

in the Andes in South America. By age-long overhunting it is hardly to be found wild now. However, there still are chinchilla fur supplies at present, because they are bred all over the world at present.

Chinchillas are very agile and mobile creatures; they can jump as high as 2 m, but chinchilla breeders keep the animals in small sheds, or sometimes in an attic, where they live in little, stacked up cages, which are just big enough for them to be able to turn round.

Long chinchilla coats sometimes need the skins of over 150 animals.

## FUR OR AGAINST

### ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF FUR AND AGAINST FUR

#### *FUR BREEDING IS AN ORDINARY AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY...*

Fur breeders like to say this, because they believe that this idea justifies their behaviour. However, there are important differences: husbandry mostly aims at producing food; animal husbandry only makes use of domesticated animals which have been kept for agricultural purposes for thousands of years on end already. That's why the animals are reasonably accustomed to life with humans now. Furred animals, however, are wild animals. They are, moreover, killed at the farms and not in government-inspected slaughter-houses.

#### *ANIMAL SKINS HAVE BEEN WORN AS LONG AS MAN HAS EXISTED...*

They had to be used, because there was nothing else to wear. The skins came as a by-product of meat. When the necessity of wearing animal skins disappears the justification for breeding animals just for the purpose of wearing their skins also disappears, all the more since it is accompanied with such suffering. Even polar expeditions don't use fur coats any more, because there are better, less expensive, warmer and lighter alternatives available nowadays.

#### *WE ALSO WEAR LEATHER...*

Leather is a by-product of the meat-industry. As long as we eat meat there will be leather. Besides, alternatives for leather shoes, for instance, are hard to find. But to exclusive leathers, such as snakeskin or crocodile, there are the same objections. Leather lounge suites

and coats are, of course, not really necessary either.

#### *IF WE EAT THEIR MEAT, CAN WE ALSO WEAR THE SKINS OF GOATS, CALVES AND PONIES?...*

The meat of these animals is often eaten. But wearing their fur lowers the threshold for wearing that kind of fur for which special animals have to be bred specifically. Many animals, such as goats and lambs, are in the first place kept for their fur. Karakul lambs are killed immediately after birth, just for the sake of this fine, curly hair, while there is no meat to speak of to be found.

#### *IN TIMES OF EXTENSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT WE SHOULD ONLY BE TOO PLEASED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO EARN MONEY IN THE FUR TRADE...*

Slave labour and child labour were also defended with the argument that it was an enormous economic necessity at the time. That some people earn a living with something does not justify all their actions. Besides, large investments are needed for job opportunities in the fur industry in any case.

#### *FUR IS A NATURAL PRODUCT, WHICH IS HARMLESS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AT THAT...*

Skins are dressed by means of strong chemicals. Fur coats are often dyed. Fur farms cause serious environmental pollution.

If we make the energy-comparison for artificial and for genuine fur we come to the following results: for the making of a coat of artificial fur a quantity of energy is needed which is comparable to that released by 4 1/2 l of burning gas.

If wild animals are caught and killed a quantity of energy is needed which is comparable to the combustion of 15 l.

A coat originally coming from a factory farm in this connection even needs a combustion-value of 300 l. An artificial fur coat is in any case less harmful to the environment and less wasteful of energy.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The World Society for the Protection of Animals wants to inform as many people as possible about the conditions in which animals have to suffer for the sake of their fur. Only when consumers all over the world know how animals are

being caught, kept and killed for that sake will fur coats be in less demand. You do not want to by fur any more by now, we are sure.

But what more can you do?

## MORE INFORMATION FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Talk with friends and relations about the fate of furred animals. Perhaps they too would like to join the World Society for the Protection of Animals.
- Send a letter to a local or regional paper, telling them what you think about the use of animals for fur coats.
- Ask your local media if they will pay attention to the problem of furred animals. At our office you will be provided with further information.
- You might give an informative talk in a local community centre or somewhere else with the help of our video cassette.
- Ask what policy your municipal corporation is pursuing with regard to fur breeders. Perhaps you can bring this subject up for discussion.

## FOR STUDENTS ESPECIALLY

- Ask a teacher whether he/she will pay attention to fur at school.
- Ask if you may hang posters (available at our offices) in waiting-rooms, libraries, coffeeshops, schools or shops.
- Write your school paper and give your opinion about fur.

## IN THE TOWNS, CITIES ETC.

- Sometimes a municipality can decide in its zoning plan where which industries will be established. In this manner fur farms can be shut out from the scheme in some cases. In the town or city hall you can have a look at the zoning schemes.

## Colophon:

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