



Panamalaan 110
1019 AZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E: info@furfreealliance.com
W: www.furfreealliance.com

Luis Planas
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
C / Almagro, 33 - 3rd floor
28071
Madrid

Cc Salvador Illa Roca, Minister of Health
Cc Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Minister of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenges

Reference: coronavirus outbreaks on mink farms in Spain

Kopenhagen, 31st July 2020

Dear Minister Planas,

I write to you on behalf of the Fur Free Alliance, a coalition of more than fifty animal protection organisations who are campaigning for an end to the exploitation of animals farmed and trapped for their fur. We believe that fur factory farming is inherently cruel and encourage governments around the world to bring about legislation to end the practice.

Our members have followed the news about the Covid-19 infection on a Spanish mink fur factory farm with increasing alarm. It is deeply distressing to learn that almost 100,000 mink on the farm in Aragon have been gassed to death after the virus was eventually confirmed on 16 July 2020, eight weeks after seven of the farm workers tested positive and then only after four sets of tests were conducted on animals at the farm.

Exploiting, depriving and killing animals for frivolous fur fashion is not only incredibly cruel and unnecessary, but we now know from research carried out in the Netherlands that it can also serve as a reservoir for coronaviruses, posing a risk to human health.

As I'm sure you're aware, coronavirus has now been identified in mink – many of whom have been asymptomatic - on twenty-six farms in the Netherlands and three farms in Denmark, resulting in more than 1.1 million animals being culled. The authorities in the Netherlands have now instituted mandatory testing, including an "early warning system" where all fur farms are required to submit "naturally" deceased cadavers for testing on a weekly basis. This system has identified 18 out of the 27 cases of infections. The transportation of mink, between farms and across borders, has also been restricted.



Panamalaan 110
1019 AZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E: info@furfreealliance.com
W: www.furfreealliance.com

Given the experience in Aragon, and the fact that it appears many animals suffering from COVID-19 are asymptomatic, we would strongly urge you to issue instructions to the Official Veterinary Services of the Autonomous Communities adopt additional measures to help identify and control any instances of this virus on the thirty-seven mink farms in Spain:

- Implement mandatory testing of all fur farms, including the early warning system used in the Netherlands, prioritising the two farms (in Ávila and Guipúzcoa) identified in April which tested negative.
- Ensure that farms where mink have had to be culled are not-restocked and are instead closed down.
- Stop the transportation of all mink, both within Spain and across its borders.

In addition, given the inherent animal welfare issues related to fur factory farming, the potential for zoonotic disease spread, and for mink fur farms in particular to act as reservoirs for coronaviruses, incubating pathogens transmissible to humans, we respectfully urge you to close down all mink farms in Spain at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Joh Vinding
Chairman
Fur Free Alliance



Panamalaan 110
1019 AZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E: info@furfreealliance.com
W: www.furfreealliance.com

The Fur Free Alliance is an international coalition of over 50 animal protection organisations representing millions of supporters worldwide.





Panamalaan 110
1019 AZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E: info@furfreealliance.com
W: www.furfreealliance.com

NOAH | for dyrs rettigheter



oe
oikeutta eläimille



adčynienyja klietki

tušti narvai

otwarte klatki

открытые клетки

відкриті клітки

respect for animals
FIGHTING THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE



svoboda zvířat
organizace na ochranu zvířat



UNIQUE PLANET
UP
ЕДИНА ПЛАНЕТА



Veganstvo



Viva!
Akeja dla zwierząt
Organizacja Pożytku Publicznego



world animal net



Panamalaan 110
1019 AZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E: info@furfreealliance.com
W: www.furfreealliance.com

- ACTAsia
- Anima
- Anima Mundi
- Animal Friends Croatia
- Animal Rights Center Japan
- Animalia
- Animals Friend Fund Latvia
- Associação ANIMAL
- Association for the Protection of Fur Bearing Animals
- Beauty without Cruelty
- Bont voor Dieren
- Born Free USA
- Campaigns and Activism for the Animals in Industry
- CARE
- Change for Animals Foundation
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Djurens Rätt
- Dyrenes Alliance
- Dzīvnieku Brīvība
- Ecoetica
- Ecoveg
- Four Paws
- GAIA
- Galop
- Humane Society International
- Humánny Pokrok
- Hungarian Anti-Fur League
- JAVA
- LAV
- Loomus
- NOAH
- Observatorio
- Oikeutta Eläimille
- One Voice
- Open Cages Belarus
- Open Cages Lithuania
- Open Cages Poland
- Open Cages Russia
- Open Cages Ukraine
- Respect for Animals
- RSPCA
- Sloboda za Životinje
- Svoboda zvířat
- Swiss Animal Protection
- The Humane Society of the United States
- Tu Abrigo Su Vida
- UAnimals
- Unique Planet
- VEGAIA
- Vegan Initiative
- Vier Pfoten
- Viva!
- Voices for Animals
- World Animal Net