

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

2023

SOFT GOAT

CONTACT

info@softgoat.com.
www.softgoat.com

Phone +46 8 410 20018

ADDRESS

Birger Jarlsgatan 20
114 34 Stockholm, Sweden

01 INTRODUCTION

At Soft Goat, we take pride in curating cashmere fashion collections. As responsible purchasers of cashmere yarn from yarn suppliers in China and Mongolia, our commitment is unwavering in ensuring the well-being and humane treatment of the cashmere goats this yarn is collected from.

The primary challenge we face in the realm of animal welfare for cashmere goats today is the inherent lack of transparency throughout the supply chain. While we've established stringent standards and expectations, we must acknowledge that there is currently no absolute certainty regarding their full implementation. We recognize the need to take further steps to guarantee the welfare of the cashmere goats from which we source our cashmere.

Our ambition is clear: We aspire to enhance our efforts in safeguarding the welfare of cashmere goats, striving to instill greater confidence in the ethical practices associated with cashmere sourcing.

We are committed to conducting our business operations in a responsible and ethical manner, ensuring that the animals involved in the cashmere supply chain are treated with respect and care. This Animal Welfare Policy outlines our commitment to promoting animal welfare and the specific principles and practices we adhere to in our cashmere sourcing process.

Our policy is built on the Five Freedoms defined by the EU Farm Animal Welfare Council / World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The Five Freedoms are:

- freedom from hunger and thirst
- freedom from discomfort
- freedom from pain, injury and disease
- freedom to express normal behavior and
- freedom from fear and distress

02 SCOPE

This policy applies to all aspects of our cashmere supply chain, including the sourcing of raw materials, processing, and manufacturing of cashmere products. We expect our suppliers,

subcontractors, and partners to comply with these principles and practices, and we will work collaboratively with them to ensure adherence to our animal welfare standards.

03 ANIMAL WELFARE PRINCIPLES

Soft Goat is committed to the following key principles of animal welfare:

a. No Harm: We will not engage in any practices that cause harm, cruelty, or neglect to animals involved in the cashmere supply chain.

b. Compliance with Legal Requirements: Soft Goat requires all our business partners to operate in accordance with the principles in the Animal Welfare Policy of and in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Animal Welfare Policy does not replace legislation and if the two are in conflict, legislation takes precedence. If this policy sets a higher standard than the existing legislation, the reverse applies.

c. Ethical Sourcing: We will source cashmere from suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to responsible animal husbandry and ethical treatment of cashmere-producing animals.

d. Transparency: We will promote transparency in our supply chain by documenting and communicating our animal welfare standards and practices to all stakeholders.

e. Continuous Improvement: We will continuously review and enhance our animal welfare practices and work with suppliers to identify opportunities for improvement.

04 SPECIFIC ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICES

Soft Goat commits to the following specific animal welfare practices in our cashmere supply chain:

a. Responsible Cashmere Sourcing: We will source cashmere from suppliers who provide evidence of ethical treatment of cashmere-producing animals, including proper nutrition, shelter, and health care.

b. No Live Plucking: We strictly prohibit the live plucking of goats or any other inhumane practices that cause harm to the animals. Cashmere must be obtained through ethical and sustainable means.

c. Certification: Our commitment to animal welfare extends to our sourcing practices for cashmere wool. We exclusively collaborate with yarn suppliers who hold certifications that prioritize animal welfare within the cashmere industry. These certifications include the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS), and The Sustainable Fiber Alliance (SFA).

d. Auditing and Monitoring: We will conduct regular audits and inspections of our suppliers to ensure compliance with our animal welfare standards. Non-compliance will result in corrective actions or, if necessary, termination of the business relationship.

e. Education and Training: We will work with our suppliers to provide training and education on best practices for animal welfare, as well as the ethical treatment of cashmere-producing animals.

05 REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Soft Goat is committed to being transparent and accountable in our animal welfare efforts. We will:

a. Maintain records of our cashmere sourcing practices and animal welfare initiatives.

b. Encourage employees and stakeholders to report any concerns or violations related to animal welfare.

c. Take appropriate corrective actions in response to reported concerns or violations.

d. Regularly communicate our animal welfare achievements and progress to stakeholders.

We not only encourage but actively support our suppliers in obtaining and maintaining compliance with our Animal Welfare Policy. Suppliers who do not comply will receive assistance in their efforts to regain compliance.

However, in cases where a supplier is unable to reach our level of compliance, we will regrettably discontinue our sourcing relationship. Our unwavering commitment to animal welfare remains a central pillar of our operations, and we expect our suppliers to share in this commitment.

06 CONCLUSION

Soft Goat is dedicated to upholding high standards of animal welfare in the sourcing and production of cashmere products. We believe that responsible and ethical treatment of cashmere-producing animals is not only a moral obligation but also essential for the long-term sustainability of our business.

This Animal Welfare Policy will guide our actions, and we will work collaboratively with our suppliers, partners, and stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation.

COMPANY NAME

Soft Goat

2023-10-17

DATE

NAME AND TITLE

Stephanie Bergström, Founder



SIGNATURE

SOFT GOAT