

October 2021

## Universal Store Animal Welfare Policy

Universal Store is committed to responsible practices including upholding animal welfare, biodiversity conservation and increasing the traceability of our products in our supply chain. We expect our suppliers to share this commitment and assist Universal Store in eliminating animal suffering in the fashion supply chain.

We operate in compliance with Australian laws and regulations and international conventions including:

- the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 2001, and
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Our suppliers must procure animal products from producers and farms that respect animal welfare<sup>1</sup> and meet the physical and mental needs of animals in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

Suppliers must source animal materials from producers and farms that practice good animal husbandry and adopt humane animal treatment and slaughtering practices. Producers and farms must adhere to the 'Five Freedoms' guiding principles as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

- freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst;
- freedom from fear and distress;
- freedom from heat stress or physical discomfort;
- freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
- freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.

### Leather (Cow, Sheep, Pig)

Leather, pelts and hides must be sourced as a by-product of the meat industry only. Universal Store supports alternative leather products that have reduced impacts on animal welfare and the environment.

### Wool (Sheep)

Universal Store does not support mulesing practices and prefers to procure wool products certified to the Responsible Wool Standard.

### Feathers and Down (Ducks and Geese)

Universal Store does not support force feeding and live-plucking practices and prefers to procure feathers and down products certified to the Responsible Down Standard.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/>

## **Silk (Silkworms)**

Universal Store supports non-violent silk breeding and harvesting practices and prefers to procure silk products certified Peace Silk.

Suppliers that provide Universal Store with products that include animal materials must:

- clearly label the items
- provide information on the species of animal used in animal materials (common and latin name)
- keep details of producers and farms involved in the supply chain of the animal materials
- name the country of origin where the animal was reared
- regularly audit producers and farms for animal welfare standards.

## **BANNED ANIMAL MATERIALS**

The following animal materials must not be used in private label or 3<sup>rd</sup> party label products:

- any species on the IUCN Red List <sup>2</sup> listed as threatened, vulnerable, or endangered
- wild-caught animals
- fur
- angora & other rabbit hair
- cashmere, mohair

## **NO CRUEL PROCESSES**

Universal Store prohibits suppliers to procure from producers and farms that make use of the following practices:

- Live animal plucking
- Live animal skinning
- Keeping animals in confinement crates, cages, or pens
- Force feeding
- Mulesing
- Aborting animals to harvest materials (such as karakul lamb pelts)
- Slaughtering for the sole purpose of producing materials for fashion

## **NO ANIMAL TESTING**

Universal Store will not stock any cosmetic products (such as hair product, cleaning products) that have been tested on animals or contain materials that have been tested on animals.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

## Supplier Animal Welfare Compliance

Please complete and return the Animal Welfare Agreement to [sustainability@universalstore.com.au](mailto:sustainability@universalstore.com.au). If you have any questions regarding our Animal Welfare Policy or suspect a supplier or sub-contractor may be in breach of our policy, contact Universal Store Sustainability or Product representative for a confidential discussion.

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Position title: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I am attesting that:

- I have read, understand and agree to comply with the “Universal Store Animal Welfare Policy”;
- I have been informed of and understand my obligations according to the “Universal Store Animal Welfare Policy”;
- I have asked for and received clarification about any policies I did not understand;
- I understand that offering and/or supplying stock that fails to comply with the Animal Welfare policies may result in cancelled orders and/or stock returns for full refunds;
- I understand that these policies cannot address every possible animal welfare situation that presents itself and they do not eliminate the expectation of good judgment and ethical behavior at all times; and
- I understand that I am required to report any violation of these policies to Universal Store whether committed by myself or by a supplier or sub-contractor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Supplier Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Universal Store

## Document Updates

Date	Update	Approved By	Version
2021	Document creation	Board	1.0