

FOOD NOT FUR

A Campaign for Compassion

The Human Cost

It's a well-known fact that animals suffer in the production of fur coats, and that people who wear fur are viewed as insensitive to animal suffering, but fur is insensitive to human suffering, too. In a world where so many human needs go unmet as a result of poverty, flaunting symbols of wealth like fur suggests apathy for human suffering. People wear fur to elevate their status, but by wearing fur you send the message that you'd rather spend thousands of dollars your own narcissism than devote those funds to helping people in need.

Emergency food programs need a steady supply of wholesome nutritious food to meet the increasing demand. This holiday season aren't our dollars better spent on compassion than vanity?

Fur: Sadist Symbol

Fur comes from animals who are either trapped in the wild or raised in cages in fur factories. Roughly 40 million animals are killed for the fur trade each year. Millions of additional animals including dogs, cats and endangered species are accidentally caught in traps each year. Both trapping and ranching cause animals extreme suffering.

Every time we refuse to buy fur or

fur trim, (contrary to popular belief animals are killed specifically for trim; it is not a byproduct,) we reduce the amount of animal suffering in the world.

Food Not Fur

Food Not Fur is a campaign to redirect the dollars misspent on garments created through animal suffering into efforts to help alleviate human suffering. We invite compassionate New Yorkers to refuse fur — don't buy it for yourself, don't give it as a gift and don't allow a loved one to give it to you as a gift. You'll be saving animals lives' and you'll be saving money that can be better used improve human lives through "feed-ins" run by volunteers.

What is a "feed-in?"

At "feed-ins" volunteers set up tables around the city and serve hot nutritious meals to hungry New Yorkers. By serving on the street we minimize bureaucracy and overhead costs, allowing us to channel our funds into direct service efforts. Sometimes we serve in front of fur retailers to illustrate the irony of selling luxury items while others' basic needs fail to be met. At other times we focus on neighborhoods where the greatest needs exist.

Food Not Fur feed-ins serve strictly

vegan food — food produced without the use of animal ingredients. Vegan food is healthier, avoids contributing to the suffering of animals raised for their flesh, milk and eggs, and has significantly less impact on the environment. Because vegan food production is more efficient than meat, dairy and egg production, a global shift towards veganism will be a major step towards alleviating world hunger. We also encourage direct food donations, including food that would otherwise go unused (e.g. restaurant surplus), a policy that reflects our distaste for wastefulness in a world where the needs of so many go unmet.

Who Are We?

Food Not Fur is a project of The Activism Center at Wetlands Preserve. Recognizing the common roots of all forms of oppression, The Activism Center at Wetlands Preserve challenges the view that segregates concern for animal rights, human rights and environmental issues into separate categories. Fundamentally, we are working to create a world where compassion and justice are held as higher values than greed and profit, a world where people respect the earth and honor the dignity of their fellow beings, both human and animal.

What Can You Do?

- Never buy fur or fur trimmed garments.
- Fill out Food Not Fur certificates and give them to friends and family. The certificate informs your loved ones that you would prefer to have money they would have spend on a fur gift directed to the Food Not Fur hunger relief program.
- Make a financial contribution to Food Not Fur. Instead of buying fur gifts for others, give the gift of compassion this holiday season by supporting Food Not Fur's effort to provide hot meals to people in need. You can give gifts in your family and friends' names. Donations can be mailed to Food Not Fur, c/o The Activism Center at Wetlands Preserve, PO Box 344, NY, NY 10108, or go to www.foodnotfur.com.
- Volunteer! Food Not Fur has no paid staff and needs volunteers to help with food service, preparation, transportation and soliciting donations. To get involved call 201•968•0595 or email furfreenyc@wetlands-preserve.org.
- Consider a vegan lifestyle to help fight world hunger, live healthier, protect the environment and fight animal oppression. Learn about the veganism-hunger connection at www.veganvillage.co.uk/vegfam/famine.htm. For general info on veganism visit www.whyvegan.org.