

No FUR, FACTS & FIGURES

In more and more countries the public in general are growing indignant about the use of animals for the sake of their fur. Animals are used for all kinds of purposes: for food, sports, company, or research, but there always remains the question to consider whether the benefit of a particular use of animals will really counterbalance the amount of suffering caused by it.

However that may be, practically everybody agrees that the use of animals for the sake of their fur is totally unnecessary.

LUXURY AND AGONY

Fur is widely considered to be a luxury product. That fur should be the only material possible to protect oneself against the cold is nonsense: fur is a product for which there exist a great many alternatives. Many Eskimos, for instance, even prefer other materials to fur. 50 million furred animals yearly die in traps; another 50 million live out a short and miserable life in fur farms. Since it became known under what conditions a fur coat comes into being more and more people have decided to leave those coats either in the shops or in their wardrobes.

THE FACTS

This brochure intends to go through all the facts concerning the lot of furred animals systematically. For who knows how furred animals are caught in their natural habitat or removed from it, what is happening on a fur farm and how the fur branch is organized in the first place? Secondly a great many figures will give you an idea of the enormous extension of this animal-unfriendly industry.

Finally we will give a few tips to those animal lovers who want to help lessen the sufferings of furred animals actively. The conclusion of it all will be clear: fur is for animals only.

WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

NO FUR....

The World Society for the Protection of Animals, an organization joined by 360 animal protection organizations, has started a world-wide anti fur campaign. This NO FUR campaign is supported by organizations in a great many countries.

If fur would not be sold any more in countries where it is worn a great deal, such as Japan, the U.S.A., Germany or Italy fur breeders automatically would stop breeding mink, for instance, or foxes, while fur trappers would lay aside their tools.

SABLE

This rare carnivore, a ground animal, allied to the European pine marten, mainly occurred in Siberia. It lives on small rodents, fish, insects, nuts, fruit and honey. Because of its beautiful coat it has long been hunted so sharply that the species was almost threatened with extinction. However, since its fur still remained in great demand sables too are now bred in fur farms. In 1987 175.000 sable skins were sold by auction at Leningrad, 30.000 of which were home-bred. Sable is one of the most expensive kinds of fur. A sable coat of medium length costs 60 animals and over 50,000 dollars!

TRAPPING FOR FUR

A raccoon crawls out of its hole, unsuspectingly sniffs at a piece of bait, and WHAM a trap snaps to. The animal has nowhere left to go and starts straining and twisting in its anxiety, in order to get free, but it will all be useless. It remains trapped and it can only save itself by gnawing through its leg. 50% of the animals used in the fur sector were born wild. About 50 million wild furred animals are annually caught all over the world.

Furred animals are hunted most in North America and in the Soviet Union. Table I. shows how many animals of different species are caught in the U.S.A.

and in Canada alone. A great deal of fur further comes from South America (felines) and Australia (e.g. one million kangaroos).

CATCHING ANIMALS

Wild animals are mostly caught with traps. Traps have some advantages over rifles. The fur-hunter can place all the traps he wants in his fields, into which the animals will wander automatically, while the occasional bullet would, moreover, damage the precious skins.

The traps most used are the leghold trap and the conibear trap, while the snare is one of the favourite means of catching smaller animals.

THE LEGHOLD TRAP

The animal is intended to tread on the pan of this trap, after which the two iron clamps are supposed to bang forcefully shut round its leg, which is very painful indeed, since the jammed leg is immediately injured seriously. The strong spring of the device takes care of it that the trap stays shut tight, so that the animal cannot escape. In its fear and anxiety it tries to disengage itself forcibly. Animals caught in this way are often found to have lost some teeth by biting the metal of the trap. It also often happens that they pull, twist and gnaw at their leg so long that it gets torn off, so that part of it remains in the trap, while the animal tries to flee on three legs, badly wounded. In the United States about 90% of all the animals are caught with the leghold trap. In Canada about 43% This trap is used for practically all species of furred animals. It is generally considered a very cruel method of catching animals. That's why it is prohibited in over 60 countries.

THE CONIBEAR TRAP

This trap has been designed to kill the animal landing into it by means of a blow on the neck. The power for that comes from one or two strong springs. In practice, however, the animals hardly ever get into the trap in the manner as designed, so that they are not killed immediately. Conibear traps are often used to catch such aquatic animals as otters, beavers, minks and musk-rats, in which case the traps are placed under the surface of the water. If the animal is