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

Ref: 193469 Date: January 8, 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. 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 fur farming altogether. 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.

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.
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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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	ren Yawney, Senior Legislative y Daniels, Policy Analyst, 250		
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APPENDIX	A: Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jo B: Jurisdictions which allow an C: Fur Animal Welfare Require	d regulate fur farming	

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				
Jurisdiction	Information	Info Links			
United Kingdom	Primary Instrument Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act created in 2000	Legislation: UK Act			
	Key Facts	https://www.legislation.go v.uk/ukpga/2000/33/conte			
	Prohibits "the keeping of animals solely or primarily for slaughter for the value of their fur" in England and	nts			
	WalesAllows for the creation of scheme to allow for	Scotland Act https://www.legislation.go			
	compensation of individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business	v.uk/asp/2002/10/contents			
	 In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the 	Northern Ireland Order https://www.legislation.go			
	Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act and Northern Ireland with the Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order	v.uk/nisi/2002/3151/conte nts			
	The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from other countries and the sales of some furs	Other Info: https://www.theguardian.c			
	Additional considerations	om/politics/2020/sep/25/u			
	Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering a total ban on the sale of fur	k-considering-outright- ban-on-fur-sales-after- brexit			
Norway	Primary Instrument Fur Farming Prohibition Act created in 2018	Other Info: https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/breaking-news-			
	Key Facts Pagyings all farmes to be aloged by Fabruary 2025	norway-bans-fur-farming/			
	 Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business 	https://www.reuters.com/a rticle/us-norway-fur-			
	Additional considerations	idUSKBN1F426E			
	 Norway was once the world's largest producer of fox pelts, with 20,000 farms in 1939 				
California	Primary Instrument Assembly Bill 44, which amended the Fish and Game Code	Legislation: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClien			
	Key Facts	t.xhtml?bill_id=20192020			
	The Bill comes into effect January 2023 Page the sale and many feet using of firm products in the	<u>0AB44</u>			
	Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state	Other Info:			
		https://www.theguardian.c om/world/2019/oct/13/fur			

	 Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the bill Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations 	-ban-california-outlaws- making-and-selling-new- products
	Additional considerations Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco	
The Netherlands	Primary Instrument Fur Farming Prohibition Act created in 2013	Other Info: https://nos.nl/artikel/2345 662-kabinet-maakt-eind-
	 Key Facts Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms by 2024 	aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle- bedrijven-volgend-jaar- dicht.html
	 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021 Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest of public health Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could 	https://www.hsi.org/news- media/dutch-mink-fur- farms-to-be-permanently- closed/
	slaughter their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to restock	
	Additional considerations The Netherlands is the European Union's second largest mink producer Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in the mid-1990s	
Croatia	Primary Instrument Animal Protection Act Key Facts	Legislation: http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevodenje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-
	 Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017 Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur 	za%C5%A1titi- %C5%BEivotinjaNN- 102-17-ENG.pdf
	farms prior to full adoption • Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production purposes	
_	Bans as an effect of other legislation	I
Japan	Primary Instrument Invasive Alien Species Act created in 2005	Legislation: https://www.env.go.jp/en/ nature/as.html
	 Key Facts Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying or importing invasive alien species The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under the Act, effectively making their farming illegal 	Other Info: https://www.furfreeallianc e.com/japan-makes-end- fur-farming/
	Additional considerations • Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation	

	The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased an area in 2015 often years of original welfers issues.	
C	operation in 2015 after years of animal welfare issues	Lagislation
Germany	Primary Instrument Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act created in 2017	Legislation: http://www.gesetze-im-
	Animal Froducts Trade Frontollion Act cleated in 2017	internet.de/khfeverbg/BJ
	Key Facts	NR239400008.html#BJN
	Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such	R239400008BJNG00030
	as increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink	0124
	Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to	
	new legislation until 2022	Other Info:
		https://www.tagesspiegel.
	Additional considerations	de/gesellschaft/panorama/
	 The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming 	pelze-in-der-letzten-
	unprofitable	deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-
	• The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019	keine-tiere-
Sweden	Primary Instrument	mehr/24151900.html Legislation:
Sweden	Animal Welfare Act created in 1988 and amended in 2018	https://www.government.s
	Thin at the spare flow created in 1900 and amended in 2010	e/494b85/contentassets/9f
	Key Facts	6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b6
	Requires animals to be able to "perform behaviours for"	3811ac22/animal-welfare-
	which they are strongly motivated for and that are	act-sfs-2018-1192-12-
	important for their well-being (natural behaviour)"	mars-2020.pdf
	A 1122 1 21 2	Other Info:
	Additional considerations Introduction of the local letter instituted attrictor	https://www.djurensratt.se
	Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals	/blogg/decline-swedish-
	Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they	fur-
	can be active, dig and socialize with other foxes	industry#:~:text=Fur%20f
	 New requirements rendered fox farming economically 	arming%20came%20to%
	unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001	20Sweden,2%20million%
	 Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation 	20pelts%20a%20year.
	Bans promised or currently being debated	
France	Key Facts	https://www.loc.gov/law/f
	 Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 	oreign-
	by Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara	news/article/france-
	Pompili	french-government-
	No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms	announces-ban-on-wild-
	must close by 2025	animal-performances-and-mink-farming/
	Additional considerations	mmk-rammg/
	Does not impact the orylag rabbit fur industry	https://www.reuters.com/a
	- Does not impact the orying facout ful industry	rticle/us-france-animals-
		circus-idUSKBN26K24V
Poland	Key Facts	https://www.theguardian.c
	 Planned ban introduced in September 2020 	om/environment/2020/sep
	Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban	/29/film-showing-
	passing	cannibalism-prompts-
	Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland	probable-ban-on-fur- farms-in-poland
	Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in	Tarins-in-potatiu
	the bill	

Ireland

Key Facts

Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently)

Additional considerations

- 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
- 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
- Farmers will receive compensation in the short term as a result of the cull, with a wider compensation package likely in future

https://www.thejournal.ie/ future-of-fur-minkfarming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/

https://www.politico.eu/ar ticle/ireland-signalslikely-end-to-fur-farmingwith-cull-of-120000mink/

https://www.gov.ie/en/pre ss-release/28e8c1government-approvesphasing-out-of-furfarming/?referrer=http://w ww.agriculture.gov.ie/pre ss/pressreleases/2019/june /title,128816,en.html

APPENDIX B

provide an exh	Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming ng table outlines jurisdictions where fur farming is allowed and regulated. This table does not naustive 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: Ontario Nova Scotia British Columbia Newfoundland and Labrador Prince Edward Island Quebec
United States	Fur farms exist in 23 states, with the following states producing the most pelts annually: • Wisconsin • Utah • Idaho • Oregon • Minnesota
International	In addition to Canada and the United States, the following countries' fur farms produce the most pelts annually: • Denmark • Finland • Spain • Russia • China

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR DECISION

Ref: 194646 Date: April 27, 2021

Title: Continuation of Fur Farming in B.C. with ongoing COVID presence

Issue: Outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in populations of farmed mink, increased risk to human health from virus mutations and prevalence of COVID in B.C., and long term viability of fur farming with ongoing COVID presence

Background:

Fur farming has become an issue of increasing public concern. Due to the SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on Fraser Valley mink farms, on December 14, 2020 the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) issued a media release condemning mink farming and calling for an end to the practice in B.C. This release was accompanied by a petition to be brought forward to policy makers. Public opposition to fur has also led to the creation or promise of fur farming bans in several countries (see Appendix A).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) currently acknowledges and regulates fur farming as an acceptable farm practice in B.C. The legislation governing the industry are the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, the *Animal Health Act*, and the Fur Farm Regulation. The regulation of fur farming in B.C. is consistent with other provinces, while approaches to animal welfare regulation varies across provinces.

The fur farming industry has been in a general decline internationally. 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 currently operating in B.C. The fur farms usually employ between one to 30 employees. Employees are generally domestic workers. See attached Appendix D for detailed information about the economics of the fur farm industry.

