ETHICAL FIBRE POLICY



ETHICAL FIBRE

ETHICAL FIBRE POLICY STATEMENT

Untouched World is 100% committed to having an ethical approach right along our supply chain. This means our animals have 'A Good Life,' our farming practices and systems are kind to Papatūānuku (Mother Earth), and our people are treated well.

ETHOS

Here at Untouched World™ our ethos is simple. We want to create beautiful, easy wear, easy care clothing that will be enjoyed for years to come. Garments that not only make you feel good inside and out, but are easy on the earth and on those who help create them. This includes the animals that grow the fibre we use.

One Health | One Welfare underpins our approach, as it acknowledges that right along our supply chain, the welfare of animals, people and the environment, is interconnected and it matters. Supporting and enhancing the welfare of all is a 'non-negotiable' for us, as is transparency, quality and sustainability. These are the foundations of our ethical approach to doing business which we know matters to our consumers.

- · When sourcing our animal and plant fibres, and designing and making our garments, we consider:
- How kind farming practices and systems are to Papatūānuku (our Earth);
- Our people and how well they are treated;
- Animal welfare and how our growers enable the animals to have 'A Good Life.'

At Untouched World, we fully believe in creating meaningful change for the betterment of the planet, people and animals. Working together with experts and those across our supply and user chain, helps us to shape a kinder, more positive future. That means leaving the planet in a better state than we found it, providing our animals with a great quality of life, taking care of our people, and at the same time meeting consumer expectations.

ANIMAL WELFARE

At Untouched World, we understand that animals are sentient2 and their welfare matters. Being sentient means the animals producing our fibres have a variety of experiences that matter to them and that affect their overall welfare on a day-to-day basis, and throughout their lifetime.

In line with this, Untouched World is 100% committed to sourcing our fibre from producers that are doing the very best they can for their animals' welfare, and are committed to continually seeking out ways to improve their animals' lived experiences and giving them 'A Good Life.'

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FARMING PRACTICES

At Untouched World, we want our animal and plant fibre suppliers to use systems and practices that are kind to and ideally improve the environment from which they are produced, while providing animals with a high-quality life. This reflects the principles of regenerative farming which, in essence, is putting back more than is taken.

Regenerative farming 'takes a systems-based, holistic look at the land being stewarded, and applies various principles with the goal of making the land more productive and biodiverse over time. In most situations, improving soil health and function is the key to improving productivity and biodiversity.'

Among other things, the loss of soil fertility and the soil itself, degradation of our water and loss of biodiversity, pose a threat to our planet and therefore, all living things. We embrace the concepts of regenerative farming as it strives to improve the farming environment through practices that:

- 1. Minimise disturbance (ie no/reduced tillage and chemicals);
- 2. Establish a 'living root' system (ie plants, through photosynthesis, feed soil microbes);
- 3. Provide soil armour (ie avoiding bare soil that can wash off);
- 4. Integrate animals (ie to fertilise, tramp and aerate soils);
- Enhance biodiversity (ie supporting plants, animals, insects and microbes that are critical for the planet's survival).

By working with these principles and striving to achieve these outcomes, Papatūānuku will be able to care for all living things that she supports. At Untouched World, we are committed to supporting regenerative farming practices throughout our supply chain.

ANIMAL FIBRES

At Untouched World, we only work with suppliers that comply with all global, country and local laws and regulations regarding animal (and environmental and human) welfare. This includes procurement of possum fibre from wild possums, and it precludes accessing fibres from systems that don't meet the requirements on the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and its subordinate legislation (Regulations and Codes of Welfare). In addition, we also believe that our job, as partners and consumers, is to set the bar for the rest of the market and to rise above minimum legal requirements and move towards our animals having 'A Good Life.'

Merino Wool

We know that more needs to be done to ensure a positive future for the planet. It's no longer just about producing ethical wool, but producing wool that is bettering the environment, improving personal, community and animal welfare.

Over 90% of the Merino wool used in our collections is sourced from Glenthorne Station, a ZQ certified farm. ZQrx is a new and improved standard launched by The New Zealand Merino Company, and is driving a shift towards regenerative practices and farm systems, in which growers aim to give more than they take, and at a meaningful scale.

Glenthorne Merinos are pasture-grazed and live in a 'free range,' extensive, farming system in the beautiful Canterbury high country. This system is light on the environment and provides an opportunity for the sheep to express many normal behaviours such as roaming, foraging, camping on high ground, and playing to their hearts' content in the social groups they choose. These are all important aspects of enabling and supporting positive welfare, and moving sheep towards having 'A Good Life.' Glenthorne is only a couple of hours away from our Christchurch workrooms, which enables us to have a meaningful and connected relationship with our growers.

