

Reading this chapter does make me less likely to buy leather and fur products. The chapter provides a lot of evidence about the suffering inflicted on animals like minks, foxes, and cows in the fur and leather industries. Knowing the inhumane conditions these animals are subjected to makes me not want to financially support those practices. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), an animal rights organization, gained global notice in 2010 when they protested the fashion brand Donna Karan's usage of rabbit fur. PETA had previously targeted Karan's business, DKNY, a fashion division of Moët Hennessy. (Jimenez, 2016)

The chapter does make me somewhat more likely to go vegetarian, or at least reduce my meat consumption. However, I still feel that eating some meat can be ethical if the animals are humanely raised and slaughtered. Going completely vegetarian would be a significant lifestyle change for me.

I do not think the use of animals for food, clothing, and other purposes is inherently "natural" or acceptable. Just because something has been done historically does not make it ethical. We need to consider animal welfare and avoid inflicting unnecessary suffering. However, using animal products is deeply ingrained in our society, so eliminating their use is challenging.

I believe any ethical company does have a duty to consider animal welfare, not only human interests. Companies should ensure animals used in the production of their materials are treated humanely. Companies should also try to develop alternative materials that do not use animal products. However, companies still have obligations to employees and shareholders as well that need balanced animal welfare. Overall, ethical companies should make reasonable efforts to avoid unnecessary animal suffering.

Conclusion

The chapter gave me much to think about in terms of the use of animal products. I believe reducing the consumption of leather, fur, and meat is ethically preferable. However, eliminating the use of animal products is quite difficult today. Companies and consumers should make efforts to support the humane treatment of animals used in industries like meat, leather, and fur.

References:

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