

# 5.0 Animal Welfare & Material Ethics Policy

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Bubbleroom is committed to trading responsibly, and we also expect the same from our business partners. We want the goods we sell to have been produced in an ethical, safe, and environmentally conscious manner.

Complementary to our Code of Conduct, this policy includes our general standpoint on animal welfare and ethical sourcing with main focus on raw material production. Our Animal Welfare and Material Ethics Policy define which commodities are excluded from sourcing or will be excluded in the future due to their form of production, materials or thematic depictions.

This document applies to all our business partners and covers:

- Animal welfare
- Material Ethics
- Prohibited Production Activities

## 5.1 Animal Welfare

Bubbleroom is committed to improving animal welfare across the supply chains. All material with an origin from animals shall be produced in a fair way with care for the animals.

Suppliers are strongly encouraged to strengthen the control over their respective part of the supply chain and to place the same demands on their sub-contractors. All parties are encouraged to cooperate to improve the industry dialogue and enhance traceability and transparency throughout the production chain, from farm to stockyard and slaughterhouse, including all handling of animals in connection with breeding, transports, harvesting and shearing and the like.

### Basic requirements

All suppliers **must** follow national and international legislation regarding animal welfare including Directive 98/58/EG2 (Protection for animals kept for farming purposes). Breeders and all parties handling the animals should adhere to their Five Freedoms defined by the EU Farm Animal Welfare Council/World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

### The five freedoms are:

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

Materials **must not** originate from vulnerable or endangered species.

All parties involved, handling the animals and/or the materials, **shall** follow national and international legislation regarding forbidden materials. They must also respect and follow international agreements, such as the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

All suppliers are **expected** to have complete information for all products containing animal materials. For clarification purposes, suppliers may be asked to provide the following information:

- Type of animal used (common name)
- Identification of species (scientific/Latin name)
- Country of origin (where the animal was reared and slaughtered)
- Producer's animal welfare standards/any appropriate certification

In addition, the following material specific requirements are placed on the suppliers:

### Animal Hair & Wool

Only hair from living and domesticated animals are allowed, including but not limited to sheep, goat, alpaca, lama, camel, cow, buffalo, yak, horse, and pig. Hair and wool must not originate from animals that have been handled, harvested, or sheared in a way that harmed the animals. Bubbleroom does not permit wool from new-born animals or aborted animals (e.g., karakul) nor hair harvest by live plucking. Bubbleroom products in animal hair or wool must have verification that all requirements regarding animal welfare have been followed and fibres must be certified according to RAF (Responsible Animal Fibres) by The Textile Exchange.

**Wool** - Products containing sheep's wool must be certified according to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).

**Mohair** - Products containing Mohair wool from the Angora goat must be certified according to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS).

**Alpaca** - Products containing Alpaca fibres must be certified according to the Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS).

### Mulesing

Wool must not originate from sheep that have been subject to mulesing or from farms which practice mulesing.

### Rabbit hair/Angora

Rabbit hair (Angora) is not allowed.

### **Fur**

Bubbleroom does not accept real fur. Fur is not allowed in accordance with the Fur Free Alliance' Retