

# REPORT OF DOG AND CAT FUR TRADE IN CHINA

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ACTAsia thanks Dogs Trust for their support in the production of this report

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*A dog is suspended by its tail, to be slaughtered for its fur with a bludgeon and knife.*

ActAsia for Animals

FUR FREE LIFE

# Cruelty Free Fashion Show



*ACTAsia's Cruelty Free Fashion Show in Beijing.*



# I. INTRODUCTION

China is the largest fur trading and processing country in the world, producing 75% of all furs sourced globally<sup>1</sup>. The demand for fur products is growing with the rise in economic standards and online marketing by fur retailers. Traditionally adults were the main consumers of fur products, but the market has more recently expanded into children's fashions. Unlike in western countries, dogs and cats are openly used as a source for fur products in China.

The animal welfare implications of the fur trade are significant, and of growing concern as the industry expands. Most Chinese fur farms have been established in the last 10 to 15 years, and include dog, cat, fox, mink, raccoon dog and rabbit.

In China, dogs and cats are openly used for both their meat and their fur. Some animals are bred specifically for these purposes, others are unwanted or stray companion animals. The dog and cat meat industries also sell leftover pelts to the fashion industry, where a fur coat might be made from approximately 12 dogs, or 24 cats. The furs are also used as trimmings for various clothes, bags, blankets and other accessories. Official government reports on the fur industry do not separate dog and cat fur from that of other animal origins, but ten years ago, the number of companion animals used in the fur industry was estimated to be in excess of two million annually. It can be assumed that the numbers are now considerably higher and still growing.

To generalize, the Chinese population has little understanding of, or concern for, the immense suffering of animals who are used for their fur, and may also be unaware that dog and cat fur is used for many of the products they consume. That's why it is essential to raise public awareness of these issues in China. In western countries, the anti-fur movement had its greatest impact through public awareness campaigns. ACTAsia has adopted this strategy for the No Fur China campaign, recognizing that consumer awareness is an essential step towards reducing the use of fur, and ultimately putting the fur industry out of business.

ACTAsia's No Fur China campaign aims to use an educational approach based on factual data, instead of a sensational approach, recognizing that human behavior and attitudes can only change through the process of education. We work to create awareness through training, through the media and social networking sites, so individuals can make informed choices.

ACTAsia's No Fur China campaign started in 2010 to coincide with the Chinese Year of the Rabbit in February 2011. The annual Chinese New Year celebrations are the time of year when fur coats and accessories are purchased to mark this special time in the Chinese calendar. This is a boom time for fur retailers who maximize sales through increasingly aggressive marketing, especially targeting young people, many of whom see fur as a desirable fashion statement.

It should be noted that currently an understanding of animal welfare is in its infancy in China; there are few animal welfare organizations, a lack of animal protection legislation and general indifference towards wide-scale animal abuse and suffering<sup>2</sup>.

It is generally considered by western cultures that dog fur is the left-over product from the dog meat trade. This may have applied historically but in Chinese culture today, the dog and cat fur trade is clearly emerging as a stand-alone industry, as our investigations and research have clearly revealed.

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1 '75% of world's fur processed by China: report', *wantchinatimes.com.*, accessed 23rd Feb 2014, <http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130119000053&cid=1102>

2 'Changing China, Country status report within the political and social context' ACTAsia for Animals, 2011, <http://www.actasia.org/changing-china.html>

Naturally there is some overlap, but pelts from the meat industry are nowhere near enough to satisfy demand. This rising demand for fur has mainly come about through intense marketing campaigns, which promote fur as fashionable and desirable. Such promotions are particularly effective among the new affluent, young generations living in specially created economic zones. With increased spending power, the younger generation of both men and women in China have different demands and expectations from their parents and grandparents. It's likely that older generations did eat dog and cat meat, but were unlikely to have owned fur items, as only the very wealthy were able to buy fur as a luxury item.

Today, young people in China want fur items as fashion statements and the demand is high. However, eating dog or cat meat is less popular among young people, as it's considered to be unfashionable.

## 1.1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to help the reader understand the issues and implications for dogs and cats used in the fur trade in China.



## 1.2 OBJECTIVES

1. To create an understanding of China's role within the global fur trade industry.
2. To highlight the supply and demand for fur production in China.
3. To detail the availability of dogs and cats which supply part of the fur trade, tracing the source, trading routes and sales outlets.
4. To highlight the immense suffering of dogs and cats used in the fur trade.
5. To provide information relating to desk research, investigations, anecdotal evidence, and comparisons with historical and current data.
6. To provide information relevant to ACTAsia's No Fur China Campaign.

