

The
Pamela Anderson Foundation

January 05, 2021

The Honorable Tsveta Karayancheva
President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
1 Knyaz Alexander I Sq.
1169 Sofia

Fur Farming: A Threat to Animals and Public Health

Dear President Karayancheva,

As an honorary director of PETA, I'm writing to urge Bulgaria to join Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and other countries in protecting animals and public health by ending fur farming.

Animals on fur farms spend their entire lives inside small, filthy wire cages, denied everything that's natural and important to them and often driven insane from confinement. They're eventually killed by being electrocuted or suffocated, or their necks are broken. Fur farms are also a serious public health risk. When it comes to spreading disease, they're no different than the live-animal market where the novel coronavirus is believed to have originated. Following reports that minks on Dutch fur farms tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 and may have spread it to workers, an overwhelming majority of the Dutch Parliament voted to move a bill forward to stop the breeding of minks.

In November, Denmark killed all approximately 17 million minks on its fur farms because of the spread of the virus and the potentially dangerous Cluster 5 mutation. Any place where animals are cramped together under horrible, unhygienic conditions is a threat to public health, and Danish fur farms are simply the most notable recent example. In the last couple of weeks, there have also been documented cases of the virus being passed between humans and minks on fur farms in France, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, and Poland. The most responsible decision for the health and well-being of humans and other animals alike is to forbid breeding for fur. This would reduce the danger of future pandemics and spare the lives of countless animals who are violently killed every year.

In 2018, the National Citizens' Initiative collected 51,234 signatures in favor of banning fur farming throughout the country. I respectfully urge the Bulgarian Parliament to take the compassionate, commonsense step of passing the fur-farming bill, which came before you more than a year ago, and close down this cruel industry.

Sincerely,



Pamela Anderson