

# ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

RiverIsland

# COMMITMENT

River Island is committed to improving animal welfare practices across our global supply chains and we are working towards sourcing all animal derived materials from farms with good animal welfare practices. River Island's Animal Welfare Policy sets the minimum standards for all suppliers, manufacturers and other partners and stakeholders engaging in business with regards to the treatment and handling of animals throughout our supply chain.

The River Island Animal Welfare Policy has been developed in consideration of the Five Freedoms for Animal Welfare set out by the World Organisation by Animal Health (OIE) in their Animal Health Codes and the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC).

The guiding principles are:

- Freedom from Hunger or Thirst**  
by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- **Freedom from Discomfort**  
by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease**  
by prevention or rapidly diagnosing and treating illness.
- **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour**  
by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from Fear and Distress**  
by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

We believe that no animals should come to harm for the sake of any goods produced and sold for River Island and we recognise that third-party certifications with robust animal welfare standards which offer traceable supply chains are the most effective way to improve animal welfare. River Island is continually working towards increasing the percentage of our animal derived materials from third party certified farms and suppliers.

# MANDATORY PRINCIPLES

All animal derived materials used in our products must comply with the following:

- No animal will be slaughtered specifically for the manufacture or sourcing of River Island products. Only by-products of the meat industry must be used.
- River Island prohibits the use of animals that have been caught in the wild.
- River Island prohibits the use of material from any endangered species, defined as those which appear on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (see [www.cites.org/](http://www.cites.org/) for list of species) or the IUCN red list as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable ([www.redlist.org/](http://www.redlist.org/)).
- The sourcing of all animal derived materials must be underpinned by the five freedoms of animal welfare.
- River Island does not accept animal products from markets where there is no traceability.
- All suppliers MUST supply at least the following information (please view specific material sections within the policy for any additional documentation required for each material type):
  - The name of the species (Latin and common name).
  - The country or area from which the animals derive.
  - A signed and completed copy of the Animal Welfare Declaration.

# 1. WOOL AND ANIMAL HAIR

**The use of the following wool and animal hair is banned**  
(please note this list is just for reference and not exhaustive).

Wool or hair from:

- Angora rabbits.
- Yak, camel, badgers, mongoose, mink, otters, racoon, sable, vicuna, guanaco and squirrels.
- Animals that have been live plucked.
- Animals caught in the wild.
- Animals listed as endangered or threatened species according to; CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).
- Sheep that have been mulesed/ farms that practice mulesing.

Every effort must be made to eliminate cruel animal welfare practices and ensure that all parties progressively work towards achieving and maintaining a high standard of animal welfare. No inhumane practices are permitted at any stage of collection of wool or animal hair, the following principles must always be followed;

- Wool or hair must never be plucked from a live animal
- Animals must never be subject to forceful restraining during wool or hair collection
- Wool or hair must only be obtained through humane methods such as grooming, clipping or shearing. These procedures must be carried out by trained operatives using well maintained and appropriate equipment
- Animals must be reared in environment that provides sufficient space to support natural behaviours, including movement, exercise and interaction with other animals. Animals must not be reared in small enclosures or cages

## 1.1 WOOL

River Island only accepts wool from animals that are treated ethically/sourced from producers with good animal husbandry. Wool must not originate from animals that have been handled, harvested or sheared in a way that harmed the animals.

**Wool must only be sourced from sheep that have not been mulesed.**

River Island is committed to ensuring that all wool is sourced from farms with the highest animal welfare practices to protect sheep from blowfly strike.

### AUSTRALIAN WOOL

Due to the higher risk of the practice of mulesing, for all wool sourced from Australia; suppliers must be able to provide a AWEX (Australian Wool Exchange) Mulesing Status Certificate of 'NM Non Mulesed' and 'CM Ceased Mulesed'.

**River Island is committed to mapping our wool supply chain and sourcing wool from more certified sources by 2030.**

By the end of 2030, all wool products must be certified to one of the below standards.

