

Cotopaxi's Commitment to Animal Welfare

As a values-first Benefit Corporation, Cotopaxi is committed to both the ideal and the letter of protecting the welfare of animals. We are committed to causing no harm to animals while also ensuring that as a Climate Neutral (CN) certified company, we are taking responsibility for the risks we pose to biodiversity loss and climate change. We have never and will never use fur, exotic skins, or leather. We are also committed to improving animal welfare across the apparel industry through both our actions and by raising awareness.

As a company, we adhere to the Five Freedoms framework as defined by the EU Farm Animal Welfare Council and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) due to its rigor and focus on preserving the innate rights of animals. The framework consists of the following principles:

- Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express (most) normal behavior 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

Cotopaxi currently uses down for insulation in outwear jackets (true as of 2021). Since this product's inception, we have worked with the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), which traces down to the goose farm to ensure that these farms are compliant with the Five Freedoms framework as well as other internationally recognized animal welfare standards. The Responsible Down Standard (RDS), which is promoted internationally by the Textile Exchange, provides for the release of an environmental declaration verified by a third party which ensures that down and feathers used for padding elements are obtained from aquatic birds (goose and duck) or terrestrial (e.g. chicken and turkey) that have not been subjected to treatments that cause pain, suffering or stress and that an identification and traceability system that applies to the origin of the material is applied and maintained.

Our down is blockchained to ensure that no subcontracting is occurring. Cotopaxi does not accept down or feathers from exotic birds, including but not limited to ostrich.

For further summary:

- Cotopaxi only uses one animal-derived product down. We also provide plastic-based insulation alternatives. We still use down feathers given their material properties and naturally biodegradable properties but only accept RDS-certified feathers.
- In the future, we may expand our natural-fiber based offerings, but will only do so if we can ensure through third party verifications that the Five Freedoms framework has been maintained.
- We will never use any of the following animal-derived products - leather, furs, or exotic skins.
- We have never and will never offer products that depend upon animal testing.
- We will always protect the innate rights of animals and will continue to do everything in our power to preserve their freedoms, habitats, and wellbeing.

Do you have any questions? Please reach out directly to llamas@cotopaxi.com . Thank you for your concern.