

**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION**

Ref: 193469

Date: January 14, 2021

**Title: Policy Approaches for fur farming in B.C.**

**Issue:** Recent infections of SARS-CoV-2 in workers and animals on two B.C. mink farms have renewed pressures by animal activists to end fur farming in B.C.

**Background:** On December 6, 2020, Fraser Health declared a SARS-COV-2 outbreak among workers and animals at a B.C. mink farm. Health and Work Safe B.C. orders restricting operations were issued to prevent the ongoing transmission of the virus. The Provincial Chief Veterinarian (PCV) also instituted a Quarantine Order (QO) under the *Animal Health Act* (AHA) on the impacted farm. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) activated its emergency response plans and instituted a virtual Incident Command Post to manage the response. On December 24, 2020, mink on a second farm tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and a QO for that farm was issued.

Following the first B.C. mink farm SARS-CoV-2 infection, the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) publicly called for an end to mink farming in B.C. Additionally, the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals and Pamela Anderson, a spokesperson for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), wrote Premier John Horgan calling for an end to B.C. fur farming. While the calls to end the fur farming industry have primarily focused on the welfare of mink, it is likely that the same welfare concerns would also apply to chinchillas. The lack of activist focus on chinchilla fur farming is likely because the industry is much smaller within Canada. Furthermore, while there are currently no fox fur farms in B.C. the same welfare concerns would in principle apply to those farms, and to all other fur farm animals.

AFF's current approach to fur farming is to acknowledge and regulate it as an acceptable farm practice in B.C. Other jurisdictions that allow fur farming are outlined in Appendix B. The primary legislative tools used to govern the industry are the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, the AHA, and the Fur Farm Regulation. The legislative and policy approach in B.C. to fur farm regulation is consistent with other Canadian provinces, while approaches to animal welfare regulations vary across provinces.

As a result of lobbying by animal activists and changing public opinions towards fur farming, some countries have instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals while other countries have banned or are considering banning fur farming altogether (see *Appendix A*). The global COVID-19 pandemic is significantly impacting the fur farming industry. Concerns regarding virus mutation have prompted calls for mink culls and an end to mink and fur farming internationally. Culls have already occurred in several European countries.

**First Nations Considerations:**

A ban on fur farming would not impact traditional Indigenous rights to hunting and trapping.

**Discussion:**

The worldwide fur farming industry is in a general decline as fur is less popular with many consumers. In B.C., the number of mink farms decreased from 17 licensed farms and 14 licensed operators in 2016 to 11 farms and seven operators in 2020. There is one chinchilla farm and no fox farms operating in B.C. The total revenue of the BC fur industry has declined approximately \$3 million per year from 2013 to 2019. Revenue from export sales were \$2,178,437 in 2019.

Despite industry decline, fur farms provide jobs for domestic workers; large farms employ 25-30 employees each while small farms employ 1-5 employees, depending on the season. Fur farming contributes to the recycling of food and animal by-product wastes, which are used to feed farmed mink.

The two primary concerns in renewed calls to end fur farming in B.C are a) the public and animal health implications of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms; and b) the animal welfare and ethical perspective of fur farming.

a) The public and animal health implications of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms

- Animal welfare organizations and some virologists are concerned about SARS-CoV-2 mutations on mink farms and the impact of a viral mutation on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.
- There is also concern for the health of the mink themselves, as mink can become sick and die when infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- The AHA is the primary legislative tool in B.C. to address the prevention and control of animal diseases. Under the AHA, the PCV has the authority to:
  - Establish quarantine and surveillance zones to minimize the risk of transmission or spread;
  - Declare an emergency if the reportable disease could have a serious impact on animal or public health; and
  - Order the slaughter of an animal(s) if it is affected by a reportable disease and the PCV believes preventative measures would be inadequate to protect animal or public health.
- Current scientific analysis indicates mutations occurring in farmed mink populations are not of concern. However, research does indicate that uncontrolled spread of the virus on mink farms could allow the virus to evolve and develop harmful mutations.
- Currently, the B.C. Ministry of Health (HLTH) considers the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from mink farms to be low for the general population, moderate for populations in areas of high mink farm density and high for employees at mink farms. There is still uncertainty around the risk mink farms pose as mutation reservoirs of the virus. This potential is currently under investigation by HLTH and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) are also actively reviewing the impact of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on mink farms on wildlife and environmental management. A wild mink found close to a fur farm with an active SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in Utah tested positive for the virus.
- FLNR is currently undertaking research on the wild mink populations in B.C. to evaluate the presence and threat of SARS-CoV-2.
- ENV is engaged in work on the management of and disposal of wastes from mink farms with SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks, specifically virus positive mink carcasses.
- ENV has confirmed that fur farms are compliant with general agricultural waste management requirements, and that SARS-CoV-2 mink bodies must be managed as hazardous waste under the *Environmental Management Act*.
- Studies are inconclusive on the susceptibility of chinchillas to SARS-CoV-2.

b) The animal welfare and ethical perspective of fur farming

- A 2019 poll of 1000 Canadians conducted by Research Co. on fur farming in Canada indicated 62 percent of the B.C. residents polled strongly oppose killing animals for their fur. It is unclear how many B.C. residents were polled.



- Animal welfare organizations and those opposed to fur farming argue that there is little justification to support a declining industry that is inherently cruel and unethical.
- Primary concerns regarding fur farming include the size and bareness of cages; the inability to express natural behaviours; and the fighting and self-mutilations that occur as a result of confinement.
- Regarding confinement, the relatively short domestication period, in comparison to other farm animals, and the “wilder” nature of fur animals are also noted as a concern. Wild minks’ habitat ranges can be as large as 2.5 miles of stream habitat or about 2,500 acres in wetland habitat.
- Studies to improve housing conditions for mink have generally been conducted within the framework of a standard cage environment. By limiting investigations only to standard cage environments, it restricts potential welfare improvements because cages are significantly smaller than the minks’ natural habitat.
- A small number of recent studies indicate that moving towards an enriched enclosure system may benefit farmed mink; such a system would improve on current welfare standards. Some European countries generally require larger and more complex cages and higher social and enrichment environments for fur farmed animals than BC and Canadian standards. (See *Appendix C*)
- While some argue that existing measures do not go far enough to improve the welfare of farmed fur animals, the adoption of harmonized animal welfare evaluation and remedial strategies is seen by others to improve overall farmed animal welfare.
- Some international welfare standards, such as the World Animal Protection Index (API), regard a ban of fur farming as the only option that reflects a high-level welfare standard.

While some voices are calling for a “cull” of mink in the province for health reasons, B.C. has an effective regulatory framework under the AHA to address the prevention and control of animal disease. Fundamentally, this issue relates to the ethical question of whether the breeding, rearing, selling, and killing of fur animals is an acceptable practice in B.C. and, if so, whether changes are needed to ensure the welfare of farmed fur animals. The focus on animal welfare concerns also apply to chinchillas and all other potential fur animals (e.g. foxes), as the keeping of any animals for fur farming will be regulated by the same legislation as mink.

The ethical discussion concerning the care, treatment, use, and inherent value of animals is complex and influenced by many factors such as human emotions, moral philosophy, societal and cultural norms, historical practices, scientific research and religious beliefs. Some peoples’ perceptions emphasize the basic health and functioning of animals, especially freedom from disease; others emphasize reduction of psychological suffering through expression of natural behaviours and having natural elements in an animal’s environment; and others emphasize an animal’s freedom from human use and control.

Given these variations in personal perceptions and values, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this issue. Furthermore, given the inherent polarization of the issue, there is not likely a single approach that satisfies the concerns of all stakeholders. The preferred policy approach is likely one that a) is developed through extensive consultation with various stakeholders including animal rights and welfare activists, veterinarians, animal welfare and behavioral researchers, fur farmers, and other farmed animal stakeholders; and b) incorporates science, moral reasoning and consensus.

