

Fur coats cause animal suffering

Fur is dead, so too is the fur industry. Top fashion designers and major stores around the world have turned their backs on real fur because of the cruelty it represents.

Anyone thinking, for example, of buying Jerry Sorbara's badger fur coat (Fashion page, Jan. 21) will be wearing the torture and death in leghold traps of 12 badgers, plus 36 other "trash" animals (unintended victims such as dogs, cats, birds, squirrels and deer). Try slamming your hand in a car door and leaving it there for 12 hours, then you can begin to understand the agony wild animals experience. One out of four trapped animals escapes by chewing its own limb, later to die from blood loss or gangrene or to be killed by predators.

And the full-length mink coat Sorbara proudly claims takes an average of 65 to 70 minks to make, minks which are kept in cages 1 foot by 3 feet with up to four in a cage on fur farms. Slaughter methods are gruesome — gassing, decompression chambers, anal electrocution, poisoning or neck snapping are common fur farm slaughter methods, where the farmers care only about preserving the quality of the fur.

Every fur coat represents the intense suffering of dozens of animals. These cruelties will only end when the public refuses to buy or wear fur products and rejects the propaganda of furriers and fashion designers whose monetary motives cause unjustifiable misery and death.

ELIZABETH OLIVER

Toyono, Osaka

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Dear Oliver-san:

I've just seen your opinion in the Readers in Council, Japan Times. I'm so glad to see it. When I saw the article on Jerry Sorbara's fur coats, I felt disgusted, and later made some copies to send to PETA, WSPA, Noah's Friends, etc., but failed to write an opinion to send to Japan Times. What I wanted to write was all in your opinion and I hope readers who have fur coats will feel too ashamed to wear them.

Just for your information, NO FUR FUND wrote a letter to the mother of Ms Owada who's been engaged to the Crown Prince after they saw her (mother) wearing a fur coat in a news program on TV. I personally wrote to her too, enclosing information on the cruelty behind fur coats. So far there has been no response from her.

Thank you very much for writing your opinion.

Sincerely,

Miwako Murakami