



The Rt. Honourable Theresa May, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

11 March 2018

Dear Prime Minister

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated”. We believe that Britain’s responsibility to animals does not end at our borders, but extends globally, to those animals killed to be traded into our country.

With that in mind, we write to urge your government’s action to ban the import and sale of animal fur in the UK. In fur farms and traps around the world, more than 100 million animals suffer and die every year for the frivolous fur trade, including fur sold here in the UK.

The UK banned fur farming 17 years ago because it is cruel and unethical. But since then hundreds of millions of pounds of animal fur has been imported from countries such as Poland, the USA and China, where conditions continue to cause unspeakable suffering.

This makes no sense; if fur is too cruel to produce in this country, it's too cruel to sell in this country.

Mrs May, the animal fur arriving in British ports is from animals who have suffered a lifetime in tiny barren cages, often driven insane by neglect. It is from animals who have been brutally electrocuted or gassed, and sometimes even skinned alive. It is from animals caught and left for days in barbaric leg-hold traps. They endure all of this to then have their fur processed into a frivolous trim on a hat, coat, shoe or handbag. We should not trade on their suffering.

The import and sale of fur from dogs, cats and commercially-hunted seals is already banned. We urge you to extend these bans to protect *all* species. Fox or dog, cat or mink, animal fur has no place in our shops and wardrobes.

Polls show that 69% of the British public support a ban on the import and sale of animal fur in the UK, and later this month animal charities will present a petition with over 360,000 signatures of support. The fashion industry is also turning against fur, with top designers such as Gucci and Michael Kors dropping fur, and more and more high street stores across Britain going fur-free.

Like you, we want Britain to be a ‘world leader on animal welfare’, so we urge you make the compassionate decision for a #FurFreeBritain.

Sincerely

Alesha Dixon, Alison Steadman OBE, Sir Andy Murray OBE, Bill Bailey, Chris Packham, Douglas Booth, Evanna Lynch, Fearné Cotton, Gabrielle Aplin, James McVey, Jenny Seagrove, Jilly Cooper CBE, Joanna Lumley OBE, Joss Stone, Dame Judi Dench, Laura Whitmore, Lesley Nicol, Lucy Watson, Martin Clunes OBE, Melanie C, Nicky Campbell OBE, Paloma Faith, Ricky Gervais, Rula Lenska, Simon Amstell, Simon Pegg, Sue Perkins, Tiffany Watson, Twiggy

Claire Bass, Executive Director Humane Society International UK
Elisa Allen, Director, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
David Bowles, Head of Public Affairs, RSPCA
Dr Brian May CBE, Brain May Save Me Trust
Dr Jane Goodall DBE, The Jane Goodall Institute UK
Isobel Hutchinson, Director, Animal Aid
Brian da Cal, Country Director, Four Paws
Randy Paynter, CEO, Care2
Connor Jackson, UK Director, Open Cages
Juliet Gellatley, Director, Viva!