

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY



POLICY ON ANIMAL WELFARE

According to the Treaty of Amsterdam and the Treaty of Lisbon all animals must be treated as sentient beings.

Dansk Wilton wishes, in close cooperation with suppliers and sub-suppliers, to act and ensure the animal welfare among the sheep from which we harvest our wool and in this way distance ourselves from any animal abuse.

THE FIVE FREEDOMS

The starting point for sheep, unlike many other livestock farming, is that they are kept outdoors. Still, it is important to stress the five freedoms:

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintainfull health and vigor
- Freedom from Discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and comfortable resting area
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to Express 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 avoidmental suffering

MULESING IS UNACCEPTABLE

Mulesing is a method used on some sheep whose wool is used for clothing - not carpets. Nevertheless, Dansk Wilton supports the termination of mulesing in sheep breeding and demands that our wool come from sheep that have not been exposed to mulesing.

ACTIONS AND MECHANISMS AIMING TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO THIS POLICY ON ANIMAL WELFARE

If it becomes known that animal abuse is occurring, Dansk Wilton will immediately stop doing business with affected suppliers until the issue is resolved.

Further, Dansk Wilton will request regular on site surveillance of all relevant facilities by individuals knowledgeable of animal welfare issues related to sheep-hold. The person carrying out these site visits must check that the five freedoms are addressed and enforced, as well as confirm, that there is no evidence of mulesing. Self declarations from the farms or individuals hired by the farm are not accepted.

PRACTICES THAT WILL ENHANCE ANIMAL WELFARE

Good animal welfare for sheep during all phases of their lives is essential and we would like to highlight some actions that we expect to be taken on enhancing animal welfare – besides living up to The Five Freedoms and following best practices in animal husbandry.

Good animal welfare covers, among other things but is not limited to:

- animal health, i.e. disease prevention and appropriate veterinary care
- preventing pain, fear, or distress - for instance through humane handling
- proper animal handling facilities (this also benefit the safety of the personnel involved in handling the animals)
- proper nutrition
- protection from adverse weather conditions (shelter)

Stockmanship is a key factor in animal welfare and requires the acquisition of specific stockmanship skills. Wherever possible, the training should be of a type which leads to formal recognition of competence. The stockman should have training and or the necessary experience in sheep husbandry. Without competent diligent stockmanship animal welfare will be compromised.

On the environmental side, we would like to support farmers who engage in regenerative farming and focus on supporting biodiversity.

References for good animal welfare practices:

[Animal Welfare Guidelines for Sheep Farmers](#)

[Wool Sheep Welfare](#)

INITIATIVES AND GOALS TO SECURE ANIMAL WELFARE

- Site visits through 3rd parties
- Continued dialogue on traceability with all our wool suppliers
- Continued dialogue on certified wool with all our wool suppliers
- Engage in Regenerative Farming initiatives



Højskolevej 3, 7400 Herning
dw@dansk-wilton.dk
+45 9712 3366