



"As with all domestic animals, farmed fur animals are protected from cruelty and neglect."

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## MINK FARMING



MINK FARMING  
FEED  
CARE & HANDLING OF MINK  
SEASONAL WORK  
EUTHANIZATION  
CODES OF PRACTICE  
ENVIRONMENT





## MINK FARMING

- Fur farming is labor intensive and requires both hard work and dedication. Animals must be cared for, fed and have access to clean water.
- Animal health and welfare are priorities; animals that are well cared for produce the finest furs.
- The animals also need specialized housing, a balanced diet, clean surroundings and proper care and handling.



MINK FEED CART

## FEED

- Mink are fed daily or sometimes several times a day.
- Feed is put on top of each pen by a feed cart. It is a mixture of grains, dried plant, animal protein, vitamins, minerals and water. Most of the protein comes from the byproducts of fish or chicken that is not fit for human consumption - it would otherwise be sent to landfill. These highly concentrated ingredients are mixed into a thick paste.
- The mink's diet can vary from farm to farm and it also changes with the seasons. When the females are pregnant or lactating, the diet will be modified to accommodate the different dietary needs of pregnancy.



MINK FEED

## SEASONAL WORK

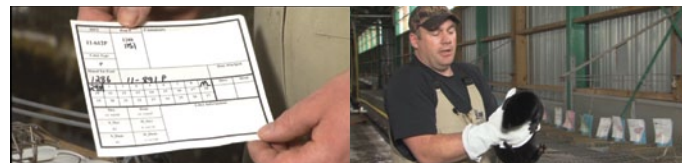
- Mink farming is seasonal. Breeding is done in late February or early March. During that time, bedding is placed in the pens. Inside the pens are 'nest boxes', where the females will have their litter of young, referred to as "kits."
- The kits are born in mid- April or early May. It is a common farming practice to house up to 3 kits together for the first few months following weaning.
- Mink are vaccinated at about 10 weeks of age for distemper, virus enteritis, botulism and pseudomonas (Hemorrhagic Pneumonia.)



NEST BOXES

## CARE AND HANDLING

- Scientific research on nutrition and animal diseases along with modern veterinary care, have significantly improved the health and quality of farmed mink over the decades.
- Like any large population of animals, from time to time, individual animals may become ill, in which case, a veterinarian may be called in, as appropriate, to assist. The information on the illness, medication and treatment schedule is kept on an identification card attached to the mink pen.
- Producers work to create a bio-secure environment. They restrict visitor access and follow hygiene practices for the visitors, animals, feed and equipment. The farm is made "bio-secure" so that animals are protected from the introduction of pests and diseases.
- Fences around mink farms help keep predators out and protect the mink from the spread of diseases.



PROTECTIVE FENCING

## EUTHANIZATION

- At harvest time, mink are euthanized on the farm using bottled carbon monoxide gas- to provide a quick and humane death.
- The mobile euthanizing cart is driven up and down the rows of pens and the mink are taken from their pens and placed into the cart, where they are quickly euthanized. The mobile cart reduces stress of transportation and is considered the most humane method of euthanization.



MOBILE EUTHANIZING CART

## CODES OF PRACTICE

- Codes of Practice or Best Management Practices for farmed mink exist in major producing countries. As with all domestic animals, farmed fur animals are protected from cruelty and neglect.
- In addition to codes, there are industry guidelines that are followed for nutrition, housing, veterinary care and humane harvesting methods.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Fur farming has sustainable environmental benefits, such as providing a sustainable use for thousands of pounds of animal byproducts not fit for human consumption. The byproducts are combined with cereal and water to make feed.
- Straw from crops, or wood shavings are used for bedding and to insulate cages. Manure is returned to the land to help grow new crops.
- Fur is used to produce a range of natural products, from clothing to fine brushes.
- The mink oil is used to produce products such as hypo-allergenic cosmetics and fine leather preservatives.
- As with all farms, fur farms generate organic wastes that are composted and recycled as fertilizer which is used both commercially and on the farm.



MINK OIL BYPRODUCTS