

ELK

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

ELK recognises the importance of protecting the welfare of animals during the production of our products. We are committed to sourcing responsibly and working with our supply chain partners to ensure that any animals in their care or in the care of their suppliers are treated humanely and with respect.

This policy outlines our strict requirements with regards to animal welfare and materials selection. All ELK products and suppliers must adhere to these standards.

- Suppliers must comply with all local and international laws relating to animal welfare and commit to ensuring the humane treatment of any animals in their care, or the care of their suppliers.
- Suppliers that have animals in their care must implement animal husbandry practices that adhere to the guidelines for animal welfare, as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health. These include the internationally recognised Five Freedoms for animal welfare:
 - Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
 - Freedom from physical discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
 - Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
 - Freedom to express normal behaviour: 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.
- Animals must be handled, transported and slaughtered humanely to minimise distress. Hides used for ELK leather products must be sourced from licenced abattoirs.
- ELK does not use or accept any of the following:
 - Fur and farmed fur. This includes fibres from fox, sable, mink, chinchilla, rabbit, muskrat, racoon dog, astrakhan and karakul lamb hair.
 - Angora rabbit wool or mohair, due to animal welfare concerns linked to the production and sourcing of these wools.
 - Exotic animal skins. This includes crocodile, lizard and snake.
 - Animal skins and fibres obtained by live skinning or plucking or be the product of unnatural abortions.
 - Materials sourced from vulnerable or endangered species, which appear on either the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or Convention International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- ELK does use and accept:
 - Hair and fibre sourced from living and domesticated animals such as cow, sheep, goat, horse, buffalo, yak and alpaca. These hairs and fibres must not be obtained by live plucking.
 - Clipped or shorn materials such as fleece, sheepskin and shearing, or leather with "hair-on hide".
- Leather and skins must be from domesticated animals, including but not limited to cow, buffalo, sheep and goat, and obtained from animals used for meat production or from fallen animals. Preference is given to tanneries that are members of the Leather Working Group (LWG).
- ELK does not support the practice of mulesing and is committed to proactively sourcing verified non-mulesed wool for use in its products. All wool sourced from Australia must be from declared non-mulesed sources, in accordance with National Wool Declaration.
- ELK is committed to proactively sourcing wool that is produced and certified in accordance with the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) or Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS) or equivalent.
- Feather or down used in ELK products must be certified in accordance with the Responsible Down Standard (RDS).

- Suppliers must work openly and collaboratively with ELK towards providing full traceability to the farm level over an agreed timeframe, for all animal derived materials used in ELK products.