



BA&SH ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

We expect our suppliers to be aware of the following ba&sh's Animal Welfare Policy and require them to provide a set of information to support traceability in the supply chain and verify animal welfare practices.

Additionally, we expect all suppliers to follow national and international legislation regarding animal welfare.

Vision and goals

Our animal welfare policy is based on the internationally recognized **Five Freedoms**. Breeders and all parties handling the animals should adhere to the Five Freedoms defined by the *EU Farm Animal Welfare Council* and the *World Organization for Animal Health* which are :

- **Freedom from hunger or thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- **Freedom from pain, injury or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- **Freedom to express (most) normal behavior** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

To go further, ba&sh works towards achieving the 5 Domains by monitoring and working with suppliers and standards owners. The Five Domains Model created by Prof. Emeritus D.J. Mellor, is a better approach to achieve an excellent state of animal welfare¹ : Animal welfare is the sum of the total mental experience, 'mental state' of an individual animal at a given time. This mental state includes both negative and positive experiences, which fluctuate in time according to the interplay of functional domains in the animal's life².

1. the quality of the individual animal's nutrition,
2. the physical environment it lives in,
3. its health status, and
4. its behavioral interactions within its physical and social context.

All these factors may vary in time, leading to changes in overall welfare within a range from good to bad. Regular monitoring is therefore essential for animal welfare to be managed well and ultimately

¹ FOUR PAWS, (2021). *Animal welfare in Fashion*.

² Mellor DJ, (2017). *Operational details of the five domains model and its key applications to the assessment and management of animal welfare*.

to ensure a positive quality of life overall. This goal can be achieved by keeping negative experiences as mild and as few as possible and to enable animals to also have positive experiences³.

And on the following animal-derived raw materials commitments:

- Commitment to **never using any undomesticated animal products, including exotic, protected, etc, regardless as to whether they are endangered or not, ba&sh is against all forms of wildlife.**
- Commitment to ban the use of **feathers, shells, bones or teeth.**
- Commitment to **achieve transparency and traceability** within our animal-derived raw materials supply chains. Suppliers are required to provide a set of information from raw materials up to related products.
- Commitment to source as many **certified materials** as possible with higher standards on animal welfare

MATERIAL	POLICY
Leather and skin	We ban the use of any exotic leather. Prioritize sourcing bovine leather from European farms with higher animal welfare standards. For sourcing outside Europe, ba&sh applies enhanced due diligence, particularly for countries with high risks concerning animal welfare.
Fur	As we condemn poaching, disastrous or inappropriate living conditions, we have banned the use of real fur from end 2019. ba&sh as member of the Fur Free Retailer Program strictly bans the use of fur. According to our program's definition fur means any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibres attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal's fur. "Animal" includes, but is not limited to, mink, fox, rabbit, karakul lamb, and raccoon dog.
Feathers & Down	As we condemn painful practices such as live-plucking and force-feeding on ducks and geese, we ban the use of feather and down from 2023. ba&sh joined the Feather-free Pledge, a global initiative launched by Stella McCartney in collaboration with PETA.

³ FOUR PAWS, (2021). *Animal welfare in Fashion*.

Angora (and other rabbit hair)	As we condemn unrespectful and inappropriate living conditions and painful practices during wool harvesting, we have banned the use of angora from end 2019.
Sheep Wool	We strictly ban the Live Lamb Cutting practice (mulesing) and all other mutilation practices (e.g. steining) in our supply chains. ba&sh has signed the Brand Letter of Intent. Brands who sign it do not want mulesed wool and they are either already certified Live Lamb Cutting-free or intend to be by 2030. We are committed to use non-mulesed and certified wool. We are committed to source at least 70% of certified wool by 2028. We favor RWS (Responsible Wool Standard) and NATIVA certified wool. If it cannot be achieved: ZQ, Authentico, NewMerino®, SustainaWool Green and OCS and GOTS only outside of Australia.
Mohair	We strongly discouraged mohair from Lesotho. This country does not offer any animal welfare guarantee. We favor RMS certified mohair (Responsible Mohair Standard). We are committed to only source RMS certified Mohair by 2028.
Alpaga	We favor RAS certified Alpaga (Responsible Alpaga Standard). We are committed to source at least 70% of certified Alpaga by 2028.
Cashmere	We favor recycled certified cashmere (GRS, RCS or Re.Verso™). If virgin cashmere is used, it must be Good Cashmere Standard certified. This certification includes strict animal welfare criteria and specifically prohibits the cloning of goats, a risk particularly identified in China. We already source exclusively certified cashmere and aim to reach the following split by 2028: 60% GRS recycled cashmere and 40% GCS-certified.

Anything not addressed by the policy should also be considered banned.

Review/Consultation

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure continuous improvement and effective management. ba&sh has consulted Four Paws during the development of our Animal Welfare Policy.