

To: Stacey Cartwright, Chief Executive, Harvey Nichols
From: Yvonne Taylor, PETA UK

Dear Ms Cartwright,

In light of a disturbing new study that found unsafe levels of potentially carcinogenic chemicals in the fur of several brands of designer children's clothing – some of which are currently on sale at Harvey Nichols – I'm writing on behalf of PETA to ask you to remove all real fur clothing and accessories from your department stores immediately. You can find the disturbing study [here](#).

Conducted by the respected Bremer Umwelt Institute in Germany, the study tested the fur trim on items of children's clothing produced by several well-known brands – including Canada Goose, Woolrich, Nickelson and Airforce. The shocking results revealed that the raccoon dog and coyote fur contained large quantities of toxic substances, particularly formaldehyde and ethoxylates. Large amounts of formaldehyde – which affects mucus membranes, causes allergic reactions and is considered a carcinogen – were found in five of the six jackets tested. Ethoxylates are known to be disruptive to hormone production and harmful to reproductive organs, as well as abrasive and potentially carcinogenic. Because the fur trim on the jackets comes into direct contact with the wearer's face and because children are far more sensitive to harmful chemicals than adults are, it is deeply concerning that these chemicals may be absorbed into the bloodstream of a child's still-developing body. A number of similar studies have found high levels of toxic chemicals in the fur used for children's clothing by some of the biggest names in fashion.

This latest study proves once again that there is nothing "natural" about clothing made from animals' skin, which must be treated with a toxic cocktail of hazardous chemicals used in the production and processing of furs to stop them from decomposing pose a very real threat to the health of *all* who wear them – both children and adults.

PETA has shared with you countless exposés into the utterly worthless "[Origin Assured](#)" fur labelling scheme that was set up by furriers and which Harvey Nichols continues to shamefully endorse to its customers. Whilst the horrific trapping, gassing, poisoning, drowning and electrocution of animals for their pelts evidently leaves you unmoved, we hope that as the Managing Director of Harvey Nichols – and as a mother – you will not be so nonchalant about protecting the health of your customers, particularly the youngest and most vulnerable. Please take urgent action by removing all real fur clothing and accessories from your stores and reinstate Harvey Nichols' no-fur policy.

I look forward to hearing from you about this serious matter.

Kind regards,

Yvonne Taylor