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Senators back fur farming ban

Wednesday 12 December 2012

The senate has finally backed proposals to phase out fur farming in the Netherlands, leading to a total ban by 2024.

Compensation for fur farmers who lose their businesses will be up to the courts, Nos television said.

The Netherlands is one of the biggest fur farming countries in the world, with around 160 farms producing five million pelts a year.

In 2009, MPs in the lower house of parliament voted to phase out fur farming by 2018 but little progress has been made since then.

Economic affairs minister Henk Kamp told senators he would present more detailed legislation to the cabinet within a few weeks.

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Readers' Comments

I have very mixed feelings on this. These farms exist because there is a market for the pelts - not locally I agree but mainly in Russia I understand. Whilst I would never wear fur, people still do and if so, I'd much rather it was produced here where there are strict rules and laws regulating care and slaughter than shutting down all the farms and having new farms springing up in e.g. Eastern Europe etc. where conditions are likely to be far worse than here and unregulated. This is also a significant source of income in Holland, you only need to look at the number of farms - stopping this would make a huge dent in some local economies.

By Mazza B | 12 December 2012 10:18 AM

The fact that other countries do things worse, shouldn't be an excuse to allow it here. This ban is long overdue. Besides the fur farmers get more then 10 years to change their business to something else.

By pepe | 12 December 2012 3:46 PM

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Ban it NOW! Not by 2024.....right now. We live in the 21st Century . This a disgusting , disgraceful practice and economical benefit shouldn't be a

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consideration.

By Edward Ka-Spel | 12 December 2012 5:43 PM

There is a market for everything, but just because someone is willing to pay doesn't make it ethically or morally correct. Keep moving forward to ban this inhumane industry!

By Debbie | 12 December 2012 7:23 PM

Fur is a green alternative to petroleum based nylons and chemically produced synthetic clothing. Why the religion of animal right extremists has become main stream with our politicians? Are we to all become vegan by 2024 as well? When did the raising of animals for food and clothing become a bad thing? For hundreds of thousands of years we have done this. This crazy outlawing the raising of animals for fur. As long as it is done humanely.

By Joel Winston | 12 December 2012 7:25 PM

Good job! The Netherlands wins! Their courageous stand makes a statement that can now be touted in opposition to animal cruelty. The next step to stop the fur industry is through the entertainment industry, by shaming the general public into not wearing fur or buying cheap leather goods. By getting Americans and Europeans to hate fur and leather, the rest of the world will follow suit. I've just heard to today that the country of Botswana has just banned hunting!

The righteous man cares for the soul of his domestic animal, but the mercies of the wicked are cruelty. -- Proverbs 12:10

Twitter @LiLSteeveSteve

By Steeve Steve | 12 December 2012 10:23 PM

Thank you ! Keep up the good work!

By Lisa Burnach | 12 December 2012 11:59 PM

Thank you so much for your work to protect animals. I hope people will begin to realize wearing dead animals is not fashion -- it's cruelty. Thank you again -- good job!!!

By Edith Crowe | 13 December 2012 12:04 AM

It's an interesting issue... I lived in Russia for a year, and, although I am vegan myself, and couldn't bear to wear a dead animal, I understood why the people there choose fur. Although they also do amazing things with wool, but wool is a poor man's cloth, and fur is fashionable..so there's another value-laden hitch. We westerners love to polish our halos, but most westerners in Russia were wearing expensive down jackets that also required animal slaughter to make.. We seems to forget that part..

By Cassandra | 13 December 2012 12:06 AM

Way to go Netherlands!!! There is NO SUCH THING as humane fur farming. We have endless alternatives that don't epitomize violence, cruelty, and indifference.

By Casey | 13 December 2012 12:06 AM

Kudos to Netherlands! Great job!!! Only now if we can end the slaughter of so many beautiful horses!!

By Dawn | 13 December 2012 12:06 AM

There is NO SUCH THING AS HUMANE FUR!
Animals are kept in tiny cages until they go crazy and then are skinned alive!

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Its not people who are labeled "animal extremists" who are crazy but the people who fail to recognize who evil this industry is and that there are better choices in making coats for people.

By Kim Brown | 13 December 2012 12:10 AM

12 more years of slaughter is to much it should be stopped now!

By Renee | 13 December 2012 12:15 AM

Excellent decision. Fur trade needs to stop.

By Chris | 13 December 2012 12:25 AM

Bless the beasts and the children.....and all of those that try to end their suffering.