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY

Data collection for this report includes literature reviews, trade information analysis, online data search, field investigations in markets, and meetings with various individuals who have first-hand knowledge or experience of the dog and cat fur trade.





## 2. INVESTIGATIONS:

### RELEVANT TO DOG AND CAT FUR TRADE IN CHINA

#### Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, population 105 million

This area is close to Hong Kong, and well known as ‘a dog-eating province’. Live dogs are available to buy at markets for meat, and their fur and skin are ‘torched’ when purchased. As a result, there are no furs as a by-product from these particular animals.

The fur wholesale market in Guangzhou is a covered four-story building, where traders each have a shop area displaying countless pelts of various types of animal. Animals include snow and blue foxes, mink, rabbits, dogs, raccoons, cats, and horses. When ACTAsia investigated, the shop sellers were openly willing to discuss and provide information on the pelts displayed, with regard to the type of animal, quality and origin. One seller claimed the dog fur was ‘real German Shepherd’ and ‘real Golden Retriever’. It is estimated that one third of the fur sales in the wholesale market of Guangzhou city are of dog and cat fur, with the remaining two thirds made up of other species of animal listed above.

In addition to Guangzhou, at wholesale markets in the northern Provinces of Heibei and Zhejiang, two of the main markets have hundreds of stalls selling pelts, with the demand for dog and cat fur steadily growing. All furs are available for export.





## 2.1 SOURCE OF ANIMALS

### a) Dog breeding farms

Many dog farms have been established in the last ten years and now openly advertize that dogs farmed at their premises are bred for their meat and fur, also as breeding stock for those wanting to set up new farms. Many of these farms are located in northern areas of China, such as Shandong Province.

The farms promote the multiple uses of a dog, therefore the overall value of a farmed dog is increased, and is regarded as a highly economic farm animal. An advertisement on a dog farm's website states:

**'Dog meat can be sold as a fresh product or processed food. Dog fur, after tanning, can be used for clothes, hats and shoes. The remaining parts e.g. dog bones, paws, penises, or stones in a dog's gallbladder, kidney or stomach, can be sold for use in Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM)<sup>3</sup>.'**

Pelts from Tibetan Mastiff, German Shepherd, Golden Retrievers, Husky, and other large, mixed breeds were the most commonly seen breeds during the ACTAsia investigations of Chinese fur markets. This corresponds with the breeds of dogs used for meat. We were told by traders that the pelts are mainly sourced in northern China, which substantiates the dog farmers' claims that their farms supply both the meat trade and the fur trade.

The grey fur of German Shepherd dogs is considered desirable for coats and trims and is priced higher than yellow fur; it is often labelled as fox or Asiatic raccoon, but there are also other pseudonyms. It is similar in appearance to the fur of coyote, raccoon, as well as other species commonly exploited for use as trimmings.

### b) Owned, unwanted and stolen dogs

The culture of keeping pets has grown in China during the last 20 years. Sadly, unwanted dogs are also on the increase in China due to unregulated pet markets, irresponsible pet ownership, and lack of understanding of dog breeds and their behaviors. Unwanted dogs fill to over-capacity private dog shelters and government dog pounds. During this research, animal protectionists informed ACTAsia they suspect that dogs from these pounds end up in the dog meat trade, as large numbers of animals often just disappear overnight. On some occasions animal protection groups have followed vehicles transporting dogs to markets in the north of China.

Stealing dogs from cities or villages is regularly reported in the Chinese media. Dog thieves travel around the cities and villages operating as a team, usually with a driver plus one or two catchers. In cities, such dogs are usually small breeds (unlike the large dogs bred at dog farms) as some city municipalities impose a height restriction on dogs kept as pets. This restriction may vary from city to city, but is around 35 cm, whereas in villages, such restrictions are not in force so dogs may be of any size. Some stolen dogs are supplied to meat markets.

Municipalities do have strategies for dog control, but these are usually random culls in response to complaints from the public about aggressive or noisy dogs. Culls also take place at times of general city clean-ups and maintenance.

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3 *Shangdong LongDa Dog Farm, slddq.com, accessed 28 Jan 2014, <http://www.slddq.com/dyzs.asp?id=1>*

### c) Cat catchers

Cat breeding farms supplying cat meat and fur are less common than dog farms in China, with only a few breeding farms advertising cats as pets and for meat. Traditionally, cats are regarded as a more useful animal than dogs and not considered to be such a nuisance. As a result, there is less demand for cat meat in northern areas, where the cat is a popular pet. This may help to explain why cats are not widely exploited through organized farming.