Mink are susceptible to catching the SARS-CoV-2 virus from humans, with potential for the virus to mutate in the mink and be re-introduced to humans. Concerns regarding the spread of the virus in farms and the impact of a mutated virus on vaccines have led to calls for mink culls and an end to mink and fur farming internationally. Culls of animals on infected farms have occurred in the Netherlands, France, Spain and Poland, with Denmark culling all mink in the country.

The Ministry of Health (HLTH) and other agencies are working with the mink industry to implement ongoing human and animal virus surveillance and enhanced COVID-19 safety plans on farms. On February 8, 2021, HLTH estimated there was a low and acceptable risk of a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern arising at a mink farm, being transmitted to a worker and then to the general population or wildlife, in a way that would significantly threaten the health of the population. This estimate involved a significant degree of uncertainty and assumes that mitigation measures are well implemented, and that industry continues to cooperate with health protocols. HLTH also estimated, with moderate uncertainty, that there is a very low risk of SARS-CoV-2 overflowing from farms, infecting wild animals and creating a reservoir of ongoing transmission and viral replication.

HLTH risk assessment was provided prior to the increase in SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and continued high case numbers/third wave in the Fraser Health region. On March 2, 2021, Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer for Fraser Health considered new information and the level of compliance of mink farmers with the COVID safety plans to change the Fraser Health risk assessment from low to moderate risk. An updated risk assessment has been requested from the CDC and Provincial Health Officer and will possibly be

completed in June due to pressures on public health from the ongoing third wave of the pandemic. Fraser Health also provided information that Whole Genome Sequencing has identified a mutation of concern in the mink samples (the Y453F mutation); as of March 2, 2021, this has not been linked to any mass outbreaks in humans.

First Nations Considerations:

A ban on fur farming would not impact traditional Indigenous rights to hunting and trapping. Two Indigenous groups have provided perspectives: the Indigenous Trappers of B.C. who support mink farming; and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs who oppose mink farming.

Discussion:

There are two key considerations regarding renewed calls to end fur farming in B.C.:

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Contact: Lauren Yawney, Senior Legislative Analyst, 236 478-3443	
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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 D: Mink Farming Policy Analysis V 2	

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	Care Requirements - Persons responsible for an animal must not cause or allow an animal to be in distress Animals must be protected from circumstances likely to cause distress - Animals must have access to a sufficient food supply and clean, palatable water. Facility Requirements - Must protect the animals from extreme weather Must be sufficiently lighted and allow for access to sufficient hours of continuous daylight Must allow for the observation and care of animals.	- Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA.	- Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (Vulpes vulpes) The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA.	- No specific requirements established. 1.
Canada	Cage Requirements - Must be of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate all animals intended to be held. - If more than one animal is in a cage there must be either another level or a nest box. - Must be safe and clean and allow for proper drainage when washed. - Must allow air to flow freely in around the cage. Care Requirements - Everyone who willfully causes, or allows, unnecessary pain, suffering	Cage Requirements - Cages with multiple animals must have a	Cage Requirements - Mature foxes must be housed	- No specific requirements established.
	or injury to an animal commits an offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i>	hammock/shelf/platform and at least one manipulative enrichment	individually, with pups housed in pairs or groups	

