



*Anti-Fur Society, Washington DC*  
**[www.antifursociety.org](http://www.antifursociety.org)**

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February 21, 2007

Commissioner Markos Kyprianou,  
Commissioner for Consumer Affairs,  
The European Commission,  
Rue de la Loi, B-1049  
Bruxelles, BELGIUM

Dear Mr. Kyprianou,

We are writing to support the European Parliament initiative to ban dog and cat fur importation into the European Union. It was with great relief that we heard of your efforts to endorse a ban on such trade. Your support of this humane law demonstrates your great humanity and has earned our utmost respect and admiration.

Europe is looked upon as a model of civilized societies and thus held to a higher standard than most. It is inconceivable that this very same society would support an abominable trade such as the dog and cat fur industry whose victims are skinned alive in Chinese fur farms, and other countries. We are aware that without the European market the cat and dog fur trade will fade away since Europe is its most important consumer.

Mr. Kyprianou, however jubilant we are in the knowledge that you favor a ban on the aforementioned trade, and that a law to end it is underway, we are greatly concerned about a loophole in this law that would defeat the purpose of this ban. Under the proposed law, dog and cat fur derived from animals killed not for their fur, but for other purposes, such as for food, would be exempt from the ban and could still be legally sold in the Europe. Various European countries have already come forward against this loophole. Nevertheless it is still under discussion and due to come to a vote May 8th.

This loophole would defeat the purpose of the ban on cat and dog fur now under consideration as it would continue to encourage dog/cat suffering throughout the offending countries. It is impossible to know where the dogs or cats were raised, or if for fur or food, since most of these animals are raised in peoples' backyards and sold for slaughter, but they are still our beloved animals companions.

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By way of an example of how a loophole like the one in the EU's proposed law can undermine the purpose of the ban on dog and cat fur, take the case of a similar loophole in the U.S. It is illegal to sell dog and cat fur in the U.S. However because of a loophole in the law, fur items with a retail value of less than \$150 need not be labeled. As recent investigations by the Humane Society of the United States have recently discovered, the result of this loophole is that dog fur is flooding our markets, being sold by numerous U.S. department stores under false and misleading labels or with no label at all. Outraged by these recent revelations, the U.S. Congress is now working to close the loophole. The bottom line is that the loophole in the U.S. law renders the ban largely ineffective.

Therefore, I, along with all those listed on the online petition, implore you, Mr. Kyprianou, to see to it that this law to ban cat and dog fur importation into Europe passes 100% full and free from any loopholes. Any concession written into such law will compromise its validity, which in turn will keep the European Union in the same cruel position against defenseless animal companions as it is now. The petition online can be viewed on this link: [http://www.antifursociety.org/Anti-Fur\\_Petitions2.html](http://www.antifursociety.org/Anti-Fur_Petitions2.html)

We thank you for your attention and consideration,

Respectfully,

Anti-Fur Society, Washington DC  
[www.antifursociety.org](http://www.antifursociety.org)

**"All beings tremble before violence. All fear death. All love life. See yourself in others. Then whom can you hurt? What harm can you do?  
~Buddha"**

cc: Mr. Stavros C. Dimas  
stavros.dimas@ec.europa.eu

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Dangerous Loophole in EU's Proposal on Dog/Cat Fur Ban:

"Article 4

Implementing powers  
The following may be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 5(2):

1. provisions on the use of analytical methods to identify the species of origin of fur;
2. provisions which derogate from the prohibitions provided for in Article 1 for such fur or products containing such fur
  - which is labelled as originating from cats or dogs that have not been bred or killed for fur production or
  - which are personal or household effects being introduced into the Community, or exported there from."