- The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS).

For more information and verification guidance on the use of the above certified materials please see River Island's Sustainable Material Guidelines.

A River Island Signed Animal Declaration must be completed for each product containing any wool or animal hair

## 1.2 CASHMERE

All cashmere fibre must be certified by one of the below certified sources:

- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS)

For more information and verification guidance on the use of above certified materials please see River Island's Sustainable Material Guidelines. For all cashmere product the below information must be provided

- River Island Signed Animal Declaration
- The full supply chain must be certified to the Final Product Manufacturer.
- All relevant certificates and documentation must be in place inline with the certification standard. E.g. Scope Certification and Transaction Certificate at product level. Certification license numbers must be provided pre shipment.

### 1.3 MOHAIR

All mohair fibre must be certified to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) and the below information must be provided:

- River Island Signed Animal Declaration
- The full supply chain must be certified to the Final Product Manufacturer.
- All relevant certificates and documentation must be in place inline with the certification standard. E.g. Scope Certification and Transaction Certificate at product level. Certification license numbers must be provided pre shipment.

### 1.4 ALPACA

All Alpaca fibre must be certified to the Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS) and the below information must be provided:

- River Island Signed Animal Declaration
- The full supply chain must be certified to the Final Product Manufacturer.
- All relevant certificates and documentation must be in place inline with the certification standard. E.g. Scope Certification and Transaction Certificate at product level. Certification license numbers must be provided pre shipment.

## COSMETIC/BEAUTY BRUSHES

**The use of animal hair in make-up brushes, shaving brushes or hairbrushes sold by River Island is banned.**

## 1. FUR

**The use of all real fur is banned; this includes farmed fur (e.g. fox, sable, mink, chinchilla, rabbit)**

### Labelling of synthetic fur

Artificial/synthetic fur must be used instead of real fur and all products made from or containing artificial/synthetic fur must be clearly labelled in the product description and on the care label as 'faux fur' to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence.

## 2. LEATHER AND SKINS (INCLUDING SUEDE & SHEARLING)

**The use of the following leather and skins is banned**

(please note this list is just for reference and not exhaustive)

Leather and skins from;

- Animals that have been bred for their skins. This includes all 'exotic leather and skins' including alligator, crocodile, lizard and exotic reptiles, ostrich, shark, snake etc.
- Animals that have been aborted artificially (Karakul, Astrakhan, broadtail, Persian lamb, swakara, krimmer, slink).
- Slaughterhouses and farms inside the Amazon Biome.
- Cows slaughtered in India.
- From animals slaughtered in Bangladesh or from Bangladesh tanneries.
- From calves reared in veal crates.
- Animals that have been live skinned (reptiles) or live boiled.

- Any animals that are not cows, sheep, pigs, goats and buffalo that are a by-product of the food industry e.g. deer, horse, emu, kangaroo, ostrich, pony, rabbit etc.
- Animals caught in the wild.
- Animals listed as endangered or threatened species according to; CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).

**River Island only accepts leather and skins originating from cows, sheep, pigs, goats and buffalo that have been bred for meat production.**

#### Leather and deforestation risk

We are committed to achieving a fully traceable leather supply chain to ensure animal welfare and protection from deforestation and are working on mapping our leather supply chain from finished leather to slaughterhouse.

**All suppliers must provide the country of origin of the animal (where the animal is reared), the species of the animal and where possible, the full leather supply chain details down to the slaughterhouse which includes finished, crust and wet blue tanners and slaughterhouses. This must be declared, signed and dated within the River Island Animal Declaration.**

The regions surrounding the Amazon Biome are classed as 'leather deforestation risk countries' including Brazil (Brazilian Biome), Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala and Australia.

**River Island does not accept sourcing from these regions.**

As partners of the Leather Working Group (LWG), River Island requires **all leather to be certified by the LWG**

#### Labelling of leather and skins

To avoid offence or confusion, the animal species should be listed in the product description and on the care label i.e. 'cow leather' or 'pig leather' or 'sheepskin'.

