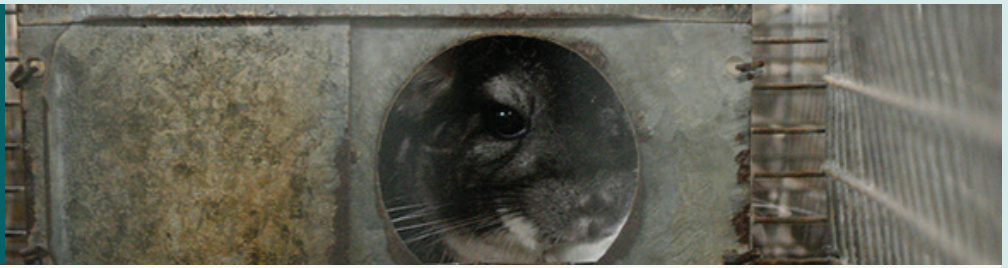


# # MAKE FUR HISTORY



## WELFARE PROBLEMS ON CHINCHILLA FUR FARMS

Keeping chinchillas in battery cages thousands times smaller than their natural territories compromises their welfare severely.

Chinchillas are bred commercially for their fur in several regions of Europe (i.e. Poland, Denmark, Hungary) and in South-America (Brazil and Argentina). The intense battery cage system used on fur farms deprives chinchillas of the opportunity to express their species-specific behaviour - such as running and jumping - and causes severe welfare problems.



The behavioral needs of chinchillas kept for fur cannot be met on fur factory farms.



### IN THE WILD:

- chinchillas can move with great speed and jump heights of up to 1 or 2 m;<sup>1</sup>
- are highly social animals and originally lived in colonies of over 100 animals;<sup>2</sup>
- are assumed to live in monogamous pairs;
- have a habit of dust bathing;
- are shy animals and often retreat into rocky crevices and hollows;
- are nocturnal animals.

### ON FUR FARMS:

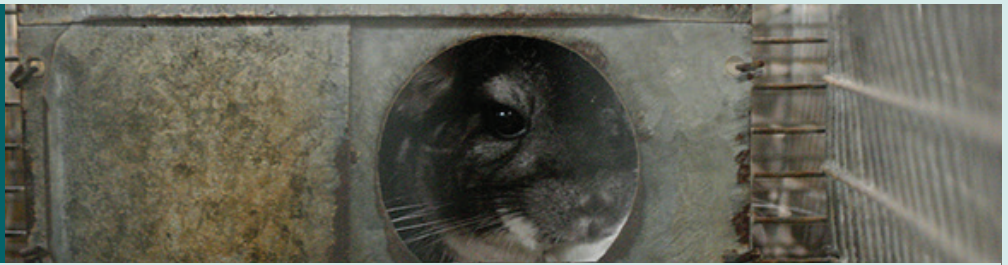
- chinchillas are kept in small wire-mesh cages of on average 50 x 50 x 50 cm
- the caging conditions do not meet the social needs of chinchillas;<sup>3</sup>
- females are restrained by plastic collars and forced to live in polygamous conditions;
- limited access to dust bathing and nest boxes;<sup>4</sup>
- are inspected and cared for during daytime.

## AN INHUMANE DEATH

To preserve the pelts, chinchillas are killed by inhumane methods on fur farms, such as head-to-tail or water electrocution, gassing and neck breaking.<sup>5</sup> The process of electrocution, that can take 10 to 30 seconds, can cause severe suffering when applied to chinchilla while conscious, which is often the case.<sup>6</sup>



# # MAKE FUR HISTORY



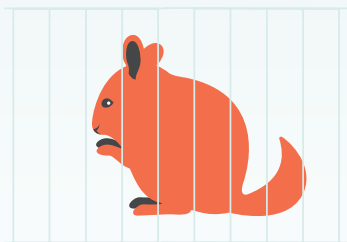
**“The Dutch parliament calls for a EU-wide ban on the breeding and killing of chinchillas and foxes for their fur, for this type of fur can only be produced at the cost of great suffering.”**

(Dutch Parliament, 2008)

The average chinchilla cage size on European fur farms is not much larger than 50 x 50 x 50 cm, while the EU Recommendations Concerning Fur Animals requires a minimum height of 100 cm for a chinchilla cage.<sup>7,8</sup>

**International studies have shown behavioral disorders and health problems are highly common on chinchilla fur farms:**

- On Dutch fur farms 47 % of the chinchillas exhibit stress-related stereotype like behaviors.<sup>9,10</sup>
- Pelt-biting is observed in 5-10% of chinchillas on fur farms.<sup>11,12</sup>
- Inadequate feeding of chinchillas leads to fungal infections, dental problems and infant mortality.<sup>13,14</sup>
- It is likely that operatives and inspectors are not aware of the stereotypic behavior, since chinchillas are entirely nocturnal.
- Cage enrichment does not effectively address these severe welfare issues of chinchillas on fur farms.<sup>15,16</sup>



## CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Chinchillas are long-lived rodents native to South-America. In the past, the intensive hunting and trapping of chinchillas for their fur has driven the species to near extinction. Even though chinchillas are now protected by law in their natural habitat as endangered species, the populations continue to decline.<sup>17,18</sup>

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