

Demand wool with a butt

The more people demand “wool with a butt”, the more brands will use this type of wool – and no more lambs will have to endure mulesing.



What you can do

-  Look for brands that use mulesing-free wool and only buy from them. Our “Brands Against Mulesing” list offers a guide. Find out more at woolwithabutt.four-paws.org.
-  Ask your favourite brands about mulesing-free certifications and let them know clearly that you are against mulesing.
-  Sign our petition to call on brands to discontinue mulesed wool! four-paws.org/mulesing

About FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Founded by Heli Dugler and friends in Vienna in 1988, the organisation focuses on companion animals including stray dogs and cats, farm animals and wild animals kept in inappropriate conditions as well as in disaster and conflict zones. With sustainable campaigns and projects, such as its own sanctuaries, FOUR PAWS provides rapid help and long-term protection for suffering animals.



Wear it Kind

The FOUR PAWS programme Wear it Kind reveals the cruelty faced by animals used in the fashion industry and is driving a more compassionate, animal-friendly future of fashion. Find out more at wearitkind.four-paws.org.



FOUR PAWS International VIER PFOTEN International – gemeinnützige Privatstiftung

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The bloody business with wool



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.



Wool without a Butt



Wool without a butt

Did you know that part of a lamb’s bottom may have been cut off without anaesthesia to make your wool sweater or coat? In fact, this is a common practice on many sheep farms in Australia where merino sheep are bred for wool production.

This process is called **mulesing**: A two- to ten-week-old lamb is fixed on its back in a special device so that folds of skin around its bottom can be cut off with sharp metal shears. This is usually done without anaesthesia.



MULESING
—
a cruel
mutilation
practice



A popular material for our clothing

Fine merino wool is not only in demand during cold-weather season. It is used in a variety of ways and regardless of the season. In addition to warm woollen sweaters, it can also be found in sports and outdoor clothing, suits or baby clothing.

Why mulesing?

Much of the wool used in the global textile trade comes from Australian sheep. They suffer from one problem: They were bred to have as many folds of skin as possible, because it was wrongly assumed that more skin folds meant more wool. And it is precisely in these folds of skin around the butt that flies like to lay their eggs. Without prompt treatment, it can cause painful inflammation and even be fatal.

Australia is the only country in the world where mulesing is practised. However, around 70% of the global supply of merino wool for the clothing industry comes from Australia, making mulesing a global problem.

There is another way

It is possible to switch to wrinkle-free merino breeds that are more resistant to fly maggot infestation. Well over 3,000 Australian producers have already switched to mulesing-free production.

Brands and consumers are an essential part of the solution to put an end to mulesing once and for all. Together, we can send a signal that this brutal practice must end. In the meantime, more than 300 brands have spoken out against mulesing and want to source mulesing-free wool. And you as a consumer can take a stand against mulesing with every purchase decision.

The most animal-friendly alternative is, of course, to switch to plant-based materials such as cotton, bamboo, linen, or lyocell.



FOUR PAWS demands

-  the transition to wrinkle-free, resistant merino breeds and improved general agricultural practices;
-  that brands are committed to purchasing only certified, mulesing-free wool.



What certificates to look for

If you can't do without merino wool, please keep an eye out for reliable certifications such as the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), ZQ Merino, or the Organic Content Standard (OCS) when shopping.

Find out more about mulesing and mulesing-free labels at woolwithabutt.four-paws.org.