condemned as defective”; and 3-4 per cent sire sheep. According to this report, the proportions in this flock structure are correct to maintain quality of the hides.¹⁵

13 H. E. Matter, “Sexualbiologische Perioden beim Karakulschaf,” Deutsche Tierärztliche Wochenschrift, 95 (1988), 174-178, and; H. Schaefer, “Untersuchungen am Haarkleid eintaegiger Karakullaemmer” [Investigations of the fleece of one-day-old karakul lambs - a review of ten years of research in Giessen], Deutsche Tierärztliche Wochenschrift, 82 (1975), 341-384.

14 HSUS Investigator’s Log, June 6, 2000. In a study of the reproductive biology of karakul sheep in Namibia, the duration of days of pregnancy was calculated at 149.2 ± 2.3 . H. E. Matter, “Sexualbiologische Perioden beim Karakulschaf,” Deutsche Tierärztliche Wochenschrift, 95 (1988): 174-178.

15 Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>>, November 1995.

PELT CHARACTERISTICS

Bukhara is famous for its “sur” color pelts. Bukhara sur is basically brown, but comes in about 10 different tints, from silver-bronze to golden, platinum and amber.¹⁶ Managers at the Bukhara facility showed investigators three shades of sur: silver, gold, and “sort of purplish.”¹⁷

Black coloration is most common. About 40 percent of the lambs have black pelts. These are generally stained black to enhance the richness of the color during processing. Black karakul sheep provide the genetic basis for all other colorations of pelts.¹⁸

Karakul also comes in dozens of gray-blue colorations, as well as pink and white shades. Shades of white are rare. Plant managers showed investigators one of their highly prized “antique-white” lambs. This animal’s slaughter date would be postponed in order to exploit her breeding potential.

Texture is the most important characteristic of broadtail and karakul pelts. The most valued qualities, such as durability, silkiness, and shape of curls are all concentrated in black karakul sheep.¹⁹ To preserve the gloss and curl of karakul fur, the lamb must be killed within a few days after birth.²⁰ In the fur trade, it is desirable that the curls be distributed uniformly. Pelts are matched for size of curl, pattern, luster, and other qualities.²¹ Broadtail (fetal lamb) pelts have no true curls. The hair is shorter than that of karakul, with a wavy, flat pattern. This texture is often described as ‘watered silk’ or ‘moiré’ (from the french word *moirer*, to water).

16 Ibid.

17 HSUS Investigator’s Log, June 6, 2000.

18 Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>> November 1995.

19 Ibid.

20 HSUS Investigator’s Log, June 6, 2000; Frank G. Ashbrook, “Sheep and lambs,” Furs: Glamorous and Practical (Toronto, New York, and London: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1954), 29; Agnes C. Laut, “Fur farming for broadtail, Persian lamb, Astrakhan and Krimmer,” The Fur Trade of America (New York: Macmillan Co., 1921), 68.

21 Frank G. Ashbrook, “Sheep and lambs,” Furs: Glamorous and Practical (Toronto, New York, and London: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1954), 29.

BREED CHARACTERISTICS AND HISTORY

The karakul may be the oldest of all domesticated sheep breeds. Archeological evidence indicates the existence of karakul lamb skins as early as 1400 B.C.²² The breeding of sheep inhabiting the oasis of Bukhara formed the basis of development for the “fur-bearing” karakul sheep breed. The sheep takes its name from Kara-Kul, “the black lake,” a village in Bukhara.²³ The Bukharan oasis is a region of high altitude with scant desert vegetation and a limited water supply.

