

MAKE FUR HISTORY



ANIMAL WELFARE PROBLEMS ON FUR FARMS

Mink and foxes, the main species of animals reared in fur factory farms, are active wide-ranging carnivores and inherently unsuitable to be kept in wire mesh battery cages.

THE BEHAVIOURAL NEEDS OF ANIMALS KEPT FOR FUR CANNOT BE MET ON FUR FARMS:

- Animals kept for fur have been subjected to relatively little active selection for tameness and adaptability to captive environments.¹
- Mink and foxes are highly inquisitive and wide-roaming predatory animals.
- The recognition of the inherent welfare problems of fur farming has resulted in legislation to end fur production in more than 20 countries in Europe.



MINK IN THE WILD:

- Daily cover territories between 1 and 3 square kilometers²
- Are solitary animals
- Semi-aquatic, swimming is a highly significant aspect of their lifestyle³
- Do not exhibit stereotypies (repetitive movements such as pacing)⁴



MINK ON FUR FARMS:

- Are confined in a wire mesh battery cage typically measuring 90x30x45 cm
- Are housed with other mink, unable to avoid social contact
- Cannot run, swim or hunt for food
- Deprivation of swimming water results in the same stress level as deprivation of food⁵



FOXES IN THE WILD:

- Have complex social lives, form pairs and live in family groups⁶
- Dig dens underground with complex tunnel systems
- Red foxes (territory 0.5-10km²) can cover 10 km daily and arctic foxes (home range 20-30 km²) migrate 100 km seasonally⁷



FOXES ON FUR FARMS:

- Kept solitary in battery cages measuring 0.8–1.2 square meter⁸
- Prevented from engaging in natural social interactions
- Denied the opportunity to run, dig, explore or hunt for food, which causes stereotypies⁹

The cramped and monotonous battery cage system causes severe welfare problems.

Stress-related behavioral issues, such as stereotypies and self-injury, are inherent to fur farming and are a sign of extremely poor animal welfare.^{10,11,12} Other common serious health problems on fur farms are bent feet, reproductive failure, obesity and infanticide.^{13,14,15}

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Welfur™, the industry-led animal welfare assessment scheme, fails to adequately address the significant welfare problems caused by the confinement of animals to battery cage systems on fur farms.

The Welfur protocols do not address the small cage sizes nor the inhumane handling and killing methods.

THE BATTERY CAGE SYSTEM ON FUR FARMS HAS REMAINED LARGELY UNCHANGED OVER THE YEARS.

2001

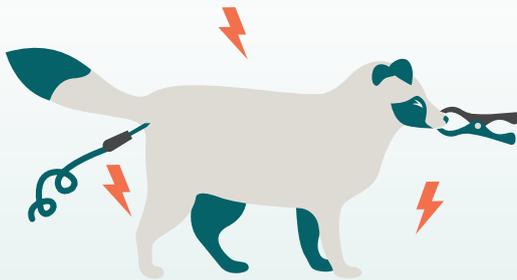
“Current husbandry systems **cause serious problems** for all species of animals reared for fur.”

European Commission’s Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

2015

“The animal welfare in fur farming has shown **little improvement over the last 15 years**, despite the use of disproportionately large official resources both on research and inspection.”

Norwegian Veterinary Association



AN INHUMANE DEATH

To preserve the pelts, animals on fur farms are commonly killed by **gassing** and **head-to-tail electrocution**, methods that have been condemned by eminent veterinary and welfare bodies as inhumane.



“Killing mink with CO2 should be avoided, and humane methods developed.”

(SCAHAW, 2001)

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