

## Supply Chain Animal Welfare Policy

Pets at Home is the UK's leading pet care business, providing pet owners with everything they need to look after their pet – from food, toys and bedding, and grooming services, right the way through to first opinion veterinary care. Our vision is to become the most responsible pet care business in the world.

### **OUR APPROACH**

Pets at Home is committed to the responsible sourcing of products derived from animals and actively working towards progressively higher standards of animal welfare in our supply chains.

We recognise the Five Domains Model and corresponding General Welfare Aims as a framework for assessing the physical and mental wellbeing of animals (Mellor 2016<sup>1</sup> and Mellor et al. 2020<sup>2</sup>):

**Good Nutrition** - To minimise thirst and hunger and enable eating to be a pleasurable experience.

**Good Physical Environment** - To minimise discomfort and exposure to adverse environmental conditions and to promote physical comfort.

**Good Health** - To minimise pain, disease, and other discomforts and to promote the pleasures of vigour, strength, robustness, and harmonious physical activity.

**Appropriate Behavioural Interactions** - To minimise threats and unpleasant restrictions on behaviour and movement, and to promote engagement in rewarding activities.

**Positive mental experiences** - To promote the experience of various forms of comfort, pleasure, interest, confidence, and a sense of control.

### **THE SCOPE OF THIS POLICY**

This policy applies to all Pets at Home own label products that contain animal-derived raw materials. It does not apply to companion animals sold by Pets at Home. You can find more information about our responsible pet sourcing @ <https://www.petsathome.com/pet-talk/our-pets-responsible-pet-sourcing>

Through appropriate contractual arrangements and our Supplier Code of Conduct we expect our suppliers to adopt similar principles and to cascade them down their supply chain. The policy should also be reviewed in conjunction with the requirements outlined in our Raw Materials Policy.

### **FOOD**

We require all meat and poultry to come from animals that have been humanely slaughtered and animals must be pre-slaughter stunned. We recognise the Humane Slaughter Association codes of practice which can be found at <https://www.hsa.org.uk/publications/online-guides>

We require our suppliers to declare the species and identify the provenance of animal-derived ingredients.

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<sup>1</sup> Mellor, D.J. Operational Details of the Five Domains Model and Its Key Applications to the Assessment and Management of Animal Welfare. *Animals* **2017**, *7*, 60.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ani7080060>

<sup>2</sup> Mellor, D.J.; Beausoleil, N.J.; Littlewood, K.E.; McLean, A.N.; McGreevy, P.D.; Jones, B.; Wilkins, C. The 2020 Five Domains Model: Including Human–Animal Interactions in Assessments of Animal Welfare. *Animals* **2020**, *10*, 1870.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10101870>

## **NON-FOOD**

We require all animal-derived materials used in our non-food products to come from conventionally farmed species and be a by-product of the food industry (except for wool).

We require our suppliers to declare the species and identify the provenance of animal-derived raw materials. As a by-product of the food supply chain, we recognise it can be more challenging to map the supply chain for accessories but we expect suppliers to take all reasonable steps to do so and wherever possible to choose certified materials which provide assurance of higher animal welfare standards.

We prohibit the use of:-

- Angora (Angora Rabbits)
- Animal testing of household and hygiene products or their ingredients.
- Any material obtained from live skinning, live plucking or live boiling
- Any material obtained from sporadic or induced aborted animals e.g. Slink, Astrakhan (Karakul)
- Alpaca fibre
- Endangered species (as defined in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species list: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) or from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature red list as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable: [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) (unless valid exemptions apply).
- Exotic Leather (e.g. snakes, crocodiles, reptiles)
- Fur (all types)
- Pig skin leather and cow hide sourced from India
- Leather from cats or dogs
- Mulesed wool (or meat)
- Materials obtained from force-fed animals
- Mohair (Angora Goats)
- Vicuna and Yak Wool

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

We are committed to:

1. Exploring credible material certification and assurance schemes for animal-derived raw materials.
2. Exploring opportunities to replace animal-derived materials with sustainable animal-free alternatives.
3. Integrating an animal welfare assessment into our responsible sourcing supplier audits.

This policy is owned by our Products and Supply Chain Committee which meets at least quarterly to review our social and environmental performance in relation to our products and ensure suitable resource is available for its implementation. The policy is approved by our ESG Committee, which operates with delegated authority of our Board, and receives regular updates on performance against our targets. This policy is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and continues to promote our ambition to become the most responsible pet care business in the world

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