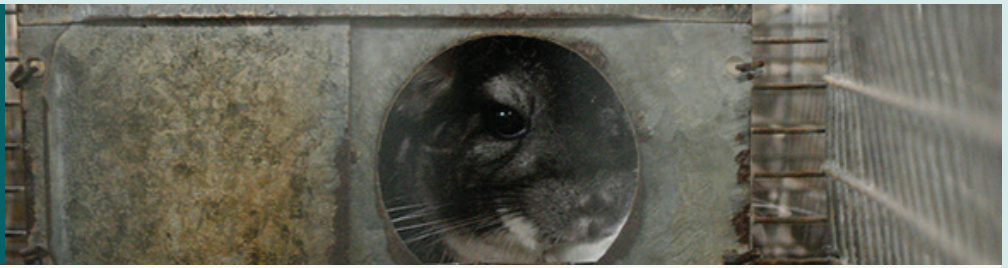


MAKE FUR HISTORY



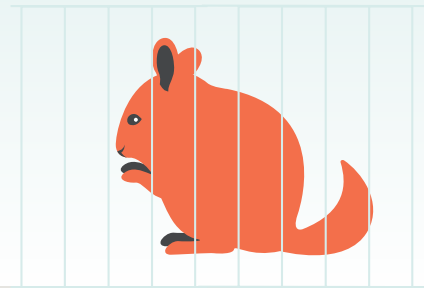
WELFARE PROBLEMS ON CHINCHILLA FUR FARMS

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 from 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 NATURE:

- Chinchillas can move with great speed and jump heights of up to 1 or 2 m³
- Are highly social animals and live in colonies of over 100 animals⁴
- 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:

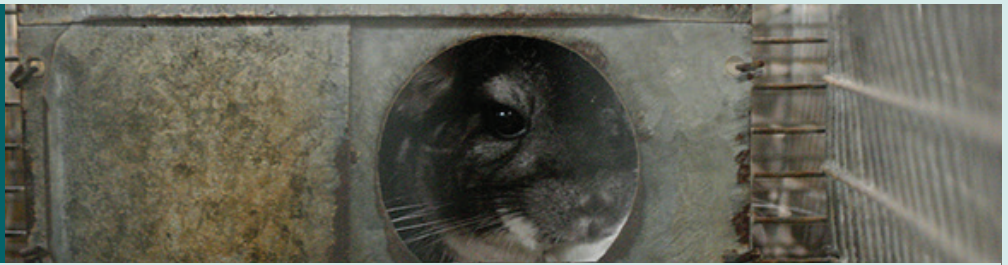
- Chinchillas are kept in small wire-mesh cages of on average 50 x 50 x 50 cm
- The caging conditions do not meet the social needs of chinchillas³
- Females are restrained by plastic collars and forced to live in polygamous conditions
- Limited access to dust bathing and nest boxes⁴
- Are inspected and cared for in 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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶



MAKE FUR HISTORY



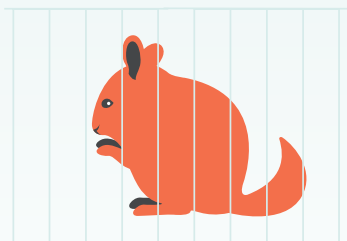
“The Dutch parliament calls for a EU-wide ban on the breeding and killing of chinchillas and foxes for their fur, for this type of fur can only be produced at the cost of great suffering”

(Dutch Parliament, 2008)

The standard chinchilla cage size on European fur farms is - 50 x 52 x 67 cm, while the EU Recommendations Concerning Fur Animals requires a minimum height of 100 cm for a chinchilla cage.^{13,14}

International studies have shown behavioral disorders are highly common on chinchilla fur farms:

- 47 % of chinchillas on Dutch fur farms show stress-related stereotypic like behaviors^{5,6}
- Pelt-biting is observed in 5-10% of chinchillas on fur farms^{7,8}
- Inadequate feeding of chinchillas leads to fungal infections, dental problems and infant mortality^{9,10}
- It is likely that attendants 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^{11,12}



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.^{17,18}

1. Council of Europe (1999)
2. Council of Europe (1999)
3. Kersten, A. M. P. (1997). Behavioural and welfare of chinchillas in commercial farming: a preliminary study. ISAE Proceedings. p.42.
4. SCAHAW (2001) The Welfare of Animals Kept for Fur Production. Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare adopted on 12-13 December 2001. p. 61.
5. Kersten, A. M. P. (1997). Behavioural and welfare of chinchillas in commercial farming: a preliminary study. ISAE Proceedings. P. 38.
6. SCAHAW (2001). p. 153.
7. Ponzio et al. A survey assessment of the incidence of fur-chewing in commercial chinchilla (*Chinchilla lanigera*) farms. *Anim Welf* 2007;16:471–9. Vanjonack WJ, Johnson HD.
8. Haferbeck, E., (1983). Fruchtbarkeits- und Produktiviteitszahl in der Chinchillazucht. *Deutsche Pelztierzüchter* 57, 148-149.
9. Bickel, E. (1983) *Südamerikanische Chinchillas*. Albrecht Philler Verlag, Minden, p. 186.
10. D.M. Broom, A.F. Fraser (2007) *Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare*, 4th edition, CAB International Wallingford.
11. SCAHAW (2001) p. 61.
12. Schuurman, T. (1996). Gedragsreacties van chinchillas (*Chinchilla laniger*) op toenadering van mensen: een onderzoek op drie chinchillafarms in Nederland. University of Wageningen. p. 27.
13. Council of Europe (1999) Recommendation Concerning Fur Animals, adopted by the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes on 22 June 1999. https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare_en ((last accessed 29.05.2018)
14. A. Bljaji (2013) *Fur Farming: Chinchilla Welfare*, M.S. Thesis, University of Zagreb, p. 33
15. SCAHAW (2001) p. 69.
16. American Veterinary Medical Association (2013) *AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 edition*. p. 39.
17. IUCN 2017. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org> (last accessed 29.05.2018).
18. <http://www.wildchinchillas.org/> (last accessed 29.05.2018)