	- Producers must ensure welfare needs (e.g. clean water, sufficient feed to maintain health and vigour, shelter and environmental enrichment) can be met on site. Facility Requirements - Air flow for dry, healthy environment and prevention of excessive heat and cold is always required Must replicate daylight provided by a natural photoperiod Any light provided must be sufficient to express natural behaviours Artificial lighting must not negatively impact the normal circadian rhythm Must allow animals to observe each other. Cage requirements - Access to water is always required. Nest boxes: - Must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place Must be able to accommodate all	Minimum dimensions: 0.20-0.25m length, 0.38m height, 1.45-2.22 m² minimum floor space - If over two animals in cage, a minimum of 0.65m² per additional animal.	- All foxes must have access to at least one enrichment that can manipulated. Minimum dimensions: Single foxes: 0.91m length, 0.91m height, 1.1-1.4m² minimum floor space - Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.84m² per animal.	
Sweden ²	- Must be able to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time. Care requirements - 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 Animals must be observed at least once per day and kept in a way that allows observation without difficulty or disturbance - Action must be taken immediately if abnormal behaviour is noticed - Animals must be provided with daylight access beyond windows - Animals must be protected from direct sunlight and not kept in constant darkness or light	Care requirements - Adult animals may not be kept together - Claws should be inspected and cut regularly - Regular food requirements must not be reduced to bring about weight loss - Feeding must occur twice a day Cage Requirements - Requirements for climbing cages, platforms in every cage, nest boxes with bedding material and enrichment	Care requirements - Animals must be kept in a way that satisfies their need to socialise with other foxes and to move, dig and otherwise occupy themselves. ³	Care requirements - Animals must be kept in pairs - Freedom of movement must not be restricted by obstructing objects such as a collar - Chinchillas must be protected against sudden and loud noises Cage Requirements - Requirements - Requirements for multi-level cages, enrichment objects and access to sand

Animals must be exposed to and accustomed to humans starting at a young age
Killing and pelting must take place away from live animals
Animals must be kept satisfactorily

Facility Requirements

clean

- Must be designed to prevent disturbances from noise, pollution or other factors
- Light level must be sufficient for animals to behave normally and correspond to the animals' natural circadian rhythm
- Presence of pests must be minimized

Cage Requirements

- Provide enough space to meet the normal need for movement and appropriate enrichment
- Cages lined up so animals cannot harm one another

objects that must be replaced regularly

- Cages must not be kept on top of each other

Minimum dimensions: 0.8m length, 0.45m height, 0.255m² bottom area

- Area should be increased by 0.085m² for each additional young animal

baths at least once per day

Minimum dimensions: 0.5m width, 1m height, 0.5m² total area

- Area should be increased by 0.16m² for each additional young animal

Germany

Facility Requirements

- Must allow for the natural behaviour of the animal, and allow them to eat, drink and rest according to their species.
- Must be equipped with frostprotected watering devices and allow constant access to drinking water.
- Must allow for the removal of the fur animals without pain or avoidable suffering.
- Must offer protection from direct sunlight.
- Lighting levels must accord with animals' natural cycles
- Must allow for observation of animals.
- Adult animals are not kept individually.
- Animals can see others of their species.
- Excrement is removed at least daily if kept inside or at least weekly if the animals are kept outside.
- -Fur animal must be accustomed to handling by people from birth.

Cage Requirements

- Floor of housing must be at least partially paved.
- 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.
- Must have devices for climbing that do not consist of wire mesh and have holding devices.
- Must be equipped with tunnels.
- Must include a swimming pool with of at least 1m² and 30cm deep.

Minimum dimensions, in addition to nest box and swimming pool: 1.7m width, 1.7m length, 1m height.

Cage Requirements

- Must be mounted in an elevated position and have a main chamber and an antechamber which hides the entrance to the main chamber.
- Must have at least 2m² for digging and draining of excretions
- 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.
- Must be equipped with tunnels.

Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box:

Cage Requirements

- Must be equipped with tunnels
- Must have at least one platform per animal
- Must have a sand bath filled with quartz-free sand with an area of at least 250cm²

Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box and sand bath:
1m width, 1m length, 1m height
- Area should be increased by 0.5m² for each additional animal

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	- Area should be	3.46m width, 3.46m	
Cage Requirements	increased by 1m ² for	length, 1.5m height	
- Cages must not be kept on top of	each additional animal.	- Area should be	
each other		increased by 3m ² for	
- Animals must have access to		each additional	
behavior-appropriate environmental		animal	
enrichment outside of the nest box			
Nest box:			
- Must have separate area with solid			
walls where all animals can rest at			
the same time			
- Opening is positioned so that			
newborn animals are restrained, and			
adult animals have easy access			
- Must have hay, straw or another			
suitable material to ensure animals			
can keep the nest box warm with			
their body heat			

² 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.