By amy butchas | 13 December 2012 12:25 AM

The ban on fur is happening because people are waking up to the unnecessary inhumanity committed against other defenseless creatures. In other words it is called having compassion for a fellow creature of this planet. Thus discontinuing being a knuckle dragger.

By Lila | 13 December 2012 12:47 AM

LOVE that they are taking a stand. Fur farming is such a barbaric thing to do...

By Tami G | 13 December 2012 12:54 AM

While they're worrying about the rabbits, maybe they should spare a thought for their elderly with the euthanasia laws they have.

By Donna | 13 December 2012 12:58 AM

For those who say this may hurt the economy....This is an argument built on the basis that money trumps morality. It doesn't. Slavery was argued to be justified because it served an economic engine, yet, we know no matter how much it benefited the economy, it could not stand because it was morally wrong. Fur farms are also immoral and should be shut down.

By Thom | 13 December 2012 12:59 AM

@Edward Ka-Spel. Exactly! No justification in killing something just to wear it. NL is a major producer of fur, and a major place for factory farms. Pretty disgusting for such a tiny country.

By Anne Onymous | 13 December 2012 1:17 AM

<3 it, congrats, Netherland!
Despite of 2024 is too faraway, it's better then never.

By Monica Lidizzia | 13 December 2012 1:23 AM

Well done! Someone always has to make the first leap! I will back this 100%

By Sarah Kiraly | 13 December 2012 1:23 AM

Kudos to the senate for banning fur farming. It is a horrible life for animals. If there is no fur to use in designs, I promise you all that the designers will find other textiles and faux fur will become the next big "thing".

By kimberly | 13 December 2012 1:35 AM

@Joel Winston. "Fur is a green alternative..." What brought you to that conclusion? This is not about animal rights extremists, it's about having the

decency and intelligence to know that killing something just to use as a fashion accessory is wrong. Almost all animals killed for fur are not part of our commercial food chain. So the rest of the animal is waste. What a waste!

By Anne Onymous | 13 December 2012 1:43 AM

Just because there is a market for these animals' skins, does not mean we, as human, have to right to kill them. We all need to get over ourselves and our "highest on the food chain" attitude and start treating all living creatures with compassion.

By Tina | 13 December 2012 2:08 AM

Just another reason I'd love to live in the Netherlands. :) Sure, ideally the ban would happen sooner than 2024, but at least it IS happening. Thank you!

By Regan McPhee | 13 December 2012 2:57 AM

Thank you all so very much for considering the feelings of innocent animals who have a soul like each of us does.

By Laura Pessell | 13 December 2012 3:21 AM

Ban it NOW! Not by 2024...right now. We live in the 21st Century! Nobody needs to wear fur anymore! Faux fur is easier to care for, it's lighter and it does not get taken off someone's back! How would you feel if someone would skin you to wear your skin???

By Ria | 13 December 2012 4:24 AM

The fur industry is horrifically cruel!! How can any government allow animals to be kept in excrement, anally electrocuted, drowned, skinned alive, and/or have their necks broken?!! We have no right to torture other living beings!! It should be stopped IMMEDIATELY!!!!

By Elise Margulis | 13 December 2012 4:49 AM

The killing of sentient beings is never ok. "Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages."
-- Thomas Edison

By Sarah Morrison | 13 December 2012 8:29 AM

Stop it NOW!!! Stop animal cruelty and ban this inhumane industry!

By Stephanie Voss | 13 December 2012 9:08 AM

Fur is not green! And there is ecological substitutes for leather made from plants. And thousands of years of eating meat and using fur and leather shouldn't be an excuse for having fur farms or any other animal farms. Human kinds has gone through very long evolution process. From hunters and berry pickers we continued by domesticating animals and learned how to grow food, later we started screwing up this planet by industrializing everything. If several thousand years ago killing animals, wearing fur and leather was necessity, then today it means- we have stuck in evolution. Going vegan should be next step of human kind evolution.

By Ineta | 13 December 2012 9:27 AM

I am very glad to hear such good news, I have absolutely no mixed feelings about this. It is God's gift to the animals that the torture of animals will soon end. BRAVO

By Etienne Saint Vregord | 13 December 2012 10:14 AM

Steevee steve

Cheap leather products come as an off- product of the meat industry . For every 200 hamburgers sold in McD's there is enough leather for 100 shoes or handbags. Otherwise it has to be thrown away
This is different than breeding animals only for their skin.

