

FUR FREE IRELAND



WHY FUR FARMING SHOULD BE BANNED IN IRELAND



FUR FARMS IN IRELAND:

- There are currently three fur farms in Ireland (Donegal, Kerry & Laois) containing 200,000 mink (*Neovison vison*)
- The ISPCA and Respect for Animals are opposed to the farming of animals for their fur on animal welfare and ethical grounds and are calling for a ban on fur farming in Ireland
- The welfare of mink in intensive battery farms cannot be protected by a Code of Practice and only a prohibition can prevent serious welfare issues
- Mink are essentially wild animals and are not suited to being kept in intensive farms in wire mesh battery cages



WILD MINK

- A mink's home range can be up to 3 km² or as much as 7.5 km along rivers or coasts
 - Mink are solitary animals
 - Semi-aquatic, swimming and diving are highly significant aspects of their lifestyle
 - In the wild, mink do not perform stereotyped, repetitive pacing or chew their own fur or tails
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- Serious injuries and stereotypies are common in farmed mink
 - Industry-led welfare assessment scheme (WelFur), cannot address the significant welfare problems caused by the confinement of mink to battery cages system¹
 - Banned in 14 EU Member States
 - Escaped animals have had a serious impact on the environment and native species
 - Suffer inhumane death – scientific reviews have consistently condemned the commonly used killing methods, such as gassing and electrocution, as inhumane
 - Mink are semi-aquatic, are highly evolved to hold their breath and therefore highly tolerant to hypoxia (low levels of oxygen) and will suffer a painful death

¹ Pickett & Harris (2015) The Case Against Fur Factory Farming: A Scientific Review of Animal Welfare Standards and 'WelFur'.



FARMED MINK:

- Spend their entire lives in wire mesh battery cages, typically measuring 90x30x45 cm
- Live in close proximity to other mink and cannot avoid abnormal social contact
- Cannot run, swim, dive or hunt thus preventing them from exhibiting basic natural behaviours
- Deprivation of swimming water results in similar stress to deprivation of food (Mason et al, 2001)
- Regularly suffer serious injuries
- Stereotypies commonly observed