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

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APPENDIX A

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	Care Requirements	- Reasonable and generally	- Reasonable and	- No specific
	- Persons responsible for an animal must	accepted practices for care	generally accepted	requirements
	not cause or allow an animal to be in	are described in the Code	practices for care are	established. ^{1.}
	distress.	of Practice for the Care	described in the Code	
	- Animals must be protected from	and Handling of Farmed	of Practice for the Care	
	circumstances likely to cause distress	Mink.	and Handling of	
	- Animals must have access to a	- The Code referenced can	Farmed Fox (Vulpes	
	sufficient food supply and clean,	be used as a defence	vulpes).	
	palatable water.	against conviction under	- The Code referenced	
		the PCAA.	can be used as a	
	Facility Requirements		defence against	
	- Must protect the animals from extreme		conviction under the	
	weather.	O	PCAA.	
	- Must be sufficiently lighted and allow			
	for access to sufficient hours of			
	continuous daylight.			
	- Must allow for the observation and			
	care of animals.			
	Cage Requirements			
	- Must be of sufficient size to			
	comfortably accommodate all animals			
	intended to be held.			
	- If more than one animal is in a cage			
	there must be either another level or a			
	nest box.			
	- Must be safe and clean and allow for			
	proper drainage when washed.			
	- Must allow air to flow freely in around			
	the cage.			
Canada	Care Requirements	Cage Requirements	Cage Requirements	- No specific
	- Everyone who willfully causes, or	- Cages with multiple	- Mature foxes must be	requirements
	allows, unnecessary pain, suffering or	animals must have a	housed individually,	established.
	injury to an animal commits an offence	hammock/shelf/platform	with pups housed in	
	under the <i>Criminal Code</i>		pairs or groups	

- Producers must ensure welfare needs and at least one (e.g. clean water, sufficient feed manipulative enrichment to maintain health and vigour, shelter, and environmental enrichment) can be Minimum dimensions: met on site. 0.20-0.25m length, 0.38m height, 1.45-2.22 m² **Facility Requirements** minimum floor space -Air flow for dry, healthy environment - If over two animals in and prevention of excessive heat and cage, a minimum of 0.65m² per additional cold is always required. - Must replicate daylight provided by a animal. natural photoperiod. - Any light provided must be sufficient to express natural behaviours. - Artificial lighting must not negatively impact the normal circadian rhythm. - Must allow animals to observe each other. Cage requirements -Access to water is always required. Nest boxes: - Must be designed to hold adequate

- All foxes must have access to at least one enrichment that can manipulated.

Minimum dimensions: Single foxes: 0.91m length, 0.91m height, 1.1-1.4m² minimum floor space - Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.84m² per animal.

(P.)

Sweden²

Care requirements

same time.

safe, and secluded place.

- Animals must be kept and cared for in a good environment such that; 1. wellbeing is promoted; 2. animals are able to express natural behaviours; and 3. behavioural disorders are prevented.

bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable,

- Must be able to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the

- Animals must be observed at least once per day and kept in a way that allows observation without difficulty or disturbance
- Action must be taken immediately if abnormal behaviour is noticed
- Animals must be provided with daylight access beyond windows
- Animals must be protected from direct sunlight and not kept in constant darkness or light
- Animals must be exposed to and accustomed to humans starting at a young age

Care requirements

- Adult animals may not be kept together
- Claws should be inspected and cut regularly
- Regular food requirements must not be reduced to bring about weight loss
- Feeding must occur twice a day

Cage Requirements

- Requirements for climbing cages, platforms in every cage, nest boxes with bedding material and enrichment objects that must be replaced regularly - Cages must not be kept on top of each other

Care requirements

- Animals must be kept in a way that satisfies their need to socialise with other foxes and to move, dig and otherwise occupy themselves.³

Care requirements

- Animals must be kept in pairs
- Freedom of movement must not be restricted by obstructing objects such as a collar
- Chinchillas must be protected against sudden and loud noises

