



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

SUPPORT Ordinance 02023-0002983: End the sale of new fur products in Chicago

By phasing out the sale of new fur products, we can increase community awareness of animal welfare, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment.

- This ordinance ends the sale of new fur products such as coats, hats, purses, and home accessories.
- It applies only to the sale of new fur products and does not apply to the sale of used fur products or other animal products used for clothing such as leather or wool.
- Retailers can continue to sell used fur products.
- It does not impact ownership of fur products or fur products used for religious or tribal purposes. Members of the public can continue to wear existing fur products.



Why do we need this ordinance?

- Ending the sale of new fur products is a commonsense policy embracing the modern demand for cruelty-free and environmentally friendly fashion while helping end the deeply disturbing and inhumane treatment of animals who spend their lives in cages and killed for nothing more than fur coats, hats, and trinkets.
- [Polling shows](#) that 71% of Americans oppose the killing of animals for fur.
- More than 100 million animals are killed each year for their fur, with over 90% being killed on large-scale fur farms. Most fur products come from China, where there are no animal welfare regulations for fur animals.
- Fur factory farms force undomesticated animals to live in cramped, wire-bottom cages, deprived the ability to engage in natural behaviors. Animals are killed in inhumane ways, such as anal electrocution or gassing.

What about the environmental and public health impact?

- Fur production has enormous environmental costs such as high energy consumption, pollution and animal emissions. On fur factory farms, waste runoff pollutes soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, such as chromium and formaldehyde.
- Fur farms are reservoirs for infectious diseases and possibly the next pandemic. Mink on nearly 500 fur farms across Europe and North America, including four U.S. states, tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Farmed mink are the only species known to [transmit COVID-19 to humans](#), and the mutations might reduce the efficacy of [vaccines](#).
- Phasing out the sale of new fur products will help drive demand for innovation leading to a more sustainable and cruelty-free future. Major fashion brands are now using faux fur made from plant-based or recycled materials that are more humane and sustainable than animal pelts.
- Multiple mink and fox fur factory farms in Europe have recently tested positive for highly pathogenic avian flu, sparking public health concerns. Foxes and raccoon dogs have also tested positive for coronaviruses.

What laws currently regulate the production or sale of fur?

- The welfare of animals in the global fur trade is largely unregulated. In the U.S., there are no federal laws protecting animals on fur farms or ensuring their welfare, and fur-bearing animals are not subject to humane slaughter laws. There are no required inspections for fur factory farms in the U.S.
- In 2019, California passed the first statewide phaseout of the sale of fur products, following similar legislation in four of its cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley and West Hollywood.
- Sixteen cities across the U.S. have passed legislation phasing out new fur sales. In 2021, Israel became the first country to end fur sales. The UK is currently looking to do the same.



Are there investigations showing typical conditions on fur farms?

- The following footage is from China, the source of the majority of fur products, and from Finland, which the fur industry commonly touts as a country with high welfare standards.
- We have significant documentation authenticating the veracity of our investigation videos and the horrendous animal cruelty recorded. The following are some examples of recent investigations:
 - [2021 fur farm investigation in Finland](#)
 - [2021 fur farm investigation in China](#)
 - [2020 fur farm investigation in Asia](#)

Is the fur industry certified or regulated to prevent animal cruelty?

- No. Most fur products sold in the U.S. come from China, where there is little to no enforcement of the country's already minimal welfare regulations for fur animals. In the U.S., there are no regulations or standards by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or state regulators addressing animal welfare on fur farms.
- Fur farming is largely unregulated in the U.S., which makes the tracking of fur farms extremely challenging.
- Claiming that fur farms are "certified" is the fur industry's attempt to greenwash animal cruelty by codifying existing abusive practices, which do not address the serious animal welfare problems inherent to the fur trade.

Will this impact Chicago retailers?

- Few Chicago retailers sell a significant amount of new fur products. Most fur is sold as small, cheap items like keychains on purses and poms on hats which can be replaced with humane, eco-friendly alternatives.
- This ban provides sufficient time for retailers to sell off their existing fur products.
- Stores can continue to sell leather, wool, pre-owned fur, and faux fur products as well as offer services, such as fur cleaning, fur storage and alteration/upcycling of fur garments.
- Local businesses can transition to eco-friendly faux fur options, maintaining their place in the community while offering products made from more modern, fur-free materials.
- Consumers' growing concern about the cruelty and environmental harm caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands to move away from animal fur once and for all.



Fur-free fashion companies

