

The U. S. shamefully allows the leghold trap to still be used. It will be up to states to individually outlaw steel-jaw leghold traps. This will only happen with the help of compassionate people at the grassroots level who are willing to write letters to legislators and educate them and others on the excruciating pain caused by these devices. Ask your friends, family, and coworkers to join you in campaigning against this torturous device. Voice your disapproval and request that the government totally ban the leghold trap. You will be making a difference in the lives of millions of animals—potential victims of the steel leghold trap.

The facts on fur are simple. Fur is skin that's violently torn off the backs of animals. And the animals do not "just" die peacefully — they are killed for their skins during their youth. They are either trapped and killed in the wild or imprisoned and executed at a fur ranch.

The pain and suffering experienced by both ranch-raised fur animals and trapped animals is simply unnecessary when reasonable clothing alternatives exist.



*Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals*

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*Presented by The National Humane Education Society*



# Fur Industry Shame: Misery and Suffering for Fashion?



**NHES** opposes the killing of animals for their furs. Absolutely no compelling reason exists for subjecting animals (chinchilla, fox, mink, rabbit, etc.) to pain, suffering, and death when viable clothing alternatives exist.

The fur industry claims that the majority of furbearers killed for coats are humanely raised on “ranches.” Ranching now accounts for about half of total pelt production — but only a few species, including mink, chinchilla, and silver and grey fox, are raised on ranches.

Animals ranch-raised for their fur live out their short lives in horrible conditions and then they are subjected to cruel deaths. The U.S. government does not bother to regulate fur farming and states do not force fur ranchers to comply with existing cruelty statutes. As this is the case, severe abuses occur. It is not unusual to find animals lying in their fecal matter or to have animals with their extremities frozen to cold wire caging during winter. Veterinary care is severely lacking for these poor creatures.

Some ranchers break the animals’ necks in order to “save” their fur. Ranchers may anally electrocute them or poison them with strychnine or cyanide. Others gas animals with unfiltered, hot carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide. The American Veterinary Medical Association has condemned most of these killing methods as inhumane.

## **Work locally in your town, city and state to put an end to the steel-jaw leghold trap**

Approximately fifteen million animals are killed in traps each year. NHES opposes the trapping of animals because it is inherently cruel to subject animals to pain and suffering for commercial purposes. Various types of traps are used to capture animals and traps are indiscriminate in choosing victims. A bear cub, deer, eagle, companion dog or cat is just as likely to fall into the deadly grip of the trap as any intended target. The steel-jaw leghold trap causes undeniable pain and suffering. In response to the pain, trapped animals have been known to break their teeth while trying to free themselves and still others have been known to gnaw off their own limbs.

Federal and state governments spend taxpayer dollars on trapping programs and allow private trappers to kill animals for fur in the name of disease control. Instead, public education programs should be expanded to teach people how to identify rabid animals and how to prevent rabies by taking common sense precautions such as vaccinating companion animals and not leaving food or garbage outside to entice wild animals.

