

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

KATY TANG
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO VOTE ON LEGISLATION BANNING FUR APPAREL SALES
BY SUPERVISOR KATY TANG**

Ordinance would make San Francisco first major U.S. city to ban fur clothing and accessory sales in effort to send strong message to fur industry that animal cruelty will not be tolerated

Today Supervisor Katy Tang spoke at a hearing of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee regarding her proposal to ban the sale of fur apparel and accessories in San Francisco. The ordinance would prohibit the sale of any new fur apparel item within San Francisco, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, and keychains. The goal of enacting the ban is to send a strong message to the fur industry that the violence these animals endure for the purpose of becoming clothing and/or accessories is not consistent with the values of our city.

“Fur factory farms are violent places for animals where they are gassed, electrocuted, poisoned and injured for the sole purpose of creating clothing and accessories,” said Supervisor Katy Tang. “It is unconscionable that San Francisco would continue to allow these types of products to be sold, and we must set the example for other cities across the country and the globe to join us in banning fur apparel.”

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.

“San Francisco is a city of animal lovers,” said Wayne Hsiung, co-founder of Compassionate Bay and Direct Action Everywhere. “We are proud that Supervisor Tang and the Board of Supervisors are continuing the city’s history of protecting the most vulnerable from cruelty and violence.”

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 would be the first major U.S. city to pass a ban and could 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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“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 animal fur is not for sale.”

Currently, San Francisco has very few businesses selling new fur apparel products – and there are businesses that have proactively stopped selling fur on their own. The ordinance would not apply to leather products, non-apparel products, or second-hand items. A first violation would constitute a \$500 penalty per item, per day. The ordinance was continued to a future Committee hearing and is expected to be passed onto the Board of Supervisors for a vote on February 20, 2018. If passed, the ordinance would go into effect on January 1, 2019.

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