A River Island Signed Animal Declaration must be completed for each product containing animal leather or skins

## 3. FEATHER AND DOWN

**The use of the following feather and down is banned** (please note this list is just for reference and not exhaustive)

Feathers and down from;

- Birds that have been live plucked or live harvested.
- Ducks or geese force fed for the production of Foie Gras or any birds that have been subjected to feeding.
- Birds that have only been bred and farmed for their feathers and down.
- Birds caught in the wild.
- Eider Duck
- Exotic birds e.g. peacock
- Birds listed as endangered or threatened species according to; CITIES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).

**River Island only accepts feathers and down from ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys and ostrich that have been bred for meat production.**

All suppliers must provide the **origin of all feathers and down** so they can be traced back to country of origin where the birds were reared.

### 4.1 OSTRICH FEATHERS

River Island are constantly reviewing sources for Ostrich Feathers.

Where possible, ostrich feather should sourced from a National Ostrich Processors of Association (NOPSA) member (<https://www.nopsa.com/members.php>) who comply with SAOBC Standard requirements (SAOBC 1001: Ostrich Production - Requirements).

All Ostrich feathers must be a by-product of the meat industry and a River Island Signed Animal Declaration must be completed for each product containing ostrich feathers

#### 4.2 DOWN

We are continually reviewing our policy and will update suppliers accordingly.

**As a minimum standard, all down used by River Island must come from one of the below certified sources by 2030:**

- Farms certified to the Responsible Down Standard (RDS).
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claims Standard (RCS) certified.

A River Island Signed Animal Declaration must be completed for each product containing feathers & down

#### Labelling of feathers and down

All products using feather and down must be clearly labelled in the product description and on the care label as 'real feather' or 'real down' to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence.

## 4. SHELLS

The use of the following shells is banned (please note this list is for reference and not exhaustive)

- Tortoiseshell, turtle shell and capiz shell (windowpane oyster).
- Shells collected from the wild.
- Shells from animals listed as endangered or threatened species according to; CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) IUCN red list (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).
- Any coral and pearls

**River Island will only accept shells that are from farmed or managed sources or a by-product of the food industry.** Please note that shells are NOT allowed for Kidswear.

A River Island Signed Animal Declaration must be completed for each product containing shells

#### Labelling of shells

Shells must be clearly labelled in the product description and on the care label as 'real shell' to prevent confusion or unnecessary offence.

## 5. SILK

The use of silk alternatives should be maximised and the use of real silk should only be used if alternatives have been explored first.

## OTHER ANIMAL DERIVED PRODUCTS

The use of the following animal derived products is banned:

- Bone, horn, teeth and ivory.
- Civet musk.

Any animal derived products not covered in this policy should be considered banned until they have been discussed with and approved by the River Island Responsible Sourcing Team.

## ANIMAL TESTING

In accordance with the EU and UK ban which came into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013;

- River Island is against Animal Testing and does not test our own brand cosmetics and toiletries (or any cosmetic or toiletry ingredients) on animals or commission our suppliers or others to do so on our behalf.
- Finished cosmetic product and cosmetic ingredient testing on animals is NOT permitted for any River Island products or any 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Branded products sold by River Island.

In addition, suppliers of animal products and goods containing animal products are responsible for ensuring with their factories and tanneries that all requirements specified by local laws, hygiene legislation and waste disposal legislation are proactively managed.

## LABELLING

Animal products and synthetic materials made to look like animal products must be clearly labelled as faux on the product description and care label to avoid confusion.

The below phrases should be applied to all applicable products.

Product Applicability	Wording
All non-textile animal products, e.g. <i>leather or shell</i>	CONTAINS NON-TEXTILE PARTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN
All faux fur products	THIS PRODUCT DOES NOT CONTAIN REAL FUR

The animal species should be clearly listed on the care label e.g. for leather product, the animal that the leather is derived from should be clearly listed i.e. 'cow leather' or 'pig leather'