Municipalities in China do not have regulations or licensing procedures for cat owners and do not catch stray or roaming cats, so the over population of cats is visible in public areas. Cats are caught indiscriminately, whether they are owned, lost or stray, in many areas of China by catchers who tend to work alone and at night. Once caught, cats are taken to regional dealers who transport them to wholesalers in southern regions, such as Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province, where they are slaughtered to supply restaurants and traditional markets. A cat catcher in Shanghai claimed that he could catch in excess of 10 to 15 cats per night and sell at £1.50 per cat, earning up to £40 a night. According to him, his monthly income is more than he could earn as a chef in a local restaurant<sup>4</sup>.

It is interesting to note that there are many cat protection groups in China with wide national action, especially in the northern provinces, but very few dog protectionist groups.

The contrast between cats being more desirable pets than dogs is highlighted by the exploitation of dogs. Chinese internet search engines reveal numerous pages of listed dog farms with established web sites and sophisticated marketing ploys.

Immediately after slaughter, cat fur pelts are treated with salt as a preservative to prevent the fur becoming detached from the skin. The pelts are sent to tanning factories in northern China, mainly in Hebei Province or to Guangdong Province in the south.

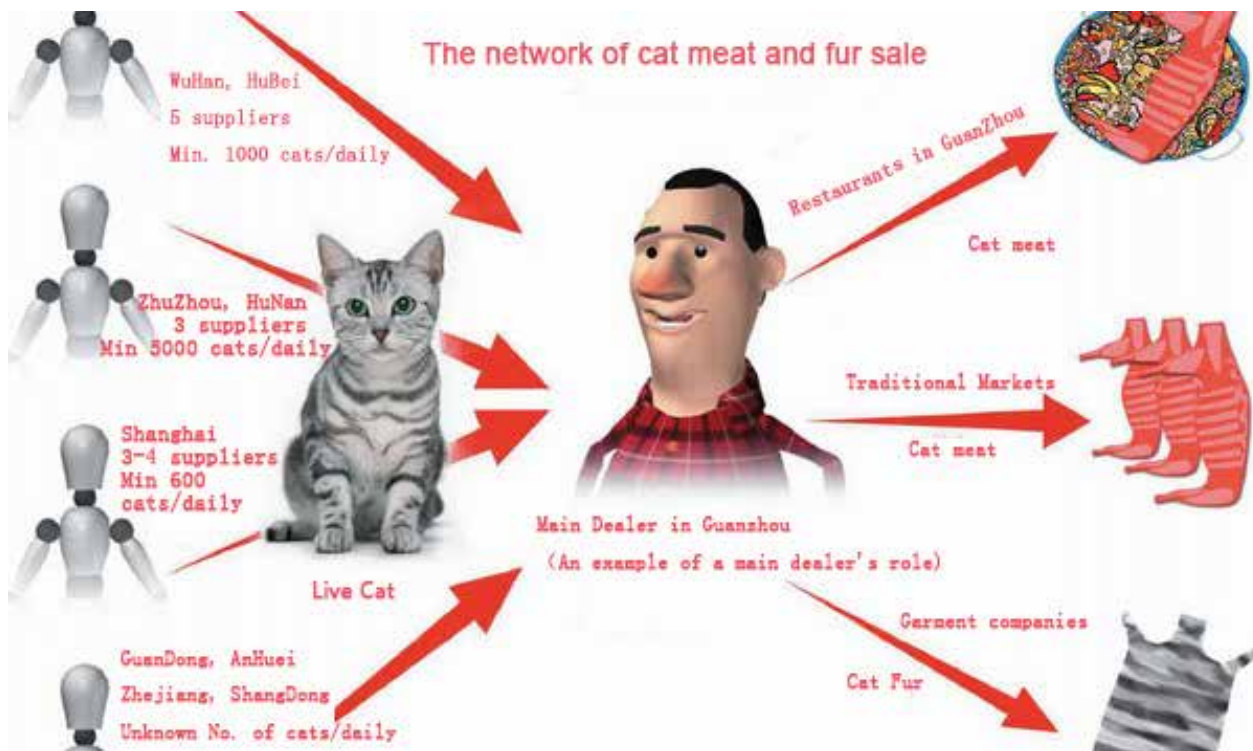
Hebei Province has many fur trade markets, trading for centuries in all types of fur. One such market is in Day-in, renowned for trading and processing cat pelts to make or trim a variety of products. These furs are often dyed to even-out any color discrepancies and used for bags and children's jackets.

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<sup>4</sup> 'Cat fur sale network', [www.news.qq.com](http://www.news.qq.com), accessed on 3rd Feb 2014  
[http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220\\_3.htm](http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220_3.htm)







Source: China Southern Daily<sup>5</sup>

According to the Fur Trading Company in Hebei Province, cat pelts are not only sourced from the cat meat industry, but are also killed primarily for their fur. Evidence-based and anecdotal research show how the low-cost industry of catching stray cats to supply the fur fashion industry is a lucrative business of high priced garments. Sadly, in the absence of animal protection laws in China, this profitable business will continue to grow<sup>6</sup>.

