

Humane World for Animals™

Prohibit cruel fur sales in Lake Forest Park

Lake Forest Park can take a stand against extreme animal cruelty by prohibiting the sale of new products from fur

Every year, tens of millions of wild animals like foxes, mink and raccoon dogs are confined in cruel and fur factory farms just to be crudely killed and turned into needless fashion products like fur-trimmed coats and poms on hats. A recent survey shows that 74% of Americans oppose killing animals for their fur, including 77% of Americans in western states (Research Co., 2025).

Most fur factory farms are located outside of the U.S. where wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped wire cages. The industry is so unregulated that even Washington doesn't know how many fur farms remain in the state because there are not requirements to operate these commercial animal operations.

By passing an ordinance to end the sale of new fur products, Lake Forest Park can increase community awareness of animal welfare, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment.

What will the ordinance do?

This ordinance ends the sale of new fur products from fur factory farms including clothing, accessories and home decor. **Importantly, it does not apply to**:

- Used fur products
- Fur products from hunted and trapped animals
- Other animal products such as leather, shearling or wool
- Fur products used for Native American tribal, cultural or spiritual purposes
- Fishing lures and fur used to make fishing lures
- Fur pelts and pieces that are not finished clothing, accessories or home decor
- Loose hair products (e.g., paint brushes, felt hats)

77%

Of western state residents oppose killing animals for fur

Environmentally harmful

Per kilogram, the fur industry has the largest negative impact of any material used for fashion, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, waste runoff, and toxicity.

Public health risk

Dozens of new viruses have been detected in fur factory farms, including avian flu and COVID, sparking concerns over these facilities serving as unregulated reservoirs for disease with pandemic-level potential.

This ordinance protects people and the environment

Fur factory farms are reservoirs for harmful disease such as COVID and avian influenza, and pose serious bio-security risks. Confining thousands of solitary, wild animals in crowded environments creates an ideal setting for pathogens to circulate. A recent study found that animals from fur farms in China harbor numerous viruses that are harmful to humans, making them effective “mixing vessels” to create novel pandemic viruses. Additionally, diseases from fur farms threaten native wildlife.

A recent analysis of fur production’s impact on the environment found that, per kilogram, the fur industry has the largest negative impact of any material used for fashion, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, waste runoff, and toxicity (Fur's Dirty Footprint, 2023). Water consumption for fur production is extraordinarily high, 104 times more than for acrylic, 91 times more than polyester, and 5 times more than cotton. The climate change impact of mink fur is at least 6 times greater than that of faux fur, which is increasingly made with bio-based materials. The processes of tanning and dying fur involve toxic, carcinogenic chemicals, such as formaldehyde and chromium, which may cause respiratory problems and leach into waterways.

This ordinance stops animal cruelty at the source.

This ordinance will prevent Lake Forest Park's support of the cruel fur farming industry. Every year, tens of millions of wild animals are confined in cruel and unsanitary fur factory farms to be killed and turned into fur products. Most fur factory farms are located overseas, primarily in China, where these wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped wire cages only to be gassed or electrocuted at the end. They suffer serious welfare problems, such as self-mutilation, infected wounds and disease. Because these animals are not raised for food, there are little to no animal welfare regulations or humane slaughter laws for fur animals.

Ending the sale of new fur products is the best action Lake Forest Park can take to end support of the fur factory farming industry.



Humane World for Animals