



Petteri Orpo  
Prime Minister of Finland

Via e-mail: [petteri.orpo@parliament.fi](mailto:petteri.orpo@parliament.fi)

Dear Prime Minister Orpo:

As avian flu has been detected on Finnish mink farms and tens of thousands of minks are set to be culled, I write from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to call for the immediate and permanent closure of all fur farms in the country. This move would help prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases, protect vital natural resources, and bolster the country's reputation as an animal-friendly nation.

As you are likely aware, fur farming involves cramming large numbers of animals together in rows of wire cages, where bodily fluids such as urine, excrement, pus, and blood can easily pass from one to another. This encourages the presence of bird flu, COVID-19, and other dangerous zoonotic pathogens which can – and do – mutate and spread.

While Finland prides itself on being a “green” country, fur farming is an ecological nightmare. It emits huge volumes of greenhouse gases, pollutes soil and waterways with waste run-off, and gobbles up massive amounts of land, water, crops, and energy. The pelts it produces must be treated with a toxic soup of dangerous chemicals to keep them from rotting. Researchers have found heavy chemicals, including hexavalent chrome and formaldehyde, in the fur trim of children's clothing. These items were subsequently withdrawn from the market by the European Commission. Several European advertising standards committees have ruled that advertising fur as environmentally friendly is “false and misleading”.

In addition to being dangerous to human health and environmentally destructive, fur farming is inherently cruel. Investigations into Finnish fur farms found foxes with leg deformities and infected eyes, and the animals were fattened to four times their natural size. Exposés have also found minks suffering from untreated infections and extreme psychological distress as a result of their confinement.

Finland enjoys a reputation as a nation committed to high standards of animal welfare, but it is lagging behind the many other countries that have banned fur farming, including Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom. Keeping fur farms open goes against the wishes of the citizens – 74% of Finnish people oppose current fur farming practices. As prime minister, will you please commit to ending Finland's archaic, dangerous, and abusive fur industry?

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mimi Bekhechi  
Vice President for Europe, PETA

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Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
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