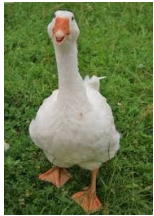


## What about Silk?

Silkworms make their cocoons from a shiny fiber that they produce. To obtain silk, the worms are boiled or steamed alive by the thousands. Alternatives include rayon and nylon.



## What about Down?



Down is the soft feathers of ducks and geese. Most birds used for down live on factory farms and must endure rough handling throughout their lives and especially when they have their feathers ripped from their chests during pluckings. A goose may live through four or five pluckings before he or she is slaughtered. When it becomes more expensive to keep the animals than their feathers are worth, the animals are killed. **Synthetic alternatives** to down are cheaper and perform better at blocking the cold than feathers. When wet, down becomes water-logged and fails to insulate and remain comfortable. Make sure to avoid down when buying jackets, comforters, sleeping bags, and pillows.

## Ten Fast Fur Facts:

1. More than 50 million animals are violently killed for use in fashion every year.
2. Methods used to kill animals for their fur include gassing, electrocution, and neck breaking. Fur-bearing animals are also caught and killed in barbaric body-gripping traps.
3. Neither fur nor fur trim is a byproduct of the meat industry. Rabbit fur is often falsely identified as a byproduct of meat production. The truth is, few rabbit skins are obtained from slaughterhouses, which more often dispose of the undesirable pelts of rabbits bred to make meat. Fur comes from animals who are factory-farmed or trapped purely for fashion.
4. The fur trim market is an equal, if not greater, threat to animals than is the making of fur coats. Fur trim is not what's "left over" from making full-length fur coats. Thousands of animals are killed simply to provide trimming effects for fashion. Even purchasing the tiniest bit of fur trim supports the cruel fur industry.
5. Garment or accessory labels cannot always be relied upon to accurately identify the type of animal fur used in an item. Err on the side of caution and compassion by not buying items that you cannot verify are fur-free.

6. Many European countries have banned or are in the process of phasing out some or all fur farming based largely on the understanding that it is impossible to raise furbearing animals in captive conditions that adequately ensure their welfare while maintaining financial viability.

7. Fur "farms" or "ranches" are not humane alternatives to trapping. The terms are euphemisms used by the fur industry to describe confinement facilities in which fur-bearing animals are caged and killed. Currently, there are no federal laws providing protection for the millions of animals held in these factory-like farms.

8. Seals are still being clubbed and brutally slain for their fur. The Canadian seal hunt is the world's largest remaining commercial slaughter of marine mammal; close to a million harp seals were authorized to be killed between 2003 and 2005. The use of seal fur in fashion is a contributor to this massacre.

9. Although historically, the fur trade played a role in the development of the early North American economy, tradition never justifies abuse. There are many cultural practices once seen as acceptable that are now viewed as horrific relics of a more brutal time.

10. The fur industry is a threat to our environment and wildlife, contributing to higher energy costs, pollution, land destruction, and reductions in populations of wild animals, including endangered and threatened species who may be accidentally trapped and killed.

**Flyer Resources: Action For Animals**  
[afa-online.org](http://afa-online.org) & **Born Free USA** [BornFreeUSA.org](http://BornFreeUSA.org)  
**Alternative Fur & Wool options:** [Fabulousfurs.com](http://Fabulousfurs.com)  
**To donate your furs visit:** [CoatsForCubs.com](http://CoatsForCubs.com)

**For more information to  
help animals visit:  
[AnimalActionNetwork.org/flyers](http://AnimalActionNetwork.org/flyers)**

**AnimalActionNetwork.org**



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# ANIMALS

are not

# FABRIC



Having fur means **death** for me!  
NO ONE should **die** for vanity!

## Caged, how they live:

Animals, mostly wildlife, who are raised to become fur coats spend their days exposed to severe weather elements in row after row of barren, tiny, urine-and-feces-encrusted cages. They constantly circle and pace from stress and boredom. Some animals mutilate themselves or cannibalize cage mates.

## How they suffer:

During the summer, hundreds of thousands of animals endure searing heat and suffer from dizziness and vomiting before dying of heat exhaustion. Babies succumb fastest. In the winter, caged animals have nowhere to seek refuge from freezing temperatures, rain, sleet and snow.

## How they die:

No federal law protects animals on fur farms. Farmers often kill animals by **anal or genital electrocution**, which causes them to experience a heart attack while fully conscious. Other killing methods include neck-breaking, poisoning, and suffocation. Often animals are merely stunned and then skinned alive.

## Trapped by greed, skinned for vanity:

Trappers kill 10 million fur-bearing animals with various cruel devices, most often traps that slam shut on animals' limbs. The animals frantically struggle in excruciating pain as the trap jaws cut into flesh, often to the bone, mutilating the foot or leg.

## Their desperation:

Many animals, especially mothers desperate to get back to their young, fight so vigorously that they attempt to chew or twist off their trapped limb. Victims of water-set traps, including beavers and muskrats, can take up to 20 agonizing minutes to drown.

## Horror of traps:

Animals caught in pole traps are hoisted into the air and left to hang by the caught appendage until they die or the trapper arrives to kill them. Conibear traps crush animals' necks, applying 90 pounds of pressure per square inch. It takes **three to eight minutes to suffocate** in these traps.