5 'Cat fur sale network', [www.news.qq.com](http://news.qq.com), accessed on 3rd Dec 2013  
[http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220\\_3.htm](http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220_3.htm)

6 Cat fur sale network', [www.news.qq.com](http://news.qq.com), accessed on 3rd Dec 2013  
[http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220\\_3.htm](http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220_3.htm)

**Examples of cat 'blankets'. Approx 8–15 cat pelts are joined together. 'Bespoke blankets' of specific patterns and colors can be made according to the buyer's wishes.**



## 2.2 FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

### Cat fur

The cost of cat fur is determined by color; black, white and tri-color of calico pattern are the three most popular colors. The quality and price of cat fur are based on the color and thickness of pelts, determined by the time of year. For example, a thick winter pelt of one solid color costs more than a mixed color pelt. A less dense summer pelt costs around half the price.

Individual cat furs tend not to be sold in wholesale markets, but many pelts of the same quality and color may be joined together to make a large 'blanket' of fur, and sold to factories to make garments. Likewise, pelts of different colors are also joined together to make a 'blanket' which can be used to make garments, accessories, fur rugs or wall hangings. (A 'blanket' is equivalent to a large roll of fabric when unrolled.)

Size (cm)	Price	No of cats per blanket (estimated)	Average price per pelt in a wholesale
50x100	£10.00	7 – 8	£1.25 – £1.43
55x115	£15.00	9 – 10	£1.50 – £1.88
65x175	£20.00	12 – 13	£1.50 – £1.66
70x180	£23.00	15	£1.50

a) **In the production of meat:**

- a live, caught cat is sold to a dealer for £1.50
- the dealer sells to a restaurant for £3.00
- the restaurant prepares the food as a 'hot pot' at the cost to himself of £1
- the restaurant sells food to the customer for £8.

b) **In the production of fur:**

- the cat pelt is sold to a dealer for between 60p and £1.60, depending on color and quality