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In all complex policy issues, the potential exists for unintended consequences to any approach taken. While a robust investigation of potential consequences requires a deeper analysis than that taken in developing this paper, there are additional social, economic and welfare aspects to consider.

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Attachments:

APPENDIX A: Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

APPENDIX B: Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming

APPENDIX C: Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

## APPENDIX A

### Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

The purpose of this table is to provide an overview of the varying international legislation regarding fur farms.

In addition to the countries outline below, bans on fur farming also exist in Austria, Slovakia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but substantive information on these laws was unable to be found. Legislation on fur farm bans are also being proposed in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.

#### **Full Ban Legislation**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Info Links</b>
United Kingdom	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u>  <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act</i> created in 2000</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibits “the keeping of animals solely or primarily for slaughter for the value of their fur” in England and Wales</li> <li>Allows for the creation of scheme to allow for compensation of individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business</li> <li>In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act</i> and Northern Ireland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order</i></li> <li>The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from other countries and the sales of some furs</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering a total ban on the sale of fur</li> </ul>	<p>Legislation:            UK Act  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/contents</a></p> <p>Scotland Act  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/10/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/10/contents</a></p> <p>Northern Ireland Order  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/contents</a></p> <p>Other Info:  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/25/uk-considering-outright-ban-on-fur-sales-after-brex">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/25/uk-considering-outright-ban-on-fur-sales-after-brex</a></p>
Norway	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u>  <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025</li> <li>Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norway was once the world’s largest producer of fox pelts, with 20,000 farms in 1939</li> </ul>	<p>Other Info:  <a href="https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/breaking-news-norway-bans-fur-farming/">https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/breaking-news-norway-bans-fur-farming/</a>  <a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-fur-idUSKBN1F426E">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-fur-idUSKBN1F426E</a></p>
California	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u>            Assembly Bill 44, which amended the <i>Fish and Game Code</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill comes into effect January 2023</li> <li>Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state</li> </ul>	<p>Legislation:  <a href="https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44">https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44</a></p> <p>Other Info:  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur</a></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the bill</li> <li>Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco</li> </ul>	<a href="#">-ban-california-outlaws-making-and-selling-new-products</a>
The Netherlands	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2013</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms by 2024</li> <li>Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business</li> <li>Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021</li> <li>Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest of public health</li> <li>Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could slaughter their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to re-stock</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Netherlands is the European Union's second largest mink producer</li> <li>Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in the mid-1990s</li> </ul>	<p>Other Info:</p> <p><a href="https://nos.nl/artikel/2345662-kabinet-maakt-eind-aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle-bedrijven-volgend-jaar-dicht.html">https://nos.nl/artikel/2345662-kabinet-maakt-eind-aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle-bedrijven-volgend-jaar-dicht.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.hsi.org/news-media/dutch-mink-fur-farms-to-be-permanently-closed/">https://www.hsi.org/news-media/dutch-mink-fur-farms-to-be-permanently-closed/</a></p>