The Dutch chicken industry is inhumane this is a better target

By nd | 13 December 2012 10:34 AM

Thank you for taking steps to ban fur farms - they are simply not acceptable in this day and age.

By Kerry | 13 December 2012 10:59 AM

I think there needs to be a separation between what the animals are farmed for, and how they are farmed.

I fail to see the difference between raising animals for food/leather/down/gelatin/cosmetics/fertilizer... and raising them for pelts (and food).

How the animals live and die is much more important than what they are used for afterwards.

Our efforts would be better spent on ensuring more ethical treatment for all animals, rather than shutting down a single industry completely.

By Craig | 13 December 2012 11:02 AM

@ Craig Thank you Craig, you're smart

By radio junkie | 13 December 2012 12:23 PM

A BIG thank you from Portugal! Keep on with the good work.Progress isn't only cars an PC's, progress is being more human each day

By Nuno Carvalho | 13 December 2012 12:26 PM

I want to express my gratitude to the people who support the ban of the barbarity and I totally agree with the opinion that it should be ban right now.

By Natalie Sotnik | 13 December 2012 12:48 PM

Kudos to the Dutch politicians for standing up for animals and leading the way, hopefully, for the rest of the world. Canada needs this kind of example desperately, and as a Canadian I thank-you so much for taking a stand.

By Carol Jones | 13 December 2012 1:31 PM

This is great news!! Fur is barbaric and needs to end. Those who argue that it is greener than synthetic furs are missing the fact that animals kept in fur farms are kept in extremely cruel conditions and have horrific deaths. The lives of sentient beings trump the desire to be green, in my opinion.

By Rachel W. | 13 December 2012 3:58 PM

Thank you so much for making this compassionate and Godly decision. We are finally making some progress towards ending animal abuse! I I wish it was sooner!!!!!!!!!!!! 2024 is still 12 years away!
God bless!

By Eva Hurtado | 13 December 2012 4:44 PM

Send my Respect from Russia!!! I agree that Russia has a huge market for fur products but trust me it's mostly because not much else is available! If beautiful, fur-free winter coats are offered, most people will buy them. Young generation is much more aware of the cruel industry and prefers to go green. Just like me! No fur!

By Larisa | 13 December 2012 4:58 PM

Surely this is no worse than chicken farms, pig farms etc. etc. If you really want to be consistent, do not own cats or dogs, as they eat meat and this will have to come from, you guessed it - ANIMALS ! Let's all go veggie ! Also, no more leather shoes, belts, handbags, gloves

By Peter | 13 December 2012 5:14 PM

In a socialist State, there should be no reason why omnivores couldn't be mandated to be vegan, thus ending this discussion in the customarily totalitarian manner. (Do any readers see the sarcastic cynicism in that? I wonder!) These hypocrites ignore Dutch complicity in cruelty to orca "whales" yet would impose a fanatical ideology on Eskimos for wearing parkas! Give me a break!

By Drawer 22 | 13 December 2012 7:40 PM

good job!!!! Although it will again take 12 (!!!!) years, this is too much time! But you did a 1. step! hope that others will follow!!!

By Lena | 13 December 2012 8:22 PM

Someone has to make the first step and very often, the Dutch stick out their necks first! Congratulations to them, once again leading by example. And yes, we will gradually let go of animal products, and yes, more and more people will be going vegetarian and finally vegan. The inhabitants of this planet have no other alternative if they want to survive beyond this century. I also wish it was sooner.

By Peter Verhaegen | 13 December 2012 10:55 PM

Thank you Holland!

By Nia Garcia | 14 December 2012 12:09 PM

Sorry Peter, but fur farming is already banned in Croatia (since 2007 with a ten year phase out) the UK (since 2000 and 2002 in Scotland) and Austria. In Switzerland there are so many regulations in force controlling fur farms that no farming is actually carried out.

By Me | 14 December 2012 3:48 PM

Finally! hope it goes through all the way, I support fur farming TOTAL BAN

By e polanco | 15 December 2012 12:23 AM

Great news! Although an immediate ban would have been better. The horrific cruelty that goes on in the fur farming industry needs to stop! Anyone that thinks fur is acceptable should watch the undercover footage of what happens to these animals if that doesn't change your mind then you are a severely cold hearted 'being' to say the least

By Zara | 2 March 2013 10:49 PM