

Varner Animal Welfare Policy

Animal welfare is an important part of a responsible supply chain. Varner wants to contribute to improve animal welfare practices in our industry by setting strict requirements for ourselves as well as for our suppliers.

Ethical aspects shall always be considered when choosing suppliers of animal materials. For Varner, this means a focus on traceability, health and safety, and a focus on animal welfare in farms and production units. These elements are also found in *The Five Provisions* on how animal welfare should be managed, set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and used as guidelines for all suppliers to Varner.

For advice and guidance on protecting animal welfare on farms, in transport, at markets and at slaughter, see homepage of UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (<https://www.gov.uk/animal-welfare>).

The Varner Animal Welfare Policy are requirements the supplier is obliged to follow. Due to campaigns and reporting of occurrences of failing animal welfare, additional policies, both temporary and permanent, may be implemented in addition to this policy.

Cosmetics

Varner does not allow animal testing of cosmetic products. External brands to Varner shall not perform animal testing on cosmetics and follow EU Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

Animal materials

It is not allowed to initiate work with other animal materials than those allowed herein without consulting Animal Welfare Responsible at Quality Assurance Department first.

BANS

- **FUR:** All use of real fur is prohibited. Only fake fur may be used. Definition of fur according to Fur Free Retailer: fur means any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal's fur.
"Animal" includes, but is not limited to, mink, fox, rabbit, karakul lamb, and raccoon dog.
"Fur" shall not include-
 - 1) such skins as are, or are to be, converted into leather or which in processing have, or shall have, the hair, fleece, or fur fibers completely removed,
 - 2) materials clipped, shorn, or combed from animals, such as fleece, sheepskin, or shearing,
 - 3) leather or hair attached to skin that is typically used as leather, e.g., cowhide with hair attached, or
 - 4) synthetic materials intended to look like fur.
- **ANGORA:** Varner has a total ban on angora wool and angora wool blend yarns.
- **YAK:** All use of yak is prohibited
- **CASHMERE:** All use of cashmere is prohibited
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Materials derived from species appearing on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) or the CITE (the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) lists of endangered species shall not be used in products supplied to Varner.

- **LIVE-STOCK EXPORTATION FOR SLAUGHTER:** Live-stock shall not be exported for slaughter.

Traceability

The origin of animal fibres must always be declared and authenticated. Varner reserves the right to visit and audit all entities in the supply chain including farms and slaughterhouses.

It is the supplier’s obligation to share information on Varner Animal Welfare for animal fibres with sub-suppliers.

Traceability is an important factor, and Declaration forms shall be completely filled out and all supporting documents shall be supplied.

All suppliers must describe the supply chain for all kinds of animal fibres through the “*Declaration on the use of animal fibres*”, including a Certificate of Origin. This routine applies no matter percentage of fibre in finished product. The document must be signed and returned to Varner local production office. The declaration you will find in Appendix 4.

When a Certificate of Origin cannot be supplied for the fiber due to further processing in the same country, a dialogue on what documentation is valid as substitution shall be made with Quality Assurance Department.

For products containing multiple animal fibres, a specific declaration form can be used. This declaration you will find in Appendix 18.

Exempted from this are fibres certified to Responsible Down Standard, Responsible Wool Standard or Responsible Mohair Standard.

Down & Feather

Policy	Requirement
Only down and feather from birds that have been bred and raised for the food industry will be accepted.	From 2017, all down suppliers must be certified to RDS (Responsible Down Standard).
Down or feathers from birds that have been live-plucked or force fed is prohibited.	
All virgin down and feather shall be certified to Responsible Down Standard.	