Croatia	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Protection Act</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017</li> <li>Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur farms prior to full adoption</li> <li>Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production purposes</li> </ul>	<p>Legislation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevodenje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-%C5%BEivotinja--NN-102-17-ENG.pdf">http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevodenje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-%C5%BEivotinja--NN-102-17-ENG.pdf</a></p>
<b>Bans as an effect of other legislation</b>		
Japan	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i> created in 2005</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying or importing invasive alien species</li> <li>The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under the Act, effectively making their farming illegal</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation</li> </ul>	<p>Legislation:</p> <p><a href="https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html">https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html</a></p> <p>Other Info:</p> <p><a href="https://www.furfreealliance.com/japan-makes-end-fur-farming/">https://www.furfreealliance.com/japan-makes-end-fur-farming/</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased operation in 2015 after years of animal welfare issues</li> </ul>	
Germany	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act</i> created in 2017</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such as increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink</li> <li>Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to new legislation until 2022</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming unprofitable</li> <li>The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019</li> </ul>	<p><b>Legislation:</b>  <a href="http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/khfeverbj/NR239400008.html#BJNR239400008BJNG000300124">http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/khfeverbj/NR239400008.html#BJNR239400008BJNG000300124</a></p> <p><b>Other Info:</b>  <a href="https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/panorama/pelze-in-der-letzten-deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-keine-tiere-mehr/24151900.html">https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/panorama/pelze-in-der-letzten-deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-keine-tiere-mehr/24151900.html</a></p>
Sweden	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> created in 1988 and amended in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires animals to be able to “perform behaviours for which they are strongly motivated for and that are important for their well-being (natural behaviour)”</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals</li> <li>Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they can be active, dig and socialize with other foxes</li> <li>New requirements rendered fox farming economically unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001</li> <li>Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Legislation:</b>  <a href="https://www.government.se/494b85/contentassets/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b63811ac22/animal-welfare-act-sfs-2018-1192-12-mars-2020.pdf">https://www.government.se/494b85/contentassets/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b63811ac22/animal-welfare-act-sfs-2018-1192-12-mars-2020.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Other Info:</b>  <a href="https://www.djurensratt.se/blogg/decline-swedish-fur-industry#:~:text=Fur%20farming%20came%20to%20Sweden,2%20million%20pelts%20a%20year.">https://www.djurensratt.se/blogg/decline-swedish-fur-industry#:~:text=Fur%20farming%20came%20to%20Sweden,2%20million%20pelts%20a%20year.</a></p>
<b>Bans promised or currently being debated</b>		
France	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 by Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara Pompili</li> <li>No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms must close by 2025</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not impact the orylog rabbit fur industry</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-french-government-announces-ban-on-wild-animal-performances-and-mink-farming/">https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-french-government-announces-ban-on-wild-animal-performances-and-mink-farming/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-animals-circus-idUSKBN26K24V">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-animals-circus-idUSKBN26K24V</a></p>
Poland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned ban introduced in September 2020</li> <li>Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban passing</li> <li>Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland</li> <li>Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in the bill</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/29/film-showing-cannibalism-prompts-probable-ban-on-fur-farms-in-poland">https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/29/film-showing-cannibalism-prompts-probable-ban-on-fur-farms-in-poland</a></p>



