

NEXT Group Policy Document

Animal Welfare Policy Overview

Date: 29th October 2025

Sharing Permissions: Public

NEXT is committed to sourcing its products responsibly and to working towards improving animal welfare in relation to the animal derived components used in our products. The full Next Animal Welfare Policy has been developed in consideration of the **Five Domains of Welfare** widely used in animal legislation and recognised by many animal welfare stakeholder groups including [Four Paws](#).

Five Domains of Welfare – Nutrition, Environment, Health, Behaviour, Mental State

Third party certifications with the most robust animal welfare standards which offer full traceability from farm to retailer are recognised by NEXT as the most appropriate way to help improve animal welfare standards. Where animal derived components are used in our products, NEXT is continually working towards increasing the percentage of these components certified to recognised Third Party certifications.

The NEXT Responsible Sourcing Strategy aims to source 100% of our main raw materials through known, responsible or certified routes by 2030. Targets relating to animal derived materials, as well as progress towards meeting these targets are reported annually in the NEXT [Corporate Responsibility report](#).

Progress towards our 2030 Responsible Sourcing Strategy, which aims to source 100% of our main raw materials through known, responsible or certified routes by 2030

As members of the Textile Exchange (Animal Fibres and Responsible Leather Round Tables) and the Leather Working Group, NEXT are actively encouraging and supporting the development of animal welfare certification schemes.

Real Fur

The use of all real fur is banned

This includes the following list of specific furs: (N.B. this list is for clarification only and is not exhaustive)

- **farmed fur** such as fox, sable, mink, chinchilla, racoon and rabbit
- **fur from rabbits** bred for food production
- **fur from cats and dogs** (Legislation EU 2006/0236)
- **fur from animals that have been aborted artificially** (Karakul, Astrakhan, broadtail, Persian lamb, swakara, krimmer, slink)
- **Mongolian sheepskin**
- fur from **animals caught from the wild**
- fur from **wild animals culled for population (or other) control**
- fur from animals listed as **endangered or threatened species** according to;
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna www.cites.org)
IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources www.iucnredlist.org)

Labelling of synthetic fur

Artificial/synthetic fur must be used instead of real fur and all products made from or containing artificial/synthetic fur must be clearly labelled as 'faux fur' to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence.

NEXT have been a member of the Fur Free Retailers Alliance since July 2010 (see www.furfreeretailer.com)

Wool and Animal Hair

The use of the following wool and animal hair is banned (N.B. this list is for clarification only and is not exhaustive). Wool or hair from;

- **angora** rabbits, **mohair** goats, **badgers**, **mongoose**, **otters**, **racoon**, **sable**, **vicuna** and **squirrels**
- **alpaca** that is not certified to the **Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)**
- animals that have been **live plucked**
- animals caught from the **wild**
- wild animals **culled for population (or other) control e.g. badger**
- animals listed as **endangered or threatened species** according to;
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna www.cites.org)
IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources www.iucnredlist.org)

Continued on next page

Every effort must be made to end cruel animal welfare practices and ensure that all parties progressively work towards achieving a high standard of animal welfare for the animals from which the wool or animal hair is collected and no inhumane practices are carried out at any stage of the process including the upkeep, transportation and slaughter of the animals. This includes the following principles;

- Wool or hair must not be **plucked from a live animal**
- Wool or hair must be only collected by **grooming, clipping or shearing** and this must be undertaken humanely by trained operatives using appropriate equipment
- Animals must **not be forcefully restrained** during wool or hair collection
- Animals must be reared in **enclosures or cages large enough to allow for normal animal behaviour, exercise and interaction with other animals**. Animals must not be reared in small enclosures or cages

Alpaca

All alpaca hair must be certified to the Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS). **The use of non-RAS certified / conventional alpaca is banned.**

- The full supply chain must be certified to the Brand level
- All relevant certificates and traceability documents must be in place

Angora

The use of angora hair is banned

Cashmere

All cashmere fibre used in NEXT products must be certified to one of the approved NEXT responsible sourcing standards listed below by 2030;

