



Our policy represents our position on the use of animal derived materials. It covers our general standpoint regarding ethical sourcing and outlines our material-specific requirements and concerns any products made from 2023 onwards.

In alignment with European Parliament's due diligence surrounding animal welfare, N Brown Group firmly believes that it is not acceptable for animals to suffer in the name of fashion and or beauty. We believe our customers should be able to purchase our products with confidence and assurance that there is no involvement of cruelty in the development and manufacturing of our products.

In the same way, we are committed to upholding responsible and ethical standards we expect the same of our suppliers and partners. Where suppliers' materials have been sourced from farmed animals, suppliers are required to ensure that industry best practice is adopted to safeguard animal welfare at all stages of the animal lifecycle and slaughter process.

**THE FIVE FREEDOMS**

Industry best practice is founded on *The Five Freedoms*, which are recommendations set out by the intergovernmental organisation World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The governing principles state that animals should be permitted to:

- 1. Freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition
- 2. Freedom from fear and stress
- 3. Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort
- 4. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
- 5. Freedom to manifest/express natural behaviour

**POLICY SCOPE**

All N Brown Brand suppliers, Brands and their supply networks are required to comply with this Policy.

**MATERIAL ETHICS**

**Suppliers shall not use the following animal materials:**

- Endangered, wild, or exotic caught species

- Fur, including Mongolian lambs' fur or rabbit hair
- Shell including mother of pearl, teeth, bone, antler, mohair, or silk
- Ivory is completely banned (as required by law)

In the exceptional circumstances where a product can only be sourced from the wild, suppliers have the responsibility to ensure that population levels are sustained and that natural habitats are protected.

**In addition, we require suppliers to:**

- Only source materials as a byproduct of the meat industry with suppliers that exhibit and comply with good animal husbandry
- Clearly label synthetic products which are manufactured to look like animal products as '*faux*' on the product description and care labelling

## **MATERIAL SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. ENDANGERED, WILD OR EXOTIC CAUGHT SPECIES**

- 1.1 N Brown does not accept the use of endangered, wild, or exotic caught species that appear on either the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) red lists.
- 1.2 Animal materials listed on such databases must not be used in any of our products.

### **2. FUR**

- 2.1 N Brown does not accept the use of any real fur or pelts, whether from farmed or wild sources, including angora and rabbit hair.
- 2.2 Test reports will be required to provide evidence of construction.
- 2.3 Any supplier found to be substituting real for fake fur will be in breach of contract and may be subject to cancellation of any outstanding orders and removal from our supplier list.

### **3. ANGORA, MOHAIR & CASHMERE**

- 3.1 N Brown does not accept the use of angora or mohair, due to the production methods involving harvesting methods that have the potential to cause pain or distress to the animal.
- 3.2 Where cashmere is used, we look to source this responsibly.

### **4. MOTHER OF PEARL**

- 4.1 Mother of pearl does not come from shellfish that are part of the food industry; therefore, this is not to be used in any format, whether for buttons, inlay, or other purposes.

### **5. SILK**

- 5.1 N Brown does not accept the use of silk, as silk production is based on the destruction of the silkworm lava cocoon, resulting in the death of the larva.
- 5.2 Real silk should not be used in any of our products.

## **6. BONE & ANTLER**

- 6.1 Bone may be used where suppliers can provide certification that this comes from the food industry as a by-product and where internationally accepted standards of good husbandry are practised.
- 6.2 Ivory is completely banned, as also required by law.

## **7. COTTON SOURCED FROM THE XINJIANG REGION OF CHINA**

- 7.1 N Brown does not permit the use of cotton sourced from the Xinjiang region of China in any of our product due to the human rights abuses of Uighur workers in the region.

## **8. ANIMAL TESTING**

- 8.1 N Brown does not support animal testing
- 8.2 All chemicals used in our products, including dyestuffs, perfumes and cosmetics must not be tested on animals and should not be derived from animals, e.g., cochineal.

**The listed specifications must be considered when using the following animal materials:**

### **1. FEATHERS & DOWN**

- 1.1 N Brown currently accept the use of feather and down from sources that can provide certification or declaration from Responsible Down Standard (RDS) or Traceable Down Standard (TDS).
- 1.2 Feathers are only acceptable as a by-product of the meat industry and animals must be kept in conditions with good husbandry.
- 1.3 Live plucking is absolutely not acceptable.
- 1.4 We do not accept any products that result as a by-product from the foie gras industry.
- 1.5 Peacock and other decorative feathers which are not by-products of food production are not acceptable under any circumstances.

### **2. LEATHER**

- 2.1 N Brown accepts leather only as a by-product of the meat industry.
- 2.2 Suppliers may be required to provide details relating to animal welfare standards, tanneries and evidence of pollution controls including wastewater testing.

### **3. WOOL**

- 3.1 Wool must be sourced from producers that can demonstrate evidence of good animal husbandry, including veterinary certifications or declarations where required.
- 3.2 The use of wool, which involves mulesing is strictly prohibited. Mulesing is the removal of strips of wool-bearing skin from around the breech. This can be an extremely painful (at times fatal) process, as it is performed without pain relief, and although the procedure makes sheep less susceptible to fly strike it is a high alert animal welfare concern.

At N Brown we promote that all suppliers are required to develop transparency in their supply chain of materials used in production. They are also encouraged to discuss alternatives to animal-based products with their respective buyers and suppliers.