



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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To: Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture
From: Elisa Allen, Director, PETA

6 October 2020

Via e-mail: jari.leppa@parliament.fi

Dear Minister Leppä,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) following the recent announcement that because COVID-19 outbreaks were reported on mink farms, the Netherlands will shut down all remaining fur farms in the country by March 2021. Poland and France have also made the decision to close all mink farms. For the sake of human health – and animal welfare – it is imperative that Finland follow suit by introducing a ban on fur farming immediately.

To date, outbreaks of COVID-19 have been recorded on mink farms in the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, and the US – and this is hardly surprising. As with swine flu outbreaks, the coronavirus crisis is showing that cramming sick and stressed animals together in unsanitary conditions creates the perfect breeding ground for dangerous zoonotic pathogens, which can jump from other species to humans, making us ill and even killing us.

When it comes to the public health risk, Finland's fur farms are no different from the live-animal market in China where the devastating novel coronavirus is believed to have originated. On fur farms, animals are warehoused next to each other in rows of wire cages, and bodily fluids such as urine, excrement, pus, and blood can easily contaminate adjacent cages, allowing pathogens to emerge and spread. Public health experts confirm that minks can carry and pass on a wide variety of zoonotic bacteria and viruses, including LA-MRSA, hepatitis E, influenza, and salmonella. Allowing unsanitary fur farms – many of which are situated in the regions worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic – to continue operating would be a gross dereliction of duty.

Fur farms are also inexcusably cruel to animals, who often go insane and resort to self-mutilation or cannibalisation of their cagemates as a result of the extreme stress of confinement. Infections, sores, and festering, open wounds invariably go untreated. Animals are typically killed by being crammed into a box by the dozens and gassed to death.

The situation is urgent. Now is the time to take action and bring forth legislation outlawing fur farming in Finland.

Thank you. We look forward to discussing this pressing matter with you.

Kind regards,

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
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Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands



Elisa Allen
Director
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

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