



RESTRICTIONS FOR THE USE OF ANIMAL FIBRES

- POLICY -

It is not acceptable for the Varner Group that animals are treated badly. Where animal fibres are used we only accept raw materials to be sourced from farms with good animal husbandry. Farms shall follow requirements based on the UK Animal Welfare Council's definitions on appropriate husbandry.

The Varner Group require suppliers to provide supply chain traceability for all animal fibres and materials. The Varner Group reserves the right to visit and audit all entities in the supply chain including farms and slaughterhouses.

In accordance with our guiding principles of ethics and animal protection embodied in our Code of Conduct, ***the following restrictions apply for all products to the Varner Group.***

- 13.1 Ethical aspects shall always be taken into account when choosing suppliers of animal fibres. This includes aspects such as traceability, sustainability, safety, animal welfare, and labour and farm conditions. The origin of animal fibres shall always be authenticated.
- 13.2 Only synthetic fur is to be used in the production of goods supplied to the Varner Group.
- 13.3 Leather products shall be manufactured using only the skins of utility animals such as pigs, sheep and cows, where the animals having been originally slaughtered for the meat market.
- 13.4 The Varner Group shall not purchase leather, skins or animal fibres from areas known for bad farming practices or for transporting animals under inhumane conditions. The use of unethical and inhumane production processes is not in accordance with the Varner Group's animal welfare policy.
- 13.5 The Varner Group does not accept the practice of animal testing. All suppliers are required to respect and follow *EU Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.*

In addition to the above the following apply for particular types of animal materials:

ANGORA

- No angora wool or angora wool blend yarns shall be used in products to the Varner Group.

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.

DOWN & FEATHERS

- Only feather and down 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.

FUR:

- All use of real fur is prohibited. Only fake fur shall be used.

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.

MERINO WOOL

- Using wool from sheep that have been exposed to mulesing is prohibited. Sourcing of merino wool and merino wool blend yarns shall be done from regions where mulesing is not practiced such as South Africa.

MOHAIR

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

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 the Varner Group.

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>).