

Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is an important part of a responsible supply chain. Varner wants to contribute to improve animal welfare practices in our industry by setting strict requirements for ourselves as well as for our suppliers.

Ethical aspects shall always be taken into account when choosing suppliers of animal fibers. For Varner, this means a focus on traceability, health and safety, and a focus on animal welfare in farms and production units. These elements are also found in *The Five Freedoms* recommendations set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and used as guidelines for all suppliers to Varner.

For advice and guidance on protecting animal welfare on farms, in transport, at markets and at slaughter, see homepage of UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (<https://www.gov.uk/animal-welfare>).

This Animal Welfare Policy apply for all products to Varner.

COSMETICS

- Varner do not allow animal testing on cosmetic products.

ANIMAL FIBRES AND MATERIALS

Bans

- **FUR:** All use of real fur is prohibited. Only fake fur shall be used.
- **ANGORA:** Varner has a total ban on angora wool and angora wool blend yarns.
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Materials derived from species appearing on IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) or CITE (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) lists of endangered species shall not be used in products supplied to Varner.

Down & Feather

- Varner has committed to the Responsible Down Standard (RDS).
- Only down and feather from birds that have been bred and raised for the food industry is accepted.
- Down or feathers from birds that have been live-plucked is prohibited.

Leather

- Only leather that is a by-product from animals that have been bred for the food industry is accepted.
- No leather from live-skinning or live-boiling can be used.

- Hides or skins from exotic animals shall not be used, including but not limited to: crocodiles, snakes, sharks and seals.
- A safe and hygienic working environment is required throughout the supply chain. Due to well documented reports on workers conditions at tanneries in Bangladesh - especially concerning the handling and discharge of hazardous chemicals, we have a ban on all tanneries in Bangladesh. This ban includes leather that at any stage of the tanning process has been treated/processed in Bangladesh.

WOOL

- Varner has committed to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) whenever this is applicable.

Merino wool

- Using wool from sheep's that have been exposed to mulesing is prohibited.
- Removal of the wool shall be done in a humane way and by a qualified person.

Mohair

- Goats shall not be harmed when clipped and shall be in a protected environment after shearing.

Cashmere

- The use of cashmere wool or cashmere wool blend yarns originating from animals that have been de-horned, ear notched and castrated without anaesthesia is prohibited.