

Fur Free Oregon - Info Sheet



Oregon is a leader in humane legislation and will continue this trend with a statewide fur ban

Oregon ranks as one of the top states in enacting laws that protect animals against unnecessary cruelty. For example, Oregon has championed laws against hound hunting and baiting of black bears and has cracked down on puppy mills.¹ A statewide fur sale ban will continue Oregon's history and commitment to improving animal welfare. The legislation would make it illegal to sell new fur products in the state of Oregon, based on similar legislation passed in California passed in 2019.² The ban penalizes retailers in violation of the law with a monetary fine. The ban does not cover the purchasing, owning, or wearing of fur products. By decreasing the demand for this cruel and environmentally destructive product, we can create a more humane Oregon.

Key Exemptions of the proposed legislation:

- Leather, deerskin, lambskin
- Used fur
- Fishing lures
- Cultural and spiritual use by Native Americans
- Non-profits
- Taxidermy

Cruelty To Animals

- Each year, hundreds of millions of animals are killed in the global fur trade, including rabbits, mink, foxes, coyotes, chinchillas, rabbits, seals, dogs, and cats. Roughly 85% of animals killed for fur are raised on fur factory farms, with the remainder trapped in the wild.³
- Mink and foxes are wild animals with vast territorial ranges. Confined in tiny cages and unable to engage in any natural behaviors causes stress and boredom, leading to frantic pacing and self-mutilation.^{4,5}
- Common methods of killing animals on fur farms are anal electrocution, suffocation, and neck-breaking, while trapped animals are often either shot or bludgeoned.^{4,5}
- In the wild, mink can live up to ten years. On fur farms, they are slaughtered at 6 months old.⁵
- Most of the world's fur comes from China, where there are no legal protections for animals raised for fur.^{3,4}
- Read a first-hand account of what it is like to grow up on a mink farm in this [op-ed by Scott Beckstead](#).⁶

Environmental Impact

- Like other forms of animal agriculture, fur farming and fur processing is resource intensive and causes water, soil, and air pollution.⁷
- The documentary [The Farm in My Backyard](#) shows how one community's water source was polluted by runoff from mink factory farms.⁸
- According to the World Bank, fur dressing (the use of chemicals to prevent rotting) is one of the world's five worst industries for toxic metal pollution.⁹
- The European Commission considers air pollution to be one of the chief environmental concerns of the tanning process.⁷

Public Health

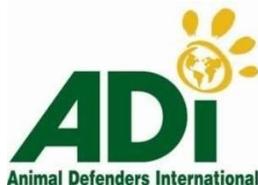
- COVID-19 has been detected in mink or workers on fur farms in Oregon¹⁰, Utah¹¹, Michigan¹², and Wisconsin¹³ as well as hundreds of fur farms in Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy and Spain, resulting in the culling of millions of mink.
- Mink are particularly susceptible to the virus, and are able to infect humans, leading to concerns that fur farms could become reservoirs for the disease.¹⁵
- Mutated forms of the virus have been transmitted back and infected 200 humans, raising fears that mink farms could negatively impact the effectiveness of a vaccine for humans.¹⁴

Economic Impact

- Since there is no sales tax in Oregon, there will be no impact on tax revenue.
- Stores will be given a phase-out period of approximately one year to sell existing stock.
- There are no dedicated fur stores operating in Oregon and for the few stores that do sell fur, it makes up a small fraction of their inventory for sale.
- Most fur sold in the U.S. comes from Canada and China; local fur farms won't be affected since they mostly sell to China.
- Top designers and retailers nationwide are dropping fur. It is time for our laws to catch up.

Support for Fur Free Oregon

A coalition of not-for-profit organizations support Oregon in joining the dozens of retailers, designers, fashion houses, the state of California, and the city of Wellesley MA, in prohibiting the sale of fur apparel. These organizations have significant membership in Oregon and include The Humane Society of the United States, Lewis & Clark Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, In Defense of Animals, Animal Defenders International, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Direct Action Everywhere, and the Oregon chapter of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association.¹⁶



For more info visit <https://compassionatepdx.org/furfreeoregon/>

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