Cage Requirements

- Requirements for multi-level cages, enrichment objects and access to sand baths at least once per day

	- Killing and pelting must take place			Minimum
	away from live animals	Minimum dimensions:		dimensions:
	- Animals must be kept satisfactorily	0.8m length, 0.45m		0.5m width, 1m
	clean	height, 0.255m ² bottom		height, 0.5m ² total
	Clean	area		area
		- Area should be increased		- Area should be
	Facility Requirements	by 0.085m ² for each		increased by 0.16m ²
	- Must be designed to prevent	additional young animal		for each additional
	disturbances from noise, pollution, or	additional young animal		young animal
	other factors			young animai
	- Light level must be sufficient for			
	animals to behave normally and			(h)
	correspond to the animals' natural			
	circadian rhythm			
	- Presence of pests must be minimized			
			01	
	Cage Requirements		1	
	- Provide enough space to meet the		40	
	normal need for movement and		x side	
	appropriate enrichment			
	- Cages lined up so animals cannot harm	ľ		
	one another			
Germany	Facility Requirements	Cage Requirements	Cage Requirements	Cage Requirements
<i>'</i>	- Must allow for the natural behaviour of	- Floor of housing must be	- Must be mounted in	- Must be equipped
	the animal, and allow them to eat, drink	at least partially paved.	an elevated position	with tunnels
	and rest according to their species.	- Must have at least one	and have a main	- Must have at least
	- Must be equipped with frost-protected	platform per animal on	chamber and an	one platform per
	watering devices and allow constant	which an adult animal can	antechamber which	animal
	access to drinking water.	lie and stand up and under	hides the entrance to	- Must have a sand
	- Must allow for the removal of the fur	which an adult animal can	the main chamber.	bath filled with
	animals without pain or avoidable	stand up.	- Must have at least	quartz-free sand with
	suffering.	- Must have devices for	2m ² for digging and	an area of at least
	- Must offer protection from direct	climbing that do not	draining of excretions	250cm ²
	sunlight.	consist of wire mesh and	- Must have at least	
	- Lighting levels must accord with	have holding devices.	one platform per	Minimum dimensions
	animals' natural cycles	- Must be equipped with	animal on which an	in addition to nest
	- Must allow for observation of animals.	tunnels.	adult animal can lie	box and sand bath:
	- Adult animals are not kept individually.	- Must include a swimming	and sit upright and	1m width, 1m length,
	- Animals can see others of their species.	pool with of at least 1m ²	under which an adult	1m height
	- Excrement is removed at least daily if	and 30cm deep.	animal can sit upright.	- Area should be
	kept inside or at least weekly if the	·	- Must be equipped	increased by 0.5m ²
	animals are kept outside.	Minimum dimensions, in	with tunnels.	for each additional
	-Fur animal must be accustomed to	addition to nest box and		animal
	handling by people from birth.	swimming pool:	Minimum dimensions	
		1.7m width, 1.7m length,	in addition to nest box:	
	Cage Requirements	1m height.	3.46m width, 3.46m	
	- Cages must not be kept on top of each	- Area should be increased	length, 1.5m height	
	other	by 1m ² for each additional	- Area should be	
	- Animals must have access to behavior-	animal.	increased by 3m ² for	
	appropriate environmental enrichment		each additional animal	
	outside of the nest box			
	Nest box:			
I		1	I	

- Must have separate area with solid		
walls where all animals can rest at the		
same time		
- Opening is positioned so that newborn		
animals are restrained, and adult		
animals have easy access		
- Must have hay, straw, or another		
suitable material to ensure animals can		
keep the nest box warm with their body		
heat		1-

¹ 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.

² In January 2019 the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA) concluded a study on whether mink in the fur industry alished.
fox fur farm 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.

