

ARMEDANGELS

Animal Welfare Policy

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Introduction

When mal practices are highlighted within a supply chain, brands have choices. All too often the “easy choice” is to remove that material from their supply chain. The responsible and sustainable choice is to listen, learn, support, and encourage the actors in the supply chain to understand why the malpractice occurred and what can be done to prevent it happening.

Specifically, the natural animal fiber industries have come under attack throughout the last years. There are conditions of maltreatment of indefensible cruelty to animals which cannot be condoned. Walking away however should not be an option. These animals and the communities that serve them, deserve help and support. And we are here to make a difference.

There is no unambiguous scientific definition of animal welfare, and in all definitions being used there are no given criteria to determine whether good animal welfare has been reached. There are numerous perspectives on animal welfare that are influenced by a person’s values and experiences. The way we treat animals is largely dependent upon the moral position we assign to animals; this determines how much we take their interests into consideration. Due to this lack of criteria and Indicators, we defined the ARMEDANGELS Animal Welfare Policy.

Within the ARMEDANGELS Animal Welfare Policy, we define farm requirements for sheep and alpaca addressing animal welfare, land management and social welfare and furthermore define a systematic of compliance check throughout our ARMEDANGELS chain of custody.



Requirements

Animal Welfare

1. Nutrition

Access to sufficient feed and water suited to the animals' age and needs to maintain normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.

2. Living Environment

Animals are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort and normal behaviour.

3. Animal Management

Animals are managed in a way that promotes good health and prevents disease. Sick or injured animals are treated. Husbandry operations are carried in a way that minimises pain and distress.

4. Handling and Transport

Good human-animal relationships are in place and animals are handled and transported around the farm and off the farm in a way that protects welfare.

5. Shearing

Shearing is conducted as per best-practice of the Industry. Shearing is protocolled and a programme exists that shearing methods are improved with regard to animal welfare continuously.

Land Management

6. Soil

Farmers/communities have an understanding of what will impact the health of their soil, and have a strategy to mitigate damage and improve soil health.

7. Biodiversity and water

Farmers/communities have an understanding of what will impact of the biodiversity of their land, and have a strategy to protect and improve it over time.

8. Fertilizers

Farmers/communities use the minimum amount of inputs to meet the nutritional needs of their land to maintain soil health and biodiversity. Fertilizers should be of natural & organic origin.

9. Pesticides

No use of synthetic pesticides. Solely natural & organic pesticides to achieve adequate control of pest burden on their farm.



Social Welfare (Farm Level)

10. Hiring Practices and Forced Labor

The farmer/collector of fibre demonstrates good practices with regard to fair hiring, which is free of discrimination and intimidation and directly combats risk factors for forced labor.

11. Child Labor

Children are protected from exploitation, not engaged in dangerous work, and able to participate fully in formal education. Children are able to safely learn farming from their family members by engaging in age-appropriate activities outside of school hours and lessons.

12. Working Conditions and Conduct

Workers work in a respectful environment, free from all forms of discrimination, harassment and abuse. Workers are enabled to speak out and have their concerns addressed in a clear, timely, and courteous manner.

13. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

All workers are free to organize and collectively bargain without interference or penalty from farm management.

14. Wages and Benefits Communities

Workers receive payment in a transparent and consistent manner that is non-discriminatory and provides for appropriate rest and leave for the worker.

15. Communities

Farm activities respect the rights of and have minimal negative impact on communities.

16. Health & Safety

Workers work in facilities and environments that are safe and healthy.

Optional Slaughter Module

Optional slaughter is only conducted on the basis of ethical standards and as last option.

Chain of custody

The integrity of nominated materials from animal origin is maintained through to the final ARMEDANGELS product.



Due Dilligence & Monitoring

Due diligence check is conducted before nominating the origin of an animal fibre. A visit at site (farm level, community level) is obligatory.
Monitoring of compliance with the respective requirements is done continuously.



Responsibilities

Animal Welfare & Contact

Carla Kollenberg, Compliance Administrator, ARMEDANGELS

Strategy

Katya Kruk, Impact & Innovation Director, ARMEDANGELS