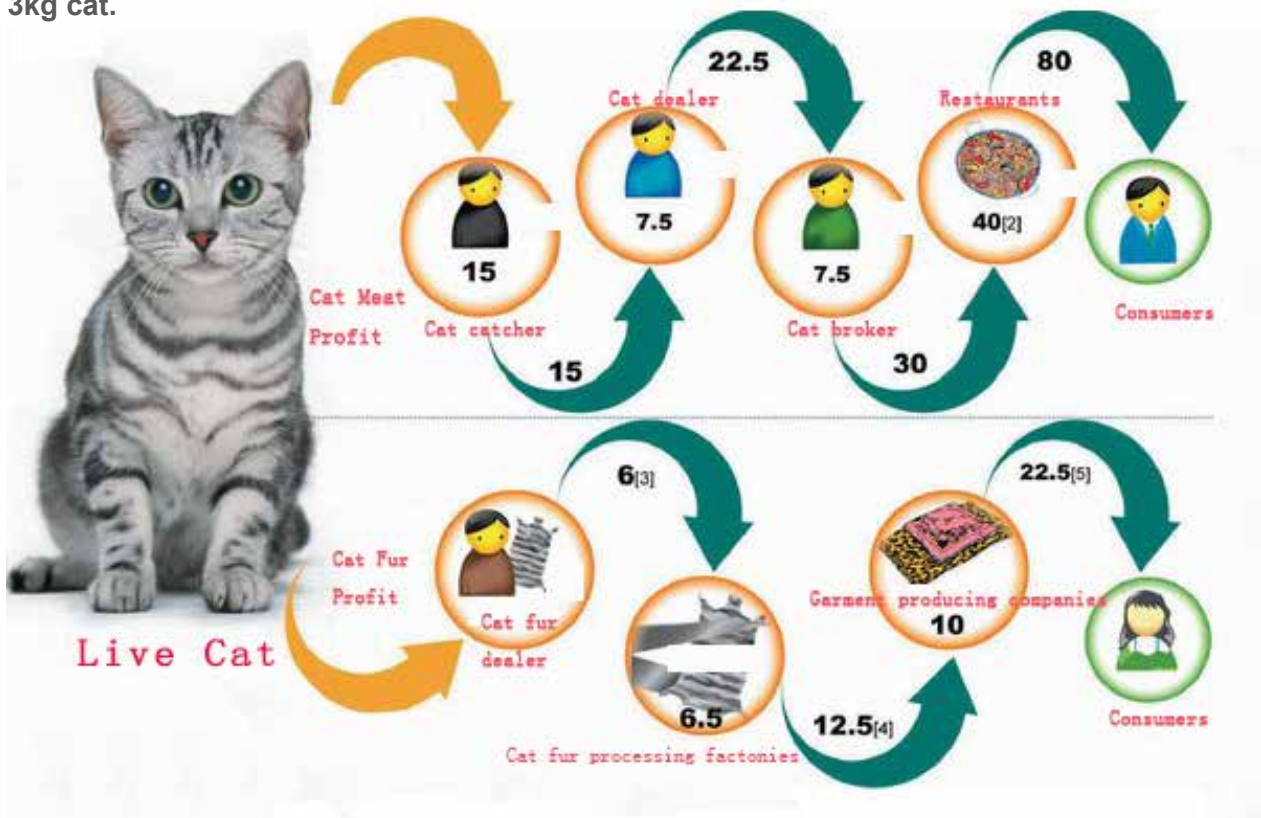




- the dealer sells the pelt to a processing a factory for £0.65 (it takes around 40 pelts to make a coat)
- processing factories prepare the pelts suitable for making garments or other products and sell to garment-producing companies for £1.20 per pelt
- therefore to make a cat fur coat using 40 pelts, the wholesale cost is around £60
- the retail price for a coat is in excess of £100.

It should be noted that these cats are captured from streets, so there are minimum costs involved before production.

The following diagram explains costs from cat source to retailer, based on the weight of a 3kg cat.



Source: China Southern Daily

*Note that the diagram shows the costs in the Chinese currency RMBA, whereas this written text gives costs in UK pounds sterling.*







## Dog fur

The average cost of a dog pelt measuring 110 x 60 cm, 85x45cm, or 65x35cm is between £5–8. Pelts are dyed different colors or kept as the original. A German Shepherd pelt costs around £8. A Tibetan Mastiff pelt can be sold for much higher price between £500–1000 as considered to be a luxury item and would be used whole, not cut, and perhaps used as a cover on a settee, as a rug or a wall hanging.

## 2.3 QUANTITY AND AVAILABILITY

Currently there are no official annual trading statistics for dog and cat pelts as they are part of a general fur category.

A shop in Guangzhou's wholesale market claimed they could sell up to 20,000 or 30,000 dog pelts per quarter. There are 550 shops in this wholesale market, with around one third selling dog fur; therefore this wholesale market alone can trade 14–21 million dog pelts each year.







It is reported that more than 100,000 cat pelts can be stocked in a factory at one time. A company stated they make at least 10,000 garments from cat fur annually and export the products to Russia, USA and Italy.<sup>7</sup>

To make a blanket, it takes approximately 30 cat pelts, from which a full length coat could be made. Using these figures, 300,000 cat pelts would make 10,000 cat blankets. Estimating the use of 40 or 50 pelts for a coat, the number of live cats required would be up to 400,000 or 500,000 annually. These quantities apply to one company alone.

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<sup>7</sup> 'Cat fur sale network', [www.news.qq.com](http://www.news.qq.com), accessed on 3rd Dec 2013  
[http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220\\_3.htm](http://news.qq.com/a/20100812/001220_3.htm)







## 2.4 TRANSPORTATION

The transportation of live dogs and cats is often seen on motorways in different parts of China. Animal protectionists monitor the transportation of these animals and expose the animal cruelty involved. For example, dogs or cats are crammed into tiny cages where they cannot stand up, stretch, or turn around. The cages are stacked on top of each other. During transport, often lasting as long as 19 hours, the animals have no water or food. Urine and faeces fall onto other animals' bodies and at the end of the journey many animals are sick or injured.

The following examples show the distances and hours between the cities on the regular trade route from North to South China. The hours listed below do not include the driver's rest periods during the journey.

Apart from using lorries to transport a maximum quantity of animals, animal dealers also use logistic companies for transportation, where numbers from a few hundred to a thousand animals are transported in vehicles together with a variety of goods and supplies. These animals are often crammed into tiny cages, which are piled on top of each other.







From	To	Distance (miles)	Time
ZhuZhou, HuNan Province	Guangzhou	350 miles	7 hours
Wu Han, HuBei	Guangzhou	555 miles	10 hours
He Fei, An Huei	Guangzhou	700 miles	14 hours
Shanghai	Guangzhou	840 miles	17 hours
JiNing, ShangDong	Guangzhou	965 miles	19 hours







*Confined before slaughter at a fur-production unit.*





## 3 PRODUCTION

### 3.1 SLAUGHTER

Dogs and cats are killed in large numbers in China for the fur trade. Sadly they all suffer tremendously before they die and the methods of killing are brutal and inhumane. Typically, a dog is killed by being dragged out of the cage, then beaten with a stick or hammer until it is semi-conscious, when a knife is used to pierce its throat.

