

Dogs and cats are considered "TRASH KILL":

Every year, dogs, cats, birds, and other animals (including endangered species) are crippled or killed by traps. Trappers call these animals "trash kills" because they have no economic value.

Many of these animals are skinned alive!

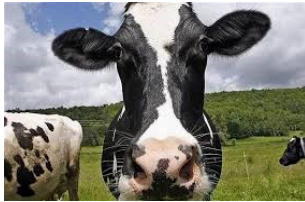
"Fur" Animals get no relief from freezing cold, searing heat, agonizing traps, or terrifying death. We have a choice, they do not.

The price the animals pay must be measured in DEATHS not dollars:

To make **ONE (1)** fur coat you must kill at least **fifty-five (55)** wild mink or thirty-five **(35)** ranch mink or forty **(40)** sables or eleven **(11)** lynx or eighteen **(18)** red foxes or eleven **(11)** silver foxes or **one hundred (100)** chinchillas or thirty **(30)** rex rabbits or nine **(9)** beavers or thirty **(30)** muskrats or fifteen **(15)** bobcats or twenty-five **(25)** skunks or fourteen **(14)** otters or **one hundred twenty-five (125)** ermines or thirty **(30)** possums or one hundred **(100)** squirrels or twenty-seven **(27)** raccoons.

What about Leather?

After pigs and cows have suffered the crowding, confinement, mutilations, stressful transport, and frightening slaughter by the meat and dairy industries, their skins are made into shoes, boots, belts, gloves, and furniture covers. Skin accounts for more than 55 percent of the total byproduct value of cattle. Horses, sheep, lambs, and goats are also slaughtered for their meat, as well as for their hides. Many people believe that leather is just a byproduct of the meat industry and that animals are not killed solely for their skin, but this is not the case. Much of the leather in athletic shoes, for example, comes from kangaroos, who are killed for nothing more than their skin. Animals in other countries also suffer for leather sold in the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe. India is a major leather supplier to the world market. While being herded to slaughter in India, cows have hot chili peppers and tobacco rubbed into their eyes, and their tail bones are painfully twisted and broken in order to make the cows stand up and keep moving. Many of the Indian animals used for leather are so sick and injured by the time they arrive at the slaughterhouse that they must be dragged inside. **Leather production is hazardous to the**



environment. Toxins that are emitted from leather tanneries endanger human and ecological health by polluting regional waterways with mineral salts, formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, oils, dyes, salt, lime sludge, sulfides, and acids. Residents of tannery towns have a greater-than-average chance of developing leukemia, and more than half of all tannery workers develop testicular cancer. The leather industry uses an enormous amount of energy. Huge amounts of fossil fuels are consumed in raising, transporting, and killing the animals that are skinned for leather. Synthetics such as fleece and vinyl actually require fewer petroleum products to produce. **Alternatives to leather are available.** Most cars are available without leather interiors, though BMW and Mercedes are the only luxury cars to offer non-leather interiors on all of their models. Pleather (fake leather) jackets are available, or try fashionable Gore-Tex or fleece. Nylon, canvas, vinyl, or pleather can replace leather in bags and briefcases. Most running shoes and many cross-trainers are all-synthetic. Look for "all man-made materials" on the tag. Some shoes also have a sticker on the insole with symbols. Diamonds and checkerboard shapes mean plastic and cloth, respectively. If you see a drawing that looks like a stretched animal hide, the shoes contain leather.

What about Wool?

U.S. textile mills use nearly four times more imported than domestically produced wool. Much of it comes from Australia. With 118 million sheep, Australia is the world's top wool producer and exporter. Within weeks of birth, lambs' ears are hole-punched, and the males are castrated without anesthetics. Extremely high rates of mortality are considered normal on Australian wool farms. 20 to 40 percent of lambs die before the age of 8 weeks, and 8 million mature sheep die every year from disease, exposure, or neglect. Australian ranchers mainly raise Merino sheep, who are not native to Australia and therefore do not fair well in the harsh conditions. Merinos are bred to have extremely wrinkly skin (which allows for more wool). This unnatural overload of wool causes animals to die of heat exhaustion during summers. The wrinkles collect moisture, which attracts flies and results in maggot infestation known as "fly strike." Maggots can literally eat sheep alive, so in order to reduce fly strike, ranchers perform a crude operation known as "mulesing." Mulesing involves carving wide strips of skin from around the lambs' tails to produce smooth scars that won't harbor fly larvae.



Tail docking (cutting off the sheep's tails) is often done in conjunction with mulesing to reduce feces and urine stains on the wool. Both mutilations are currently performed without the use of anesthesia; however, a new drug called Tri-Solfen is being introduced to reduce pain during mulesing. Unfortunately, the maker of the drug, Bayer, tests the product and many of its other products on animals. Ironically, because of the large bloody wounds caused by mulesing and tail docking, sheep often get fly strike before they heal. According to Australian Law Reform chairperson M.D. Kirby, each year, Australian sheep endure more than 50 million operations, such as mulesing and tooth-grinding, that would constitute animal cruelty if performed on dogs or cats. Many people believe that shearing brings relief to animals that would otherwise be too hot. This is true if done in the summer, but in order to avoid losing any wool, ranchers shear sheep before they would naturally shed their winter coats, resulting in many sheep deaths from exposure to the cold. When sheep are no longer profitable for wool production, they are slaughtered. They are exported in 14-tiered ships from Australia to the Middle East, a three- to six-week trip during which up to 18 percent of the animals die from the cramped and filthy conditions. Millions of sheep endure this transport, after which they are ritually slaughtered while fully conscious, per year. Sheep exploited for wool in the U.S. also suffer from inhumane handling and transportation, and they too often face cruel ritual slaughter when they are no longer profitable to the wool industry. Sheep raised in the U.S. do not suffer the agony of live export to the Middle East, but they do suffer the same cruelties of wool production, including painful mutilations that are often done with little or no anesthesia. Most U.S.-raised sheep and lambs are either raised on factory farms, where they spend their entire lives in filthy, manure-filled warehouses, or they are raised "on the range" without any shelter from extreme weather conditions. Thousands of lambs and sheep die every year from harsh conditions. Thousands more die from transportation, during which sheep are severely overcrowded onto trucks. Sheep and lambs too weak to even stand are often abandoned on "dead piles" and left to die slowly from neglect. After a lifetime of producing wool, sheep are sent to slaughter. The U.S. slaughters 3 million sheep every year. There are many great **alternatives to wool.** You have a choice. Read the labels before you buy. Warm and fashionable sweaters made from cotton, fleece, acrylic, and ramie are readily available.