³ The welfare requirements on the keeping of farmed foxes has made fox fur farming economically unviable within

APPENDIX B

	Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming
_	able outlines jurisdictions where fur farming is allowed and regulated. This table does not chaustive 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: Ontario Nova Scotia British Columbia Newfoundland and Labrador Prince Edward Island Quebec
United States	Fur farms exist in 23 states, with the following states producing the most pelts annually: • Wisconsin • Utah • Idaho • Oregon • Minnesota
International	In addition to Canada and the United States, the following countries' fur farms produce the most pelts annually: Denmark Finland Spain Russia China

APPENDIX C

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			
Jurisdiction	Information	Info Links	
United Kingdom	Primary Instrument	Legislation:	
	Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act created in 2000	UK Act	
		https://www.legislation.	
	Key Facts	gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/c	
	 Prohibits "the keeping of animals solely or primarily for 	<u>ontents</u>	
	slaughter for the value of their fur" in England and Wales		
	 Allows for the creation of scheme to allow for compensation of 	Scotland Act	
	individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business	https://www.legislation.	
	 In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the Fur 	gov.uk/asp/2002/10/con	
	Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act and Northern Ireland with	<u>tents</u>	
	the Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order		
	 The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from 	Northern Ireland Order	
	other countries and the sales of some furs	https://www.legislation.	
		gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/c	
	Additional considerations	<u>ontents</u>	
	 Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering 		
	a total ban on the sale of fur	Other Info:	
		https://www.theguardia	
		n.com/politics/2020/sep	
		/25/uk-considering-	
	0,9	outright-ban-on-fur-	
		sales-after-brexit	
Norway	Primary Instrument	Other Info:	
	Fur Farming Prohibition Act created in 2018	https://dyrevern.no/dyr	
	Kon Facili	evern/breaking-news-	
	Key Facts	norway-bans-fur-	
	Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025	farming/	
	Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business	httms://www.maytama.aa	
	A I Division I was at least to	https://www.reuters.co	
	Additional considerations	m/article/us-norway-fur-	
	 Norway was once the world's largest producer of fox pelts, with 	idUSKBN1F426E	
C	20,000 farms in 1939		
California	Primary Instrument	Legislation:	
	Assembly Bill 44, which amended the Fish and Game Code	https://leginfo.legislatur	
	,	e.ca.gov/faces/billTextCli	
	Key Facts	ent.xhtml?bill id=20192	
	The Bill comes into effect January 2023	0200AB44	
	Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state		

	Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any	Other Info:
	activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the	https://www.theguardia
	bill	n.com/world/2019/oct/1
	Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations	3/fur-ban-california-
		outlaws-making-and-
	Additional considerations	selling-new-products
	 Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San 	
	Francisco	
The	Primary Instrument	Other Info:
Netherlands	Fur Farming Prohibition Act created in 2013	https://nos.nl/artikel/23
		45662-kabinet-maakt-
	Key Facts	eind-aan-
	Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms	nertsenfokkerij-alle-
	by 2024	bedrijven-volgend-jaar-
	Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business	<u>dicht.html</u>
	Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the	, , , , ,
	phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021	https://www.hsi.org/ne
	Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest	ws-media/dutch-mink-
	of public health	<u>fur-farms-to-be-</u>
	Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could slaughter	permanently-closed/
	their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to re-stock	
	Additional considerations	
	The Netherlands is the European Union's second largest mink	
	producer	
	Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in	
	the mid-1990s	
6		1 - 1 1 - 2
Croatia	Primary Instrument	Legislation:
	Animal Protection Act	http://www.mvep.hr/file
	Vov Facts	s/file/dokumenti/prevod
	Key Facts	enje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o- za%C5%A1titi-
	Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017	%C5%BEivotinjaNN-
	2017	102-17-ENG.pdf
	 Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur farms prior to full adoption 	102-17-ENG.pui
	Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production	
	purposes	
lanan	Bans as an effect of other legislation	Logislation
Japan	Primary Instrument Invasive Alien Species Act created in 2005	Legislation: https://www.env.go.jp/e
	invasive Alien species Act created in 2005	n/nature/as.html
	Key Facts	ii/iiatui e/as.iitiiii
	Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying, or importing	Other Info:
	invasive alien species	https://www.furfreeallia
	The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under	nce.com/japan-makes-
	the Act, effectively making their farming illegal	end-fur-farming/
	the Act, effectively making their farming megal	sa rai raining/
	Additional considerations	
	Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation	
	1 Tant prior to 2000 doubt continue operation	1