It can be more difficult to handle a cat. One method is to put a cat into a sack and then use a hammer to strike the bag about 10–12 times. It was also confirmed by a cat fur trader during an interview for a documentary film that cats are often drowned in a large metal tank<sup>8</sup>. As each animal is taken from the tank and skinned, the pelt will be thrown back into the tank in readiness for the tanning process.

<sup>8</sup> 'San Hua' a documentary made by Director Guo. It documented the cat meat and fur trade.





## 3.2 PRODUCTS AND SALES

Dog and cat fur are used to make fur coats, fur trimming on clothing, bags, blankets and other accessories. It is estimated that it takes around 15-20 dogs<sup>9</sup> or 40 cats to produce a fur coat.

Dog fur is made into hats, blankets, car seat blankets, knee pads, trousers, boots, waistcoats, and jackets. Cat fur is used to make breeches, fur trim on coat collars and cuffs, scarves, shawls, waistcoats, jackets, blankets, waist-warmers and leg warmers<sup>10</sup>.

9 'How many animals have to die for a fur coat?', *Respect for Animals*, access Nov 2016, <http://www.respectforanimals.co.uk/facts-and-reports/how-many-animals-have-to-die-for-a-fur-coat/133/>

10 The result of dog fur search on Chinese ebay – taobao.com, accessed 4th Feb 2014, [http://s.taobao.com/search?initiative\\_id=staobaoz\\_20140506&js=1&q=%B2%D8%C6%A4%C8%EC%D7%D3&stats\\_click=search\\_radio\\_all%3A1](http://s.taobao.com/search?initiative_id=staobaoz_20140506&js=1&q=%B2%D8%C6%A4%C8%EC%D7%D3&stats_click=search_radio_all%3A1)

### The sale of a cat blanket through an online shop.

猫皮褥子

<上一件 下一件> 举报



起批量 ≥1 条

价格 ¥ 400.00 /条

供货方式 现货 (1天内发货)

发货\物流 河北 衡水 至 请选择 ▾ 快递 ¥ 20

成交\评价 0 条成交 暂无评价

支付方式 支付宝 网上银行





请登录 免费注册 手机逛淘宝 淘宝网首页 我的淘宝 购物车0 收藏夹 商品分类

淘宝网 Taobao.com 更多市场 宝贝 藏皮褥子 搜索

所有宝贝 天猫 二手 我的搜索 今日发现








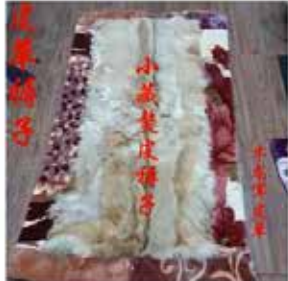
上传图片就能按图放啦!

