



### 'Horrific Fur Trade To Meet Its Waterloo'

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The European Parliament has voted to ban the "horrific" trade in cat and dog fur in the EU, in response to campaigns to outlaw a practice which many consider unethical.

The ban, which has to be formally approved by EU governments, will apply from 2009.



Millions of animals die each year

The import and export of fur, mainly from China, is estimated to claim the lives of two million cats and dogs a year.

Campaigners - who have included celebrities such as Heather Mills McCartney - say the products creep into the consumer market because traders deliberately mis-label them.

It is used in a variety of products, from coats, fur-trimmed garments, hoods, hats and gloves to fur pom poms on sweaters, novelty key rings and hair accessories.

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### The Deadly Trade In Fur

The import and export of fur from cats and dogs is to be outlawed in Europe. MEPs are expected to outlaw the trade of products. Sky's Greg Milam reports. You may find some of the images disturbing. Video courtesy of Humane Society International.

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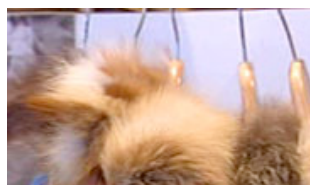
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Undercover footage filmed by the Humane Society International charity has revealed the fate of many of the animals.

Campaigners say dogs and cats are bred in dank facilities with inadequate food and water. Those conditions optimise the thickness and length of their fur, but make them weaker and sicker in time for slaughter.

Often, they are sold in open-air markets while breeders sell dog flesh to restaurants. Locals then use the cat and dog fur themselves, or sell to dealers in Europe.



Labour MEP Arlene McCarthy, president of the Parliament's Consumer Affairs Committee, says the campaign has the support of one million people across Europe.

She said "Many European citizens



Fur coats on sale

are unwittingly deceived into buying garments made out of cat and dog fur due to mislabelling. This law will put an end to these deceptive practices."

Conservative MEP Struan Stevenson has been a long-time campaigner. "The horrific trade in cat and dog fur is about to meet its Waterloo.

"Millions of EU citizens who signed petitions, sent emails and wrote letters have persuaded Europe's political law-makers to act."

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