Ireland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently)</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibition of Fur Farming Bill 2018 put forward in government and got to the first stage of the legislative process, but was not passed any further due to dissolution of the government</li> <li>• The Department of Agriculture has pre-emptively called for a cull of all mink in the country and required farms to stop breeding immediately in response to COVID-19</li> <li>• Farmers will receive compensation in the short term as a result of the cull, with a wider compensation package likely in future</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.thejournal.ie/future-of-fur-mink-farming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/">https://www.thejournal.ie/future-of-fur-mink-farming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-signals-likely-end-to-fur-farming-with-cull-of-120000-mink/">https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-signals-likely-end-to-fur-farming-with-cull-of-120000-mink/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/28e8c1-government-approves-phasing-out-of-fur-farming/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/releases/2019/june/title,128816,en.html">https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/28e8c1-government-approves-phasing-out-of-fur-farming/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/releases/2019/june/title,128816,en.html</a></p>
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## **APPENDIX B**

### **Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming**

The following table outlines jurisdictions where fur farming is allowed and regulated. This table does not provide an exhaustive list of countries where fur farming is allowed; instead, it highlights jurisdictions which produce the most pelts.

Canada	Fur farms exist in all provinces, but most farms are found in the following provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ontario</li><li>• Nova Scotia</li><li>• British Columbia</li><li>• Newfoundland and Labrador</li><li>• Prince Edward Island</li><li>• Quebec</li></ul>
United States	Fur farms exist in 23 states, with the following states producing the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wisconsin</li><li>• Utah</li><li>• Idaho</li><li>• Oregon</li><li>• Minnesota</li></ul>
International	In addition to Canada and the United States, the following countries' fur farms produce the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Denmark</li><li>• Finland</li><li>• Spain</li><li>• Russia</li><li>• China</li></ul>

## APPENDIX C

### **Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation**

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

**British Columbia:** The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

**Canada:** The National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink and Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the *Criminal Code*

**Sweden:** *Animal Care Act*, Animal Welfare Ordinance, Regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish Board of Agriculture on the rearing and keeping of fur animals

**Germany:** *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements		Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
BC	<p><b>Care Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Persons responsible for an animal must not cause or allow an animal to be in distress.</li> <li>- Animals must be protected from circumstances likely to cause distress</li> <li>- Animals must have access to a sufficient food supply and clean, palatable water.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must protect the animals from extreme weather.</li> <li>- Must be sufficiently lighted and allow for access to sufficient hours of continuous daylight.</li> <li>- Must allow for the observation and care of animals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate all animals intended to be held.</li> <li>- If more than one animal is in a cage there must be either another level or a nest box.</li> <li>- Must be safe and clean and allow for proper drainage when washed.</li> <li>- Must allow air to flow freely in around the cage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink.</li> <li>- The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>).</li> <li>- The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No specific requirements established.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Canada	<p><b>Care Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone who willfully causes, or allows, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal commits an offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i></li> <li>- Producers must ensure welfare needs (e.g. clean water, sufficient feed)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cages with multiple animals must have a hammock/shelf/platform and at least one manipulative enrichment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mature foxes must be housed individually, with pups housed in pairs or groups</li> <li>- All foxes must have access to at least one</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No specific requirements established.</li> </ul>



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**British Columbia:** The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

**Canada:** The National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink and Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the *Criminal Code*

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**Germany:** *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements		Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
	<p>to maintain health and vigour, shelter and environmental enrichment) can be met on site.</p> <p><b>Facility Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Air flow for dry, healthy environment and prevention of excessive heat and cold is always required.</li> <li>- Must replicate daylight provided by a natural photoperiod.</li> <li>- Any light provided must be sufficient to express natural behaviours.</li> <li>- Artificial lighting must not negatively impact the normal circadian rhythm.</li> <li>- Must allow animals to observe each other.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cage requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Access to water is always required.</li> </ul> <p><i>Nest boxes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place.</li> <li>- Must be able to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time.</li> </ul>	<p>Minimum dimensions: 0.47m width, 0.47m length, 0.2 m height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.65m<sup>2</sup> per animal.</li> </ul>	<p>enrichment that can manipulated.</p> <p>Minimum dimensions: <i>Single foxes:</i> 1.04m width, 1.04 m length, 0.91 m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.84m<sup>2</sup> per animal.</li> </ul>	
Sweden <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>Care requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animals must be kept and cared for in a good environment such that: 1. well-being is promoted; 2. animals are able to express natural behaviours; and 3. behavioural disorders are prevented.</li> <li>- Animals must be observed at least once per day and kept in a way that allows observation without difficulty or disturbance</li> <li>- Action must be taken immediately if abnormal behaviour is noticed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Care requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult animals may not be kept together</li> <li>- Claws should be inspected and cut regularly</li> <li>- Regular food requirements must not be reduced to bring about weight loss</li> <li>- Feeding must occur twice a day</li> </ul>	<p><b>Care requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animals must be kept in a way that satisfies their need to socialise with other foxes and to move, dig and otherwise occupy themselves.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Care requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animals must be kept in pairs</li> <li>- Freedom of movement must not be restricted by obstructing objects such as a collar</li> <li>- Chinchillas must be protected against sudden and loud noises</li> </ul>