所有分类 >

您是不是想找: 芥皮皮褥子 芥皮皮褥子婴儿 洞藏老酒 皮褥子皮毛一体清仓 试之藏 芥皮皮褥子成人 狼皮褥子 金屋藏娇 外国人入藏酒 藏海花 加急入藏酒

综合排序 人气 销量 信用 价格 ¥ - ¥ 发货地 1/1

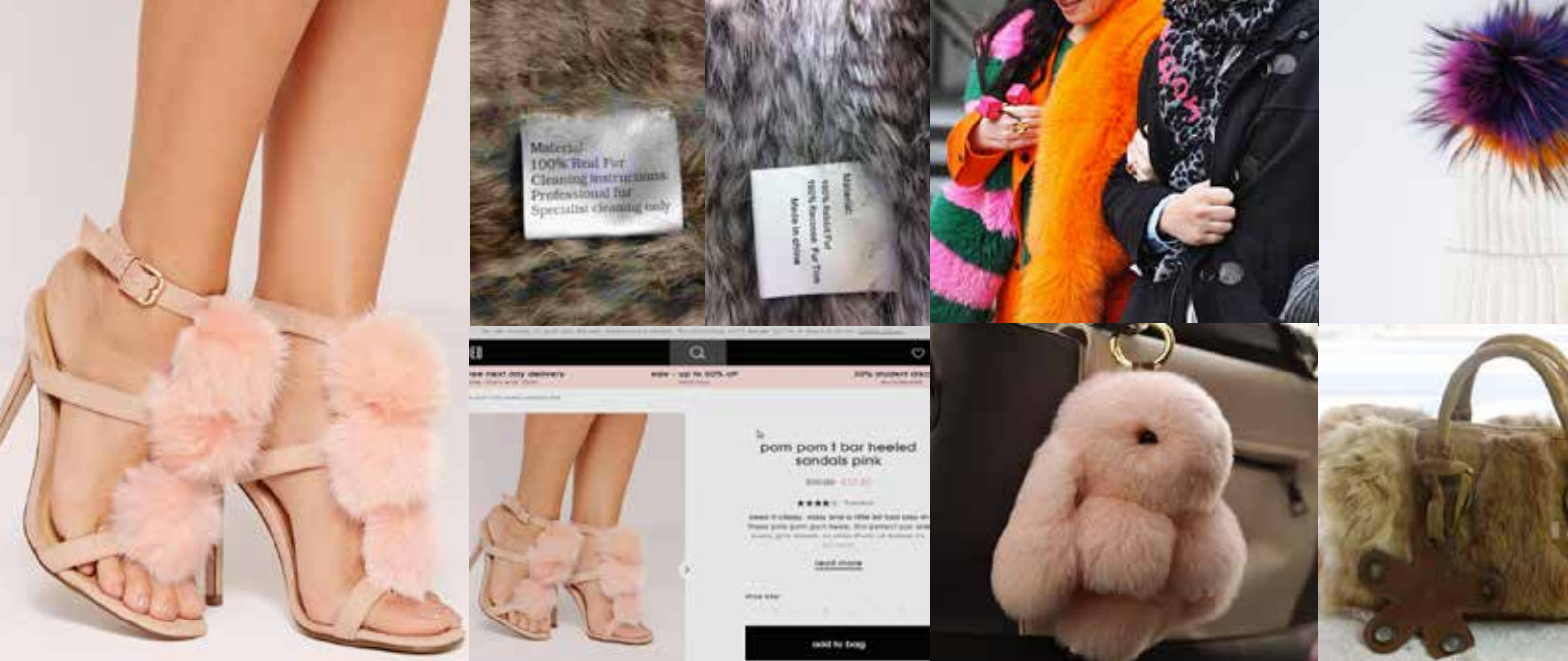
包邮  赠送运费险  货到付款  海外商品  二手  天猫  正品保障  7+天内退货 更多

 <p>¥1500.00 0人付款</p> <p>超大藏皮沙发座垫加厚挂毯椅子坐垫地毯 褥子真藏皮毛皮草订制</p> <p>自_1911608 河北 邢台</p>	 <p>¥399.00 0人付款</p> <p>藏羊皮褥子毛长8-10厘米左右,长120厘米 宽80厘米青藏高原特产</p> <p>德尔吉大街 青海 西宁</p>	 <p>¥208.00 0人付款</p> <p>军迷正品羊皮褥子高寒户外旅行收藏摄影道具 单兵2.8斤皮褥子</p> <p>8月25日 辽宁 锦州</p>	 <p>¥378.00 0人付款</p> <p>藏羔毛皮褥子,毛长8-10厘米左右,60厘米 *120厘米</p> <p>金猫堂 青海 西宁</p>
 <p>¥550.00 0人付款</p> <p>藏绵羊毛褥子羊皮床垫褥子真皮真毛皮毛一体 沙发垫子学生宿舍包邮</p> <p>xinfan521 青海 西宁</p>	 <p>¥168.00 0人付款</p> <p>藏美皮地毯车垫挂垫动物模型标本真毛 皮褥子中国风地毯摄影</p> <p>墨路皮草股份有限公司 云南 昆明</p>	 <p>¥900.00 0人付款</p> <p>超大 保暖 藏美皮 真皮皮草挂毯 座垫 藏美 褥子真皮 坐垫</p> <p>小泽人_12 河北 保定</p>	 <p>¥153.00 0人付款</p> <p>2015春节庆褥子真皮草中老年新款藏羔毛 冬季保暖老寒腿防风祛风寒</p> <p>北龙军皮草店 河北 保定</p>

Traders in the wholesale market said that dog fur boots are becoming popular and their sales had increased through recent demand. The trader demonstrated how to use dog fur to produce fur boots in his shop. L: A cat fur 'blanket' is sold in a tourist city in China. R: Cat fur waistcoat for a child.







### 3.3 LABELING ISSUE

Dog and cat fur are often mislabeled as being a different species, presumably thought to be more acceptable to foreign customers. They're also labeled as fake fur, or not labeled at all. There are no labeling laws or requirements in China, and no standardized labeling requirements between other trading countries, so consumers are ill-informed.

Cat fur is commonly mislabeled as mountain cat, rabbit, fox or mink. Dog fur is often labeled Asian wolf, coyote or yellow weasel. The wholesale market traders stated they label dog and cat fur as whichever species is required by the customer. Often when asked what type of fur, the trader answers with the species that he thinks the potential customer will want to buy.







