

ba&sh

BLOSSOM

BA&SH ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

We expect our suppliers to be aware of the following ba&sh's Animal Welfare Policy and require them to provide a set of information to support traceability in the supply chain and verify animal welfare practices.

Additionally, we expect all suppliers to follow national and international legislation regarding animal welfare.

Vision and goals

Our animal welfare policy is based on the internationally recognized Five Freedoms. Breeders and all parties handling the animals should adhere to the Five Freedoms defined by the EU Farm Animal Welfare Council and the World Organization for Animal Health which are :

- Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express (most) normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

To go further, ba&sh works towards achieving the 5 Domains by monitoring and working with suppliers and standards owners. The Five Domains Model created by Prof. Emeritus D.J. Mellor, is a better approach to achieve an excellent state of animal welfare¹ : Animal welfare is the sum of the total mental experiences, 'mental state' of an individual animal at a given time. This mental state includes both negative and positive experiences, which fluctuate in time according to the interplay of functional domains in the animal's life².

1. the quality of the individual animal's nutrition,
2. the physical environment it lives in,
3. its health status, and
4. its behavioural interactions within its physical and social context.

All these factors may vary in time, leading to changes in overall welfare within a range from good to bad. Regular monitoring is therefore essential for animal welfare to be managed well and ultimately

¹ FOUR PAWS, (2021). *Animal welfare in Fashion*.

² Mellor DJ, (2017). *Operational details of the five domains model and its key applications to the assessment and management of animal welfare*.

to ensure a positive quality of life overall. This goal can be achieved by keeping negative experiences as mild and as few as possible and to enable animals to also have positive experiences³.

And on the following animal-derived raw materials commitments:

- Commitment to **never using any undomesticated animal products, including exotic, protected, etc, regardless as to whether they are endangered or not, ba&sh is against all forms of wildlife.**
- Commitment to ban the use of **feathers, shells, bones or teeth.**
- Commitment to **achieve transparency and traceability** within our animal-derived raw materials supply chains. Suppliers are required to provide a set of information from raw materials up to related products.
- Commitment to only source **certified materials** with higher standards on animal welfare : RWS and RMS by 2025 and RAS by 2027.

| MATERIAL | POLICY |
|----------------------------|--|
| Leather and skin | <p>We ban the use of any exotic leather.</p> <p>ba&sh is member of the Textile Exchange Leather Round Table as well as the LWG Traceability Working Group which address animal welfare issues.</p> |
| Fur | <p>As we condemn poaching, disastrous or inappropriate living conditions, we have banned the use of real fur from end 2019.</p> <p>ba&sh as member of the Fur Free Retailer Program strictly bans the use of fur.</p> <p>According to our program’s definition fur means any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibres attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal’s fur. “Animal“ includes, but is not limited to, mink, fox, rabbit, karakul lamb, and raccoon dog.</p> |
| Feathers & Down | <p>As we condemn painful practices such as live-plucking and force-feeding on ducks and geese, we ban the use of feather and down from 2023.</p> |

³ FOUR PAWS, (2021). *Animal welfare in Fashion*.

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| Angora (and other rabbit hair) | As we condemn unrespectful and inappropriate living conditions and painful practices during wool harvesting, we have banned the use of angora from end 2019. |
| Sheep Wool | <p>We strictly ban the mulesing practice and all other removal practices (e.g. steining) in our supply chains. ba&sh has signed the Brand Letter of Intent. Brands who sign it do not want mulesed wool and they are either already certified mulesing-free or intend to be by 2030.</p> <p>We are committed to use non-mulesed and only certified wool. We are committed to only source certified wool by 2025.</p> <p>We favor RWS (Responsible Wool Standard) and NATIVA certified wool. If it cannot be achieved: ZQ, Authentico, NewMerino®, SustainaWool Green and OCS and GOTS only outside of Australia.</p> |
| Mohair | <p>We strongly discouraged mohair from Lesotho. This country does not offer any animal welfare guarantee.</p> <p>We favor RMS certified mohair (Responsible Mohair Standard). We are committed to only source RMS certified Mohair by 2025.</p> |
| Alpaga | We favor RAS certified Alpaga (Responsible Alpaga Standard). We are committed to only source RAS certified Alpaga by 2027. |
| Cashmere | <p>We systematically favor recycled certified cashmere (GRS, RCS or Re.Verso™). If virgin cashmere is used, it must be Good Cashmere Standard certified.</p> <p>We are committed to only source GRS certified post-consumer recycled cashmere by 2025.</p> |

Anything not addressed by the policy should also be considered banned.