Karakuls are able to survive great extremes of heat and cold, from +115 to -33°F (+46 to -36°C), and can drink the highly salted water found in over 80 per cent of the pastures in Uzbekistan.²⁴ These sheep are sometimes called “broadtail” or “fat-tail sheep,” because they store fat in their tails, an adaptation to survival in a harsh environment. Karakul forage up to 22 miles each day in search of food and water.²⁵

Over time, karakul shepherding spread to other parts of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan. In the 20th century, karakul sheep were sold for breeding in Russia, the Ukraine, and Moldova, as well as South West Africa and Argentina.²⁶ In the United States, karakuls were introduced for pelt production between 1908 and 1929. However, breeding stock was low, and U.S. breeders, in their eagerness to produce large quantities of pelts, introduced other breeds into the bloodlines. This resulted in pelts of inferior quality and eventually the industry and the flocks were dispersed.²⁷ One source has called karakul the “ecological pelt,” because the grazing habits of the sheep are supposedly less damaging to the environment than those of other breeds.²⁸

22 Department of Animal Science , Oklahoma State University, Breeds of Livestock: Karakul, <<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/BREEDS/SHEEP/>> 1996.

23 Agnes C. Laut, “Fur farming for broadtail, Persian lamb, Astrakhan and Krimmer,” The Fur Trade of America (New York: Macmillan Co., 1921), 70.

24 Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>>, November 1995.

25 GlobaLearn.com Corporation (Cambridge, MA), Karakul, <<http://www.globalearn.com/>>, 1995-2000.

26 Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>>, November 1995.

27 Department of Animal Science , Oklahoma State University, Breeds of Livestock: Karakul, <<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/BREEDS/SHEEP/>> 1996.

28 Iafrika.com.na (Namibia, Africa), “Made in Namibia - Swakara,” Travel News Namibia, <<http://www.travelnews.com.na/made-in-Namibia/swakara.html>>, 1998.

PRODUCTION

The major areas of karakul and broadtail pelt production are Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Namibia. Major consumers in the world market are France, Italy, Germany, Scandinavia and the U.S.²⁹ In the mid-1990s, world karakul production was approximately 4-5 million pelts, down from 7 million in the 1980s, and 10 million in the 1970s.³⁰ For purposes of comparison, the table below shows the volume of karakul production in the 1980s and 1990s, side-by-side with that of mink and fox. Statistics for mink and fox are approximate range figures from data given by Oslo Fur Auctions. Figures for karakul are taken from the Tashkent Business Communication Centre's 1995 report, Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan.

	<u>World Karakul / Broadtail Production</u>	<u>World Fox Production</u>	<u>World Mink Production</u>
1990s	4 - 5 million	2.5 - 4.9 million	21 - 29 million
1980s	7 million	3.7 - 5.8 million	30 - 42 million

According to these statistics, the volume of karakul production has been fairly comparable to that of fox, perhaps slightly higher. Compared to mink production, it stands at approximately one-fifth to one-sixth the volume.

²⁹ Business Communication Centre (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Karakul Industry in Uzbekistan, <<http://www.bcc.com.uz/sectstud/karakuff.html>>, November 1995.

³⁰ Ibid.

RECENT FASHION TRENDS

Despite an apparent decline in broadtail/ karakul production through the early 1990s, anti-fur activists still have reason for alarm. Broadtail and karakul have become very popular in recent years, with scores of top designers incorporating it into their ready-to-wear collections because it's so lightweight and comfortable. It's showing up everywhere in runway fashion shows -- not just in coats -- but in trims, skirts and suits. Broadtail, persian lamb, swakara, astrakhan, and karakul fashions - all from the very same animal - are mentioned everywhere in the fashion press in recent years.

According to one fashion report, "although mink is still the number one fur in the world there are others... which are finding favour. Astrakhan [karakul] and persian lamb [karakul]... [etc.]... are all popular."³¹ Miuccia Prada and Carolina Herrera use broadtail in vests, cardigans, and suits.³² Michael Kors uses it for skirts and coats.³³ Karl Lagerfeld has created "Persian lamb **coats as thin as felt**"³⁴ - **and probably broadtail**. Claudio Merazzi, a boot and shoe designer, uses Persian lamb in a pair of his high boots.³⁵ Even Ralph Lauren, not known for fur in his collections, has designed a strapless broadtail dress, plus jackets and pants.³⁶ The list of designers using broadtail and karakul goes on and on and on.³⁷