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Home > All Categories > Women's Clothing & Accessories > Jackets & Coats > Fur & Faux Fur

**New Real Fur Vest Long Genuine Knitted Rabbit Fur Vest Raccoon Fur Collar Trimming Waistcoat Winter Sleeveless Fur Jacket DX258**

★★★★★ 0.0 (1 votes) = 3 orders

Price: US \$164.58 / piece

Discount Price: **US \$83.94** / piece 49% off 1 day left

📱 Find more deals on the app

Color:

Size:

Shipping: **Free Shipping to Greece via China Post Registered Air Mail** 📄  
Estimated Delivery Time: 22-38 days 📅

Quantity:  piece (11995 pieces available)

Total Price: Depends on the product properties you select

[Buy Now](#) [Add to Cart](#) Recently Viewed

**100% real rabbit fur vest Children winter rabbit fur vest Leopard boy girl fur real fur vest rabbit fur coat winter warm**

Price: **US \$33.17 - 39.35** / Piece

Color:

Size:

Wholesale Price ( Piece ):	1 + US \$39.35	8 + US \$37.50	10 + US \$34.38	>
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Quantity:  Piece

Shipping Cost: **Free Shipping to United Kingdom Via ePacket** 📄  
Estimated delivery time: Feb 25 and Mar 14 ships out within 5 business days ?

Total Cost: The total price will depend on the final product features you select

Item sold out 👍 Add to Favorite Items ( 0 )

Share on [f](#) [p](#) [t](#) [B](#) [g+](#) [e](#)





*Crouching room only in shallow crates ready for stacking live dogs before they are killed for their pelts.*



### 3.4 EXPORT

All market traders interviewed confirmed that pelts are exported outside of China as well as used within China.

China appears to be the biggest dog and cat fur exporting country in the world followed by other Asian countries, including Thailand and the Philippines<sup>11</sup>. Chinese dog and cat furs are exported to Russia, Czech Republic, Canada, Greece, France and Germany. China is the second biggest commercial partner of Canada. Unlike the USA, Australia and the EU, in Canada dog and cat fur are not banned. Worryingly, the Canadian Government intends to double commercial trade with China.

As the inhumane slaughter of dogs and cats is viewed as unacceptable in western countries, the Asian fur industry attempts to conceal the truth by intentionally mislabelling fur exports. With few exceptions, produce from dog and cat fur is not labelled as such. In the West, dog fur is often sold as 'Asian wolf', while cat fur is often labelled as 'rabbit fur'. Canadian laws do not require garment labels to include the origin of the fur, nor which species of animal it comes from.<sup>12</sup>

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11 "The Cat and Dog Fur Industry", *The Winnipeg Humane Society*, accessed on 10th Jan 2014  
<http://www.winnipeghumanesociety.ca/fur>

12 'Fur Trade-Cat and Dog Fur', *Global Action Network*, accessed on 10th Jan 2014,  
<http://www.gan.ca/campaigns/fur+trade/cat+and+dog+fur.en.html>







*Stray dogs rounded up and confined for slaughter to be skinned for their pelts.*



## 4 CONCLUSION

- Fur is a large global business and is a growing lucrative trade in China, where most types of fur can be processed.
- Dogs and cats are historically regarded as 'economic' farm animals in China, not as companion animals as in western countries. However, there is now a growing animal protection movement, supported by people who do keep animals as companion pets.
- Historically, dogs and cats were primarily slaughtered for meat. However, over the past ten years with the economic success of China, the demand for fur garments from within China and from its international trading partners has grown and continues to grow.
- Research shows that the slaughtering of dogs and cats for fur is no longer a by-product of the dog and cat meat trade. It is clearly an industry in its own right as well as an integral part of the wider fur-trade industry.
- It is evident that some pelts from dogs and cats do enter the fur industry as a by-product from the meat industry, but there is robust evidence to show that if dog eating came to an end, the demand for dog and cat fur would continue, with supply sourced from established dog-breeding farms.
- The dog and cat fur trade is increasing rapidly year on year. It is claimed by some animal protectionists that if dog eating was prohibited, it would finish the dog and cat fur trade, as dog and cat fur is the by-product of the meat trade.
- ACTAsia disputes claims that dog and cat fur is a by-product of the meat industry; to address dog eating as an isolated issue is highly unlikely to have any effect on the dog and cat fur trade. The business of farming dogs for fur is now a well-established and independent industry, and not dependent on the dog and cat meat-eating trade.
- Ideally an integrated approach is required to address:
  1. The promotion of dogs and cats as companion animals in China, each with its own intrinsic value in society.
  2. Dog and cat eating practises and availability.
  3. The dog and cat fur production industry.
  4. Animal protection legislation.



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