

Press release

The Zurich Animal Protection Association warns against buying fur stemming from wild animal farms and trapping

Beware of real fur!

As soon as temperatures drop, shelves in stores begin to fill up with warm and cozy merchandise. But beware; if a jacket or an accessory is trimmed with real fur, then this is because animals suffered. There is no such thing as a species-appropriate holding of fur animals or traps that do not harm or hurt animals. Therefore, you should refrain from buying any such products!

Zurich, November 1, 2007. – Fur lining in gloves? Soft and warm. No wonder – the fur was meant to protect its bearer, a raccoon, from the wet and cold of winter. We humans also appreciate warming material. But we also like to block out that an animal was kept under unworthy circumstances and had to die for the fur product.

In part, the textile industry also processes the fur of cattle and sheep. This is of less concern, because as a rule, strict regulations govern the holding and killing of useful or farm animals so that much abuse can thus be prevented. However, “classic” wild fur animals such as raccoons, silver foxes, sables, minks, raccoon dogs, and many more have beautiful, warm and silky fur. Rabbits held on foreign fur farms, also suffer. And it is precisely such fur and skin that humans covet so much.

Wild animals: Species-appropriate holding is impossible

Based on the way of life of wild animals, it is not possible to hold them in a species-appropriate manner, at least not for commercial purposes. According to Bernhard Trachsel, zoologist and managing director of the Zurich Animal Protection Association: „Wild animals require a lot of space, behavior-appropriate enclosure structures, and management in line with their natural requirements. Holding on fur farms is not able to meet these requirements. A mink in the wild, for instance, is a loner that occupies territories of up to 25km² where the animals hunt and swim – conditions that cannot be offered to them in captivity.“

Time and again, consumers are led to believe that there is such a thing as animal-appropriate fur. According to Trachsel: „This is all wrong and no more than propaganda: with the exception of individual Swiss foxes that hunters shoot to control populations, fur animals are held and killed under torturous circumstances.“ In breeding farms abroad, the animals are held in cramped spaces. Because of the mesh wire floors, inappropriate food, and permanent boredom, the animals are permanently in agony. In addition, they are submitted to unnatural conflicts with their conspecifics, loners such as minks or Artic foxes are suddenly forced to live together in tiny cramped spaces. Often, the animals hurt each other, because they are unable to withdraw. The animals are killed in a no less agonizing manner. We know that in China, animals are even skinned alive. The fur of trapped wild animals is no alternative either. Animal suffering for hours or even days prior to a torturous death are the rule in trapping.

Hands off real fur

Therefore, it is all the more important that consumers refrain strictly from buying real fur accessories or winter clothing with real fur trimming or lining. Only this will help to avoid the unnecessary torture or killing of wild animals.

Various Swiss department store chains have already set good examples: Jelmoli, Manor, Coop, Schild, C&A, and Intersport, for instance, no longer produce or sell products with real fur since 2007. The international fashion chains Zara, Mango, and H&M have not produced or sold any real fur products for quite a while already.

See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil - Campaign of the Zurich Animal Protection Association

Once again, this year, the Zurich Animal Protection Association has launched an extensive campaign to combat the torturous holding and killing of fur animals and the use of real fur by the clothing industry. „See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil“ is to demonstrate to consumers what they already know but often do not want to accept: There is no such thing as an animal-appropriate, commercial holding of fur animals.

The campaign with posters in streetcars and movie theater commercials will begin soon.

Find further information on the topic on: www.pelzinfo.ch

Questions? Bernhard Trachsel, Managing Director of the Zurich Animal Protection Association can be reached under tel. 044 261 97 14 or btrachsel@zuerchertierschutz.ch