Leather

Policy	Requirement
<p>Only leather that is a by-product from animals that have been bred for the food industry will be accepted.</p> <p>Leather from live-skinning or live-boiling is prohibited</p> <p>Hides or skins from exotic animals are prohibited, including but not limited to crocodiles, snakes, sharks and seals.</p> <p>Leather that at any stage of the tanning process has been treated/processed in Bangladesh is prohibited.</p> <p>Cow hides from India are prohibited</p> <p>Leather from the Amazon region is prohibited</p>	<p>All suppliers must describe the supply chain through the “<i>Declaration on the use of leather</i>”, including a Certificate of Origin. The document must be filled out, signed, and returned to Varner local production office. The declaration can be found in Appendix 3.</p>

Wool

Policy	Requirement
<p>Using wool from sheep that have been exposed to mulesing¹ is prohibited.</p> <p>Varner is committed to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). We encourage our supplier to certify themselves according to this standard whenever it is applicable. When wool is not RWS certified, full documentation for traceability shall be supplied.</p> <p>Where to get official certification can be found on Responsible Wool Standard website:</p> <p>Responsible Wool Standard https://textileexchange.org/responsible-wool/</p>	<p>For wool not certified to RWS:</p> <p>All suppliers must describe the supply chain through the “<i>Declaration on the use of animal fibres</i>”, including a Certificate of Origin. Documentation on mulesing status is required when from areas where mulesing is practiced (e.g., a National Wool Declaration for Australian wool) This routine applies no matter the percentage of wool. The document must be signed and returned to the Varner local production office. The declaration can be found in Appendix 4.</p> <p>The declaration shall include the certificate of origin for each individual animal fibre for each style.</p> <p>Wool from China: Only RWS certified wool or recycled wool allowed.</p>

¹ Any form of breech modification such as removing skin folds with use of instruments, chemicals, clips, temperature etc. This includes all kinds of mulesing, including steining.

<p>Shearing shall be performed by a qualified person and be performed in a humane way.</p>	
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Merino

Policy	Requirement
<p>Using wool from sheep that have been exposed to mulesing¹ is prohibited. The removal of the wool shall be done in a humane way and by a qualified person. Varner has a ban on mulesing². We strongly recommend suppliers to avoid purchasing merino wool and blends from areas known for practicing mulesing. Wool purchased from Australia will only be accepted if it is certified to RWS.</p>	<p>Merino from Australia: Only RWS certified wool</p>

Mohair

Policy	Requirement
<p>Goats shall not be harmed when clipped and shall be in a protected environment after shearing. Varner has committed to the Responsible Mohair Standard. We encourage our supplier to certify themselves according to this standard. From AW21 all mohair should be RMS. Where to get official certification can be found on Responsible Mohair Standard website: Responsible Mohair Standard https://textileexchange.org/responsible-mohair/</p>	<p>For mohair not certified to RMS: Mohair shall only be sourced as Sustainable mohair from South Africa. This shall be supported with valid documentation, i.e. a declaration or certificate stating the mohair is from farms following the sustainable principles of Mohair South Africa, MSA.</p>

² Any form of breech modification such as removing skin folds with use of instruments, chemicals, clips, temperature etc. This includes all kinds of mulesing, including steining.

Alpaca

Policy	Requirement
<p>Shearing shall be performed by a qualified person and be performed in a humane way. Alpacas shall be kept in a protected environment after shearing.</p> <p>Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS) has been published in 2021.</p>	<p>All suppliers must describe the supply chain through the “Declaration on the use of animal fibres”, including a Certificate of Origin. This routine applies no matter the percentage of fibre. The document must be signed and returned to Varner local production office. The declaration can be found in Appendix 4.</p>

Silk

Policy	Requirement
<p>Silk shall not be knowingly sourced from areas or countries where breaches to the Supplier Code of Conduct (therein ILOs core conventions) are present. This applies to Silk production in India and Uzbekistan until further notice.</p>	<p>All suppliers must describe the supply chain through the “Declaration on the use of animal fibres”, including a Certificate of Origin. This routine applies no matter the percentage of fibre. The document must be signed and returned to the Varner local production office. The declaration can be found in Appendix 4.</p>