Ethical Fibre Policy Updated: 2024-02 As partners and consumers, it's important that we support responsible growers like Glenthorne and set the bar for the rest of the market. Untouched World is working directly with our main supplier to ensure progress is made towards "A Good Life' for their Merino's.

Ecopossum Fibre

Untouched World uses brushtail possum fibre in some of our products and our decision to use possum fibre is one that we regularly review. We acknowledge that some consumers may find the use of this fibre challenging, as unlike all our other fibres, possum fibre comes from deceased possums.

Our use is carefully considered, and constrained and informed by the following principles:

- 1. Procurement of possum fur must be ethical.
- 2. Possums are sentient and their welfare matters, including during the ending of their lives.
- 3. Like all sentient animals, if they are to be killed, possums should have a high-welfare death.
- 4. Untouched World's view is a high-welfare death means possums must be shot, cage-trapped and shot, or killed via a humane, lethal trap.
- 5. Untouched World acknowledges that, ideally:
 - a. Possums would be humanely eradicated from New Zealand;
 - b. Killing methods used would always provide a high-welfare death;
 - c. Current welfare-compromising toxic chemicals (ie toxins; vertebrate toxic agents8) would not be used;
 - d. Where toxins are used, there should be no collateral damage by way of by-kill of untargeted species;
 - e. Research and development on alternative high-welfare toxins/killing methods would be progressed with urgency.
- 6. Untouched World concedes that currently:
 - a. Other possum killing methods are used, including leg hold traps and toxins (eg cyanide); including 1080 use by the New Zealand Government.
 - b. All available toxins used in possum control in New Zealand compromise welfare;
 - Cyanide provides the highest welfare death of the toxins available, but it still does not provide a highwelfare death.
- 7. The use of possum fur does help minimise the impact of these introduced unwanted mammalian species11 on native flora and fauna.
- 8. Employment is generated through our use of this fibre.

Mohair and Alpaca Fibre

Textile Exchange Organization

Our mohair (fibre from Angora goats) and alpaca fibre are sourced through a mill in Italy that works closely with the Textile Exchange Organisation (TEO). TEO acknowledge that 'animal welfare and environmental impact are key challenges in animal fibre production,' and note that mismanagement, mishandling and poor husbandry can affect animal welfare, and the environment. The TEO recommends sourcing fibre from companies that have standards based on the Five Domains, and enable positive animal welfare experiences.

The TEO source Alpaca and Mohair fibre in accordance with the Responsible Mohair or Alpaca Standard (RMS; RAS respectively), that are 'international, voluntary standards that addresses animal welfare in the {goat farms/alpaca} supply chain and chain of custody of {mohair/alpaca fibre material} from certified farms to the final product.'

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The goals of the Standards are to provide the industry with the best possible tools to:

- Recognise the best practices of farmers;
- Ensure that {mohair/alpaca fibre} comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from {Angora goats/alpaca} that have been treated responsibly;
- Create an industry benchmark that will drive improvements in animal care and land management and social welfare where needed; and
- Provide a robust chain of custody system from farm to final product so that consumers are confident that the {mohair/alpaca fiber} in the products they choose is truly {RAS/RMS}.'
- A professional third-party certification body audits each stage in the supply chain to ensure the identity of RMS mohair is maintained at all times, from farm to final product.
- This meets Untouched World's expectations, and reflects our ethos and views on ethical fibre production, harvesting and use.

FIBRES NO LONGER SOURCED / NOT USED

Untouched World continuously improves the standards by which we live and work. In accordance with this, we no longer use Angora rabbit fibre. Some stocks from raw materials already on our shelf will still be displaying on our website. Given the fibre was already sourced and used in manufacture, we consider it more ethical to ensure it is used rather than wasted.

We don't actively source leather in our own collections, however some complementary lines we stock have used leather from time to time in small ways. We require any leather used to be vegetable tanned and comply with the New Zealand animal welfare law. Exotic animal leathers (e.g., crocodile, snake) and furs (e.g., mink, goose) are banned.

Intensively raised, housed animal farming systems do not meet Untouched World's nor, most importantly, animals' expectations of an acceptable quality of life and therefore ethical fibre production. These systems cannot provide 'A Good Life' to the animals within them. Accordingly, we do not use wool nor fibre from such systems (e.g. superfine Merino wool produced through housed and food-restricted farming systems).

TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

We've partnered with The New Zealand Merino Company (ZQrx standard provider) to source our Merino directly from Glenthorne Station. We cannot directly source our other fibres, so the mills with which we work are required to provide us with evidence that their animal welfare and land management practices meet third party certification requirements.

Untouched World Ltd will review this policy every three years.

Ethical Fibre Policy Updated: 2024-02