

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

KATY TANG
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**SAN FRANCISCO BECOMES FIRST MAJOR U.S. CITY TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF NEW
FUR APPAREL**

San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins West Hollywood and Berkeley and denounces animal cruelty in fashion

Today the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 10-0 in support of an ordinance authored by Supervisor Katy Tang that will ban the sale of new fur apparel and accessories in San Francisco. Supervisor Aaron Peskin was absent from the vote. The goal of enacting the fur ban is to send a strong message to the fur industry that the cruelty these animals endure for the purpose of becoming clothing and accessories is not consistent with the values of our city.

“More than 50 million animals are violently killed each year around the world to support the fashion industry,” said Supervisor Katy Tang. “San Francisco is a city with progressive values where we believe in the rights of all people as well as all living things – and it is not right to allow this practice to continue.”

More than 85% of the pelts in the world’s fur trade come from fur farms, and existing laws require little, if any, oversight of the fur farming trade industries. Compliance with the American Veterinary Medical Association is not mandatory, and fur farms are not monitored by any government agency. Animals raised on fur farms can spend their lives in cramped and filthy cages. Additionally, fur farming contributes to water and air pollution. Each mink skinned by fur farmers produces about 44 pounds of feces in the mink’s lifetime, which adds up to 1 million pounds of feces produced annually by mink farms. The byproduct of the feces, phosphorous, can leach into waterways and upset river and stream ecosystems.

“Supervisor Tang and San Francisco are leading the way in making a more compassionate world for animals,” said Wayne Hsiung, co-founder of Direct Action Everywhere. “This historic act will usher in a new wave of animal rights legislation across the globe.”

The first city in the United States to pass a similar ban was West Hollywood in 2011. Last year, Berkeley also passed a ban on the sale of fur apparel. San Francisco is the first major U.S. city to pass a ban and has the potential to set off a wave of similar bans across the nation. Other countries have also taken to passing laws phasing out fur farming, the first of which was enacted by the United Kingdom in 2000 and Australia in 2004. The Netherlands, the largest producer of fur in the European Union, banned fur farming in 2012 and will phase out mink farming by 2024. Just this month, Norway banned fur farms and will phase out fox and mink farms by 2025.

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And while San Francisco is a beacon for high fashion, many luxury designers have decided that they no longer want to use fur in their apparel and accessories. Most recently, Donatella Versace [made it public](#) that she would be going fur free in the name of animal welfare. In 2016, Giorgio Armani also pledged to go 100% fur free. Beginning this year, Gucci has stopped using animal fur in its products to promote social and environmental responsibility. By the end of this year, Michael Kors will no longer be using fur in their products, which includes the Jimmy Choo brand.

Other brands have been fur free for many years. Stella McCartney has been a vegan brand since its 2001 inception. More than two decades ago, Calvin Klein announced that his brand would stop selling fur based on their company philosophy. This does not affect just brick-and-mortar businesses, either – online high-fashion pioneer Yoox Net-a-Porter announced in 2017 that it was going fur free as well. The list goes on: Ralph Lauren, Vivienne Westwood, and Hugo Boss also proactively do not use fur in their designs.

“To me, it is unfashionable to take the life of another living creature for the purpose of wearing them,” said Supervisor Tang. “I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of animals everywhere and make it clear that we should not be profiting off of torture.”

The ordinance will go into effect January 1, 2019. Supervisor Tang amended the legislation at today’s meeting to reflect a one-year amnesty ending January 1, 2020 for retailers that can demonstrate proof of purchase prior to March 20, 2018.

The legislation does not apply to leather products, sheep or lamb skin products, non-apparel products, or second-hand items. A first violation would constitute a \$500 penalty per item, per day. To view the ordinance, please visit this [link](#).

For more information, please contact Supervisor Katy Tang’s office at (415) 554-7460 or Ashley.Summers@sfgov.org.