

IS IT TIME TO END MINK FARMING?



JO-ANNE MCARTHUR / #MAKEFURHISTORY / WE ANIMALS MEDIA



STEFANO BELACCHI / WE ANIMALS MEDIA

Many people are surprised to learn that mink are raised for their fur in B.C. Mink are kept in huge sheds that are open to the air on the sides. There are 10 mink farms in B.C.

In the wild, mink are solitary animals with large home ranges. But on mink farms, the animals live side-by-side in individual cages or in cages with small family groups. The small wire cages are barren with wire floors.



JO-ANNE MCARTHUR

Mink love water. **Yet farmed mink aren't given the opportunity to bathe, swim, burrow or do most other natural behaviours.**

On some mink farms, they can't even stand up in their cages (which they like to do to stretch and observe their surroundings).

Because mink can't swim, run, stretch or climb they often suffer from frustration, boredom, worry and fear.

To make matters worse, during the COVID-19 pandemic it was discovered that mink are easily infected with the virus. The disease spreads quickly through mink barns causing tremendous suffering.

In parts of Europe, governments shut down the mink industry when COVID swept through. It is also a concern that if COVID-infected mink escape into the wild, other wild animals could catch the disease.



In B.C. there have been three COVID outbreaks on mink farms in the Fraser Valley. The suffering that mink endure in cages is bad enough. When you add the risk of COVID spreading to mink, people and other wildlife, is it time to end mink farming in B.C.?

TAKE ACTION if you're troubled by mink farming:

1. **Refuse** to buy any products made from mink.
2. Share with friends and family about the **suffering of mink in B.C.** Learn more at spca.bc.ca/mink.
3. **Write a letter** to the Honourable Lana Popham, B.C. Minister of Agriculture, to voice your concerns (email her at AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca). For letter writing tips and more mink facts visit spca.bc.ca/mink-letter.