	The singular relations evidence in Leasure accorded to the	
	The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased operation in 2015 ofter years of primal welfare issues.	
	2015 after years of animal welfare issues	
Germany	Primary Instrument	Legislation:
cermany	Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act created in 2017	http://www.gesetze-im-
		internet.de/khfeverbg/B
	Key Facts	JNR239400008.html#BJN
	Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such as	R239400008BJNG00030
	increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink	0124
	Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to new	_
	legislation until 2022	Other Info:
	0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000	https://www.tagesspieg
	Additional considerations	el.de/gesellschaft/panor
	The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming unprofitable	ama/pelze-in-der-
	The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019	letzten-deutschen-
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	nerzfarm-sind-keine-
		<u>tiere-</u>
		mehr/24151900.html
Sweden	Primary Instrument	Legislation:
	Animal Welfare Act created in 1988 and amended in 2018	https://www.governmen
		t.se/494b85/contentasse
	Key Facts	ts/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba7
	Requires animals to be able to "perform behaviours for which	2531b63811ac22/animal
	they are strongly motivated for and that are important for their	-welfare-act-sfs-2018-
	well-being (natural behaviour)"	1192-12-mars-2020.pdf
	Additional considerations	Other Info:
	Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on	https://www.djurensratt
	the keeping of fur animals	.se/blogg/decline-
	Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they can be	swedish-fur-
	active, dig and socialize with other foxes	industry#:~:text=Fur%20 farming%20came%20to
	New requirements rendered fox farming economically	%20Sweden,2%20million
	unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001	%20pelts%20a%20year.
	Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation	7020pcit37020d7020ycdi.
	Bans promised or currently being debated	
France	Key Facts	https://www.loc.gov/law
	Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 by	/foreign-
	Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara Pompili	news/article/france-
	No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms must	french-government-
3	close by 2025	announces-ban-on-wild-
0	, ,	animal-performances-
3	Additional considerations	and-mink-farming/
	Does not impact the orylag rabbit fur industry	
		https://www.reuters.co
		m/article/us-france-
		animals-circus-
		idUSKBN26K24V
Poland	Key Facts	https://www.theguardia
	Planned ban introduced in September 2020	n.com/environment/202
	Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban passing	0/sep/29/film-showing-
	Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland	cannibalism-prompts-

	Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in the bill	probable-ban-on-fur- farms-in-poland
Ireland	Mey Facts Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently)	https://www.thejournal ie/future-of-fur-mink- farming-ireland- 5271940-Nov2020/
	Additional considerations	3272310110120207
	 Prohibition of Fur Farming Bill 2018 put forward in government and got to the first stage of the legislative process, but was not 	https://www.politico.eu article/ireland-signals- likely-end-to-fur-
	 passed any further due to dissolution of the government The Department of Agriculture has pre-emptively called for a cull of all mink in the country and required farms to stop breeding 	farming-with-cull-of- 120000-mink/
	immediately in response to COVID-19	https://www.gov.ie/en/
	Farmers will receive compensation in the short term as a result of the cult with a wider compensation package likely in future.	press-release/28e8c1-
	of the cull, with a wider compensation package likely in future	government-approves- phasing-out-of-fur-
	, round	farming/?referrer=http: /www.agriculture.gov.ie /press/pressreleases/20
	Primary Instrument S.B. NO.1350 Key Facts	19/june/title,128816,er
Hawaii	Primary Instrument	https://www.capitol.ha
	S.B. NO.1350	waii.gov/session2019/b
	Vou Foots	<u>ls/SB1350HTM</u>
	Key Facts Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state	
	Sales and manufacturing of used fur are exempt from the bill	
	3 7	
Ô	C. G. K. S. K. S.	
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