

# FAUX PAWS

May 2021

## EXOTIC SKINS

THE  
DISTRESSING  
TRUTH BEHIND  
THE LEATHER  
INDUSTRY

WHAT SECRETS DOES  
YOUR HANDBAG

*hide?*

Wear it Kind

Animal Welfare.  
Worldwide.

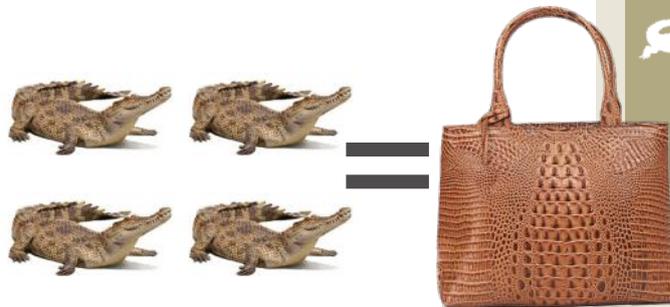


# Exotic skins

Throughout the world, millions of animals are killed and skinned every year to produce exotic leather. Wild animals such as crocodiles, pythons, kangaroos and stingrays are bred on farms or caught in the wild, all in the name of fashion.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**IT TAKES  
UP TO FOUR  
CROCODILES  
TO MAKE JUST  
ONE HANDBAG**



## REPTILE SKINS

### WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

-  Farming reptiles cause immense pain and suffering to the animal as they are clubbed to death and skinned alive, taking several hours to die.
-  Farmed crocodiles are harvested at 2-3 years, compared to a natural lifespan of 70 years.
-  Over 14 million wild sourced protected reptiles were traded between 2005 and 2013.
-  It is impossible to trace where skins originate from, as illegal and legal skins are often mixed before transportation.

## THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

**Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia**  
Over 440,000 intensively farmed pythons killed yearly for fashion

**Louisiana, USA**  
Over 300,000 intensively farmed alligators killed yearly for fashion

**France & Italy**  
Top Exporters to UK - The Gateway to Exotic Skins

**Zimbabwe**  
Over 43,000 intensively farmed Nile crocodiles killed yearly for fashion



# Other exotic skins in the UK

## OSTRICHES



South Africa holds the largest ostrich slaughter companies in the world, supplying 'luxury' skins to Prada and Hermes.



Undercover footage has shown young ostriches being electrically stunned and cruelly slaughtered with their feathers are ripped out while they are fully conscious.



In the wild, ostriches live up to 40 years and stay with their chicks till 3 years old. In farms, ostriches are slaughtered at the age of 1 and chicks never get to meet their parents.



There are a few farms in the UK selling meat, leather and even chicks for general public.



**Stingray populations have declined by around 70% since the 1970s, with 20% of species classed as vulnerable to critically endangered by IUCN.**

## STINGRAYS



Known as Shagreen, this leather is usually labelled as a by-product of the fishing industry. However, Thailand and Cambodia boast many stingray farms that specifically supply leather, with no traceability system in place.



Stingrays are a slow growing species that produce a small number of eggs each year, making them vulnerable to over fishing.

## KANGAROOS



Kangaroo leather is used in high-end fashion and in sporting goods such as bags, and football trainers.



Wild kangaroos are commercially harvested in Australia; they are caught in traps or blinded by bright lights and shot before having their head removed.



440,000 kangaroo joeys each year are beaten or left to starve after their mothers are killed .



In 2016, 1.34 million kangaroos were killed for the commercial industry.



## THE SOLUTION



FOUR PAWS UK has identified top UK brands still selling real exotic skin and are engaging with them to improve/introduce a comprehensive animal welfare policy that will include a ban on exotic skins.



As a consumer YOU can check the label and ensure any leather you buy is humanely sourced domestic leather or a plant-based alternative.