Major retailers of karakul and broadtail in the United States include Macy's, Bloomingdales, Lord & Taylor, Nieman Marcus, Nordstroms, Saks Fifth Avenue, Dolce & Gabbana, and Fendi. In London, no major retail chains have been found to carry this fur. But it can be found at several fur boutiques, including Ivan Furs, Paul Helfgott, and Calman Links in London's fashionable Knightsbridge area.³⁸

The list of celebrities spotted wearing broadtail or karakul includes Madonna, Lisa Marie Presley, and Ivana Trump.³⁹

31 Western Daily Press, Feb. 11, 2000, 7.

32 New York Times, Feb. 22, 200, B9; Detroit Free Press, Feb. 19, 2000; International Herald Tribune, Feb.,23, 2000, 23.

33 Women's Wear Daily, Feb 10, 2000, 6.

34 In Style, Dec.1999, Vol. 6 No. 13, 119.

35 Footwear News, Feb 14, 200, 31.

36 Times Picayune, Feb. 13, 2000, E1.

37 See Appendix A for designers using broadtail and karakul.

38 London's Gucci and Christian Dior boutiques do not carry broadtail and karakul, even though it is carried by these companies at stores in other countries. Pers. Conv., E. Bob with shop clerks, June-July, 2000.

39 See Appendix B.

AUCTIONS/ PRICING

Karakul and Broadtail pelts are sold at auctions around the world, including Frankfurt Karakul Sales, Deutsche Auktions- und Handelsgesellschaft (Leipzig), Copenhagen Fur Centre, Finnish Fur Sales and MEXA (Moscow). At a Copenhagen Fur Centre auction held on June 19, 2000 in Copenhagen, Denmark, a total of 24,064 black Swakara pelts from Namibia and the Republic of South Africa were offered. "Buying was well spread amongst the European buyers with Italy once again being the main buyer." The average price per pelt in Danish Kroner was DKK 186.11 (approximately US \$23.38).⁴⁰

The average price for various colors of Afghan karakul at Copenhagen's February 2000 auction ranged from US \$10.00-14.90. At their December 1999 auction, brown swakara averaged \$11.90, black \$26.90, and grey \$28.50. Grey broadtail averaged \$24.00 and black \$27.10.⁴¹

At an auction held by Finnish Fur Sales in December 2000, some 500,000 broadtail and karakul skins were offered and 80% were sold under strong competition. Over 350,000 of these were "standard" karakul, "but it was the broadtail group that set records." Over 120,000 broadtail were auctioned at \$19 to \$70 per pelt; over 90% were sold.⁴²

HSUS investigators counted 30 pelts in one full-length, black karakul coat, manufactured by a factory they infiltrated in Moscow. A karakul or Persian lamb coat sells for \$5,000 to \$12,000, depending on quality. The price of a broadtail outfit is upwards of \$25,000. A fine mink coat retails at anywhere from \$10,000 to \$50,000, the price varying widely according to quality. A fox fur coat retails at anywhere from \$2,000 to \$7,000.⁴³

40 AGRA Pelssentrum, "Report," Pelssentrum Swakara, June 19, 2000.

41 Copenhagen Fur Centre, "February Auction 2000," <<http://www.cfc.dk/202/ukfeb00.htm>> and "December Auction 1999," <<http://www.cfc.dk/201/ukdec99.htm>>.

42 Sandy Parker Reports, Weekly International Fur News, Vol. 24, No. 39.

43 Furs.com. 1999. Price Schedule. <<http://www.furworld.com/price.html>>.

CONCLUSION

Despite an overall reduction in broadtail and karakul production since the 1970s, anti-fur activists still have reason for alarm. The widespread popularity of this fur may indicate an upswing in its production. The public has been misled to believe that this fur is entirely a by-product of the meat industry. In reality these animals are killed for fashion not food. This investigation documents the suffering, inhumane slaughter, and waste of lives behind broadtail and karakul fashions. It is hoped that this investigation will convince retailers and caring consumers that the slaughter of these farmed animals is every bit as cruel, grotesque, and inexcusable as that of any other fur-bearing animals.

