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Fashion faux pas

In the days of the caveman when the world lacked knowledge and resources, the caveman would wear fur. In that time, that was perfectly acceptable in the standards of society. Today in the modern world, fur can no longer be a part of fashion and accepted by the population. We have enough resources and intellect to procure alternative materials so that fur will never be an option and neither a resource again.

Personally, I think it's disgusting to wear another creature's fur. Imagine in the future, human would wear other human's skin just because of the fashion world promotes it. I still don't understand why people used to wear racoons on their heads. As far as I'm concerned, animals don't wear other animals. By using fur, we limit the animal's life span which can cause a devastating result when it comes to the environment, subsequently because animals would eventually become extinct. We've already lost the Dodo bird due to "human activities" (1).

There are 6000 fur industries to be found only in Europe, not the entire world (2). Europe contributes to 67% of the mink's fur production as well as 70% of the fox fur production (3). China is the largest importer and re-exporter of fur in the world due to its massive fur industry and cheap labour (4). Statistics show that 64% of fur farms are found in Northern Europe, 11% in North America and the rest are spread around the world (5). These numbers are outrageous! Not only does it mean that an abundant amount of animals are dying, but they're dying for a worthless purpose. We can see it through the chinchillas how much the fur industry can affect one species when it becomes over hunted for. The hunt for the chinchillas began in the 16th century (6). After 3 centuries, the chinchillas became every rare to be seen (7). The chinchillas are adorable and fuzzy, but they're nowhere to be seen. Due to the savage and extreme methods, more and more

animals are becoming extinct. The sad reality is that we humans caused this predicament.

Not only do we use fur, but along the way we treat the animals cruelly before they become coats and hats. The PETA has discovered when animals are caged; each individual animal does not receive their own cage (8). A fox cage can have four foxes and it's only big enough for them to take one or two steps forward and a step backwards (9). So not only do we kill animals to wear them, but along the way we treat these beautiful creatures as if their only purpose to this world is to walk down the catwalk. Ironic isn't it? If the cat is dead, how can it walk?

Why are humans so stubborn? Why can't we understand the damage that we are causing now, can have a great influence in the later generations! We have become animal's greatest predators due to the seduction and lust that the fashion industry has given us. When Darwin spoke of his theory "survival of the fittest" I personally don't think he meant that we should kill every other creature possible so that we remain on top of the food chain. The best way to live is to have variety in life. That includes sharing the planet with our fellow neighbours. Being selfish now won't benefit anyone because after a while, we would become so reliant and dependant on fur that we won't manage without it.

I promote a day of awareness. On this day, which could be called "listen up humans" is a day when we can stand up and say no to fur and any other fabric made from animals and say yes to cotton made attire. If we educate citizens about the cruelty of this business, we can change perspective and attitude towards fur. On this day we can sell t-shirts and bracelets so that people can have something to keep with them as a constant reminder of this magnificent day. All proceeds can go to any animal organizations such as PETA and the animal welfare organizations. People can go to local schools to promote this awareness and collect donations from willing students. If we teach young elementary children now, this will pass on from generations to generations later, benefiting the animal kingdom. Since young children learn faster, we should educate them first. We can give them a small

colouring book or some kinds of small toy that help them remember what they've learn. In a sense it would be similar to an ornament for them to keep. For high schools students, we can simply sell them the t-shirts, maybe even matching sweatpants for ten dollars apiece with the date of the event and the name of the awareness for them to keep. Along with the clothes, a small slideshow presentation that contains the truth and ways for them to prevent and end animal cruelty can be shown to them. We can also do this in different University and College campuses. Distributions of poster would be a helpful resource, as long as there colourful with simple and easy to understand phrases and a slogan that promotes this cause. The phrases can be resembled to "Don't wear me, please!" along with a picture of a fox, or another phrase can be "Do you really want to hurt me?" along with a picture of a chinchilla. Another shirt can also have this phrase "If you wear me, then what I'm I gonna wear?" The main slogan can be as simple as "speak for the creatures that can't ". If we'd wanted to add a theme song to this for the slideshow, I would choose is "Do you really want to hurt me?" sang by the Culture club. This would be an annual event that everyone can participate. Eventually with enough support from the citizens, democratic governments would realise what citizens want and ban fur or at least put extreme limitation to production of fur and hopefully, this influence won't stop there. This would be one step towards for a more animal friendly planet. Hopefully in a day like this, it can help us spread the word on any kind discrimination and abuse that animals suffer through such as animal testing for cosmetics and animals being preserved in zoos, circus and other animal reservations. The most important issue that this day needs to address is to teach people to become aware of the damaging actions and how to recognize when animal cruelty is occurring in their own community.

For any of you that have pets, let me ask you something. How would you feel if someone decided to kill your animal and then wear it? Wouldn't you be so affronted? If you would be upset, I completely understand. I had a dog. His name is Pythilo. He died out of natural causes. He was amazing, extremely affectionate and understanding, even though to some he was "just" a dog. Whenever I was sad,

upset or lonely, he found me and stayed with me knowing that I needed someone to comfort me. He was incredible like that. The most special thing about Pythilo was he was always excited and glad to see you come home again, even if you just went to get the mail. I know many pet owners have many similar stories like mine.

Eventually, pets no longer are considered as pets, but more as family. That's why I feel repulsed whenever I see someone wear fur or leather because all that I keep thinking about is, what if that was Pythilo. I'm sure that many other animal owners would ask themselves that very same question. If you really think about it, animals don't wear other animals. So does that mean that we've slowly have become d more barbaric and de-evolved then the animals?

Ladies and gentleman, we can improve our society one step at a time just by making this one change. This one step of changing the perspective towards fur can be a huge change into making this planet more animal friendly. We are no longer in the Stone Age when we had to wear fur. We have evolved past that stage, and we need to prove it. Let us prove that my using alternative materials that won't make us look so barbaric. If we humans can land on the moon, create the internet, travel around the world numerous times, make instruments, make a great variety in entertainment and be able to perform brain surgery then I'm sure that we can give up the fur. This one day event is a small step that will open eyes and enlighten many people who are willing to listen.

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