### **Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation**

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

**British Columbia:** The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

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**Germany:** *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements		Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animals must be provided with daylight access beyond windows</li> <li>- Animals must be protected from direct sunlight and not kept in constant darkness or light</li> <li>- Animals must be exposed to and accustomed to humans starting at a young age</li> <li>- Killing and pelting must take place away from live animals</li> <li>- Animals must be kept satisfactorily clean</li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be designed to prevent disturbances from noise, pollution or other factors</li> <li>- Light level must be sufficient for animals to behave normally and correspond to the animals' natural circadian rhythm</li> <li>- Presence of pests must be minimized</li> </ul> <p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide enough space to meet the normal need for movement and appropriate enrichment</li> <li>- Cages lined up so animals cannot harm one another</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements for climbing cages, platforms in every cage, nest boxes with bedding material and enrichment objects that must be replaced regularly</li> <li>- Cages must not be kept on top of each other</li> </ul> <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.8m length, 0.45m height, 0.255m<sup>2</sup> bottom area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area should be increased by 0.085m<sup>2</sup> for each additional young animal</li> </ul>		<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements for multi-level cages, enrichment objects and access to sand baths at least once per day</li> </ul> <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.5m width, 1m height, 0.5m<sup>2</sup> total area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area should be increased by 0.16m<sup>2</sup> for each additional young animal</li> </ul>
Germany	<p><b>Facility Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must allow for the natural behaviour of the animal, and allow them to eat, drink and rest according to their species.</li> <li>- Must be equipped with frost-protected watering devices and allow constant access to drinking water.</li> <li>- Must allow for the removal of the fur animals without pain or avoidable suffering.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Floor of housing must be at least partially paved.</li> <li>- Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and stand up and under which an adult animal can stand up.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be mounted in an elevated position and have a main chamber and an antechamber which hides the entrance to the main chamber.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be equipped with tunnels</li> <li>- Must have at least one platform per animal</li> <li>- Must have a sand bath filled with quartz-free sand with</li> </ul>

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**Germany:** *German Animal Welfare Act*

General animal welfare requirements	Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must offer protection from direct sunlight.</li> <li>- Lighting levels must accord with animals' natural cycles</li> <li>- Must allow for observation of animals.</li> <li>- Adult animals are not kept individually.</li> <li>- Animals can see others of their species.</li> <li>- Excrement is removed at least daily if kept inside or at least weekly if the animals are kept outside.</li> <li>- Fur animal must be accustomed to handling by people from birth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cage Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cages must not be kept on top of each other</li> <li>- Animals must have access to behavior-appropriate environmental enrichment outside of the nest box</li> </ul> <p><i>Nest box:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must have separate area with solid walls where all animals can rest at the same time</li> <li>- Opening is positioned so that newborn animals are restrained, and adult animals have easy access</li> <li>- Must have hay, straw or another suitable material to ensure animals can keep the nest box warm with their body heat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must have devices for climbing that do not consist of wire mesh and have holding devices.</li> <li>- Must be equipped with tunnels.</li> <li>- Must include a swimming pool with of at least 1m<sup>2</sup> and 30cm deep.</li> </ul> <p>Minimum dimensions, in addition to nest box and swimming pool: 1.7m width, 1.7m length, 1m height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area should be increased by 1m<sup>2</sup> for each additional animal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must have at least 2m<sup>2</sup> for digging and draining of excretions</li> <li>- Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and sit upright and under which an adult animal can sit upright.</li> <li>- Must be equipped with tunnels.</li> </ul> <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box: 3.46m width, 3.46m length, 1.5m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area should be increased by 3m<sup>2</sup> for each additional animal</li> </ul>	<p>an area of at least 250cm<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box and sand bath: 1m width, 1m length, 1m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area should be increased by 0.5m<sup>2</sup> for each additional animal</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Chinchillas are not mentioned in the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, nor is there a Code of Practice for chinchilla care established by the National Farm Animal Care Council.

<sup>2</sup> In January 2019 the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA) concluded a study on whether mink in the fur industry live in conditions compliant with the *Animal Welfare Act*. The findings of the study were inconclusive, but the SBA noted positive changes in mink welfare since their regulations were established.

<sup>3</sup> The welfare requirements on the keeping of farmed foxes has made fox fur farming economically unviable within Sweden.