

# FAUX PAWS

March 2021

# 4

ALTERNATIVES  
THAT SHOW  
COMPASSION  
IN FASHION

## WOOL

THIS SEASON'S  
FASHION FAUXPAS?

## MULESING

HAS FASHION PULLED THE  
WOOL OVER OUR EYES?

Wear it Kind 

Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.





## Merino sheep and mulesing

Merino sheep have loose, wrinkly skin, making them highly susceptible to flystrike. The areas primarily affected are around the hindquarters. To prevent flies from laying eggs and causing flystrike, farmers use Mulesing. They restrain the 2 - 10 week old lambs and cut off the skin around the buttocks using shears, causing immense pain with no anaesthetic.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Whilst illegal in UK, Mulesing is entirely legal in Australia.
- Farmers encourage wrinkled sheep as it's thought they produce higher volumes of wool.
- It is estimated that over 10 million lambs are mulesed annually.
- Australia produces 90% of the world's fine wools, including mulesed merino wool.
- Australia exports most of it's wool to China for processing.
- In 2020, the UK imported £923 million of wool, the majority of which came from China.

## What's in the UK's wardrobe?

# Merino wool

### Why mulesing is a problem for lambs

**E**

Even after all the suffering, mulesing does not fully eliminate flystrike

**D**

The intense pain caused by mulesing causes lambs to go into a state of shock

**A**

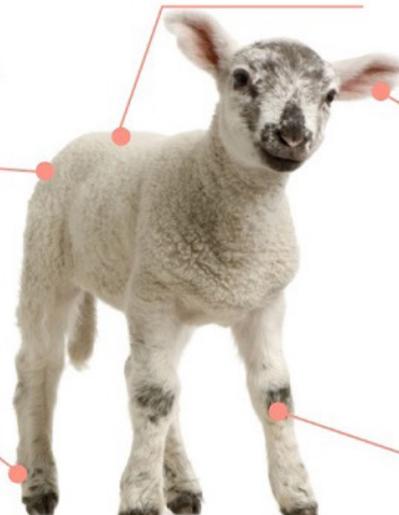
Mulesing causes intense pain, which can last for several days and leaves a wound that takes weeks to heal

**B**

Lambs experience fear, and even avoid the person who mulesed them for up to five weeks

**C**

Lambs experience severe stress and declines in weight gain at a time when they should be growing. This has been associated with increased mortality (death)



## THE SOLUTION

- Four Paws is working with fashion brands to introduce sustainable policies with a focus on animal welfare.
- Calls for imports of Non Mulesed (NM) and Ceased Mulesed (CM) wool only.

*When shopping, look for logos that ensure wool comes from non-mulesed sheep. You can always go for pre-loved or vegan alternatives*



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# OTHER FINE WOOLS



## Angora wool

This fluffy fibre comes from the soft, thick coats of Angora rabbits. Kept in cramped cages, these rabbits are unable to carry out many natural behaviours and harvesting the wool can cause both emotional and physical distress. Angora wool is considered a 'luxury' fibre, along with other wools such as cashmere, mohair and alpaca.

## Must have wool alternatives

*To make more sustainable and animal-friendly choices, you could consider buying second-hand clothing. If you are buying brand new, there are several sustainable alternatives you can choose.*

**JUMPER** Some new alternatives are starting to appear in the market. Next time, try vegetable cashmere!



**SKIRT** Instead of mohair, why not try certified organic cotton?

**HAT** You can choose animal-friendly options rather than Angora wool for your cosy hats. Try recycled polyester.

**GLOVES** Make a change with your own hands. Why not replace alpaca wool gloves for preloved and vintage options.

## BEHIND ANGORA'S PRODUCTION

- 🐰 UK rabbit farms typically produce less than 500g of fur per rabbit annually.
- 🐰 Each rabbit takes one hour to clip, producing only 100g of fibre.
- 🐰 90% of Angora wool is sourced from China, where over 50 million rabbits are bred and kept in cruel conditions, often in filthy cages.
- 🐰 In 2020, the UK imported over £73K (4 tons) of Angora wool from China!

These fine wools are all foreign imports, and do little to support local British wool farmers:

**Cashmere:** China, Hong Kong and Turkey.

**Mohair:** (Angora Goat) China and South Africa

**Alpaca:** Latin America

