



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of **Fur-Bearing Animals**

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Updated April 2010

## **Dog and Cat Fur Trade FAQ**

### **Is it true that some companies use dog and cat fur in their products?**

Yes. Undercover investigations in Asia have revealed a thriving and cruel dog and cat fur industry. Much of this fur is exported to other countries and is often falsely labeled as “rabbit fur” or it is not labeled at all. Dog and cat skin is used to create fur coats, fur trim on jackets, fur figurines, toys for our pets, accessories and other novelties.

### **Is cat and dog fur legal in Canada?**

Yes. It is legal to import dog and cat fur into Canada. And it is legal to sell dog and cat fur in Canada. It is also worth noting that all fur items sold in Canada are not required to be labelled.

### **How do I know if I am wearing cat or dog fur?**

You don't. The only way to know for sure is to have the DNA of your fur analyzed. This can be very expensive. But if you are concerned that you may be wearing a dog or cat, why wear the fur of *any* animal? After all, fur-bearing animals such as bobcats, lynx, wolves and coyotes are felines and canines too.

### **Doesn't fur in Canada have to be labelled?**

No. Under the Canadian Textile and Labelling Act, animal pelts or hides are not required to be labelled. Canadian textile regulations only require that the existence of fur fibres, once removed from the skin of an animal and woven with textile fibres, be declared on a label. In a July 2007 letter from Canada's Former Minister of Industry, Maxine Bernier says, “While I understand your concerns, I must inform you that there are currently no restrictions regarding animal identity labeling or the importation and sale of dog and cat fur products in Canada. Furthermore, Canada's Competition Bureau is responsible only for the *mislabelling* of fur. (Meaning, if someone voluntarily labels fur then it cannot legally be falsely labelled. However, the label can be as vague as “fur fibre”.)

### **How do I know the film footage of the dog and cat fur trade is real?**

Rick Swain, lead investigator for the Humane Society for the United States and is an ex-homicide detective and shot the film footage of the domestic dog and cat fur trade. For 18 months, he risked his life and made 4 separate trips to obtain the graphic footage. On November 28, 2005, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in London admitted the existence of dog and cat fur trade in China on BBC News, and cat and dog fur products are also available for purchase from a wide variety of online vendors. Clearly, a cat and dog fur industry exists.

### **Do you have proof that dog and cat fur products are here in Canada?**

The United States, Australia, Switzerland, and the European Union have all banned dog and cat fur because such products have been found in the international marketplace. It has been confirmed that China is the largest source of dog and cat fur, and China is also Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner. With all these countries closing their doors to dog and cat fur, it is reasonable to believe these items would be shipped to Canada where cat and dog fur remains legal.

### **Has any product been tested positive for dog/cat fur?**

Dog and cat fur products have been found in the United States and in the European Union. Fur-Bearer Defenders is currently working with the University of Guelph to test the DNA of fur samples found in Canada. Regardless of proof, it is obvious that Canadians want to ban dog and cat fur, and our laws should reflect these values.

### **Has anyone in Canada been accused of selling dog and cat fur?**

We have members calling from all over Canada telling us that they are almost certain an unlabelled fur product is made from dog or cat fur. Unfortunately with no laws governing the labelling of fur products, people have no way of confirming their suspicion.

### **The Vice President of Fur Council of Canada says that all fur stores label their pelts because it actually helps secure the prices of furs.**

The Fur Council of Canada is not an animal welfare group. They are proponents of the fur trade and have a clear and financial stake in this industry. The fur stores that the Fur Council speaks of are high-end retail fur stores, but many of the unlabelled fur products, like the fur trim on the hood of a winter parka, or the many fur-trimmed products or novelties found in department stores, dollar stores and gift shops. Many unsuspecting consumers purchase these fur-trimmed products thinking that it must be fake fur because the label doesn't say it's real.

### **Doesn't the Fur Council of Canada have a policy against dog and cat fur?**

The Fur Council of Canada has no legal authority of what fur items are imported into Canada or what fur items are being sold in department stores, dollar stores, corner stores and gift shops. The Fur Council of Canada is simply the marketing body for the Canadian fur industry.

### **What can people do to stop the cat and dog fur trade?**

Do not buy any fur no matter fake or real; tell your friends and family what's happening, talk to your neighbours, help distribute our brochures and posters, help get our video footage seen, write to your MPs.

For more information, please visit [furbearerdefenders.com](http://furbearerdefenders.com).

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