Designers/ Companies Using Broadtail and Karakul

This list was developed from fashion reports (1998-2000) in international newspapers.

Karakul

(a.k.a. Astrakhan, Persian Lamb, Swakara)

Joseph Abboud
 Victor Alfaro
 Antonio Ansaldo
 Dennis Basso
 Sherry Cassin
 Donald Deal
 Louis Dell'Olio
 Christian Dior
 Dolce & Gabbana
 Louis Feraud
 Eric Gaskins
 Anne Dee Goldin
 Givenchy
 Gucci
 Kenzo
 Michael Kors
 Krizia
 Karl Lagerfeld (for Fendi)
 Antonio Marras
 MaxMara
 Mattiolo
 Claudio Merazzi
 Karen Millen
 Angela Missoni
 Mondri
 Alexander McQueen
 Nijole
 Marni (sold in Nordstrom)
 Angela Missoni
 Albert Nipon
 Miuccia Prada
 Rampage (sportswear house)
 Narcisco Rodriguez (for Goldin-Feldman)
 Rodo
 Anna Sui
 TSE
 Emanuel Ungaro
 Koos Van den Akker (for Alixandre Furs)
 Yves Saint Laurent
 Zuki

Broadtail

(a.k.a. breitschanz)

Badgley & Mischka
 Manolo Blahnik
 Dennis Basso
 Celine
 Oscar de la Renta
 Christian Dior
 Louis Dell'Olio (for Androu)
 Christian Dior
 Fendi
 Gianfranco Ferre
 John Galliano (for Stallion Furs)
 Eric Gaskins (for Miller & Berkowitz)
 Jean Paul Gaultier
 Carolina Herrera
 Michael Kors
 Karl Lagerfeld
 Ralph Lauren
 J. Mendel (at Bergdorf Goodman)
 Miller & Berkowitz
 Neiman Marcus (sells broadtail in their store)
 Matt Nye
 Guillaume Poupert
 Miuccia Prada
 Angel Sanchez
 George Simonton
 Jerry Sorbara
 Zang Toi
 Valentino
 Gianni Versace
 Zuki
 Giuliana Teso - Italian designer who does a lot of broadtail. Retailers in Neiman Marcus

CELEBRITY BROADTAIL/ KARAKUL-WEARERS

Ivana Trump, wearing a grey suit of broadtail... said she didn't like the [PETA] protest at all. "I'm against using endangered animals and of course I'd never wear fur of that nature." Calgary Herald, Feb. 10, 2000.

Madonna in what appears to be a Persian lamb coat. Photo People magazine. furs.com. <http://www.pelz.com/FUR/FurAge109.html>.

Lisa Marie Presley in fox-trimmed Persian lamb, from a recent Versace ad campaign in Italian Vogue. furs.com. <http://www.pelz.com/FUR/FurAge109.html>.

Sean "Puffy" Combs, a rap star turned fashion designer does preppy and pimp styles. On Combs' runway, the Wall Street type, in black cashmere coat with Persian lamb collar... shares runway with the street hustler. Marisa Fox, "Designers Sing a Soprano Tune for Fall," Chicago Tribune, Feb. 7, 2000.

Even *Ralph Lauren*, not known for his fur collections, has designed a strapless broadtail dress, plus jackets and pants. Times Picayune, Feb. 13, 2000, E1.

Apart from several fleeced Persian lambs, *Anna Sui's* collection was fur-free. The Independent (London), Feb. 11, 2000.

Alexander McQueen, in fact, tends to use fur only occasionally for his own-label designs, though it is a mainstay of his collections for Givenchy. Last night's smorgasbord included rabbit, sheepskin and broadtail (a kind of lambskin) – but these are by-products of other industries rather than pelts farmed expressly for use in fashion. The Evening Standard (London), Feb. 16, 2000.