- Good Cashmere Standard (GCS) certified cashmere fibre
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS) certified recycled cashmere fibre
- For the Good Cashmere Standard all relevant certificates, licensing agreements and traceability documents must be in place.
- For GRS and RCS the full supply chain must be certified to the Brand Level and all traceability documents must be in place

Progress towards this target is reported in the NEXT [Corporate Responsibility report](#)

In addition;

- cashmere fibre must not be plucked from a live animal and must be collected by combing, shearing or clipping
- cashmere fibre must not be collected at inappropriate times of the season
- NEXT acknowledges the environmental concerns, especially in Mongolia regarding the degradation of soil and desertification of grasslands due to overgrazing and will work to encourage certification bodies to push improvements to their standards in these areas as well as to increase the levels of farm audits carried out

Merino Wool

NEXT Policy on Mulesing

NEXT believes the practice of mulesing to prevent fly strike causes very considerable distress and suffering to lambs and alternative approaches should be applied instead of mulesing. Since July 2009, only Merino wool that is classed as "non-mulesed" or "ceased mulesed" has been permitted for use in NEXT products. The use of all other classes of Merino wool is banned.

NEXT believes the prevention of fly strike is very important for sheep welfare and encourages the use of alternative approaches to control fly strike instead of mulesing.

NEXT requires its suppliers to provide proof that the merino wool is either non-mulesed or ceased mulesed and by 2030 all merino wool used in NEXT products must be certified to one of the approved NEXT responsible sourcing standards listed below;

- Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) certified merino wool
- ZQ Merino
- NATIVA™

- For the ZQ Merino and NATIVA™ all relevant certificates, licensing agreements and traceability documents must be in place
- For RWS the full supply chain must be certified to the Brand Level and all traceability documents must be in place

Progress towards this target is reported in the NEXT [Corporate Responsibility report](#)

For further information on mulesing see Four Paws [Transitioning away from mulesed sheep wool guide](#)

Mohair

The use of mohair fibre is banned for all NEXT Group Brands and Third Party Brands with the exception of Hush, Mint Velvet and Reiss.

Mohair for Reiss Brand Only

All mohair used by Reiss must be certified to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS). **The use of non-RMS certified / conventional mohair is banned.**

- The full supply chain must be certified to the Brand level
- All relevant certificates and traceability documents must be in place

Wool

All wool fibre used in NEXT products must be certified to one of the approved NEXT responsible sourcing standards listed below by 2030;

- Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) certified wool fibre
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS) certified recycled wool fibre
- The full supply chain must be certified to the Brand Level
- All relevant certificates and traceability documents must be in place

Progress towards this target is reported in the NEXT [Corporate Responsibility report](#)

Yak

The use of Yak hair from wild Yak is banned. NEXT are currently investigating suitable sources of Yak hair bought through traceable routes with verified animal welfare practices. Until suitable routes are found, the use of Yak hair is banned.

Leather and Skins

The use of the following leather and skins is banned (N.B. this list is for clarification only and is not exhaustive)
Leather and skins from;

- **animals that have only been bred for their skins.** This includes all 'exotic leather and skins' including alligator, crocodile, lizard and exotic reptiles, ostrich, shark, snake etc
- **animals that have been aborted artificially** (Karakul, Astrakhan, broadtail, Persian lamb, swakara, krimmer, slink)
- Mongolian sheep specifically **Mongolian sheepskin**
- **cows slaughtered in India**
- from **animals slaughtered in Bangladesh** or from **Bangladesh tanneries**
- from **calves reared in veal crates**
- animals that have been **live skinned** or **live boiled**
- **animals caught from the wild**
- deer, horse, kangaroo, ostrich, pony and rabbit
- **wild animals culled for population (or other) control** e.g. badger, deer and kangaroo
- animals listed as **endangered or threatened species** according to;
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna www.cites.org)
IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources www.iucnredlist.org)

Continued on next page

Deforestation and traceability of leather and skins

NEXT suppliers must provide information on the full leather or skin supply chain including finished, crust and wet blue tanners, slaughterhouses, country of origin of the animal, and species of the animal.

NEXT acknowledges the connection between leather and deforestation and is committed to meeting the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Suppliers of all leather and skins at high risk from being sourced from areas at risk from deforestation (Brazil (Brazilian Biome), Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala and Australia) must work with their tanneries to map their supply chain to slaughter and identify the location of all slaughterhouses

Specifically, all bovine (cow) leather sourced from areas at risk from deforestation must be mapped by end 2024.

Feathers and Down

The use of the following feathers and down is banned (N.B. this list is for clarification only and is not exhaustive)

Feather and down from;

- ducks or geese **force fed** for the production of **Foie Gras**
- endangered **Marabou Stork** ('marabou' type feathers can be obtained from chickens or turkeys, therefore trimmed turkey or chicken feathers should be used instead of real Marabou)
- **ostriches, peacocks and Eider ducks**
- birds that are only bred and **farmed for their feathers and down**
- birds that have been **live plucked or live harvested**
- birds caught from the wild
- birds listed as endangered or threatened species according to
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna www.cites.org)
IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources www.iucnredlist.org)

NEXT suppliers must provide information on the origin of all feathers and down so that they can be traced back to the country of origin where the birds were reared.

All products using real feather and down (including filled and decorative feathers) must be clearly labelled to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence and NEXT will only use feathers and down from the following birds – ducks, geese, chickens or turkeys.

It has been a requirement (since 2018) that all feather and down used in NEXT branded filled bedding, clothing products & cushions and (since 2020) all feather and down used in 3rd party branded filled bedding & clothing products and NEXT branded upholstery offered for sale by NEXT must be certified to one of the approved NEXT responsible sourcing standards listed below;

- Responsible Down Standard (RDS)
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS) certified recycled feather and down
- Traceable Down Standard (TDS)
- Downpass
- For RDS, GRS or RCS the full supply chain must be certified to the Brand Level and all traceability documents must be in place
- For the Traceable Down Standard and Downpass all relevant certificates, licensing agreements and traceability documents must be in place

Shells

The use of the following shells is banned (N.B. this list is for clarification only and is not exhaustive)

- tortoiseshell, turtle shell and capiz shell (windowpane oyster)
- shells collected from the wild
- shells from animals listed as **endangered or threatened species** according to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna www.cites.org)
- IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources www.iucnredlist.org)

NEXT will only use shells that are from farmed or managed sources or a by-product of the food industry

Labelling of shells

Shells must be clearly labelled as 'real shell' to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence

Other Animal Derived Products

The use of the following animal derived products is banned

- bone, horn, teeth and ivory
- Civet musk

Any other animal derived products not addressed in this policy should be considered as banned until they have been discussed with and approved by NEXT

Silk

NEXT are keeping a watching brief on silk and will update the Animal Welfare Policy with guidance as and when suitable responsibly sourced silk is available. Until then, the use of silk alternatives should be maximised and the use of real silk phased out. Real silk should only be used if alternatives have been explored first.

Pearls

All pearls must be a by-product of the food industry and the region and country of origin of the pearl must be known.

Cosmetics and Animal Testing

Animal Testing

Animal testing of ingredients and finished formulations (specifically for the Cosmetics industry) is **banned in the UK and Europe** and has been illegal for several years.

- NEXT does not test our own brand cosmetics and toiletries (or any cosmetic or toiletry ingredients) on animals or commission our suppliers or others to do so on our behalf
- **Finished cosmetic product and cosmetic ingredient testing on animals is NOT permitted for any NEXT products or any 3rd party Branded products sold by NEXT**
- **NEXT has never carried out any animal testing or commissioned others to do so on our behalf**

Frame

NEXT supports FRAME, an organisation dedicated to campaigning for the scientific development, validation, acceptance and use of replacement alternative methods of testing cosmetic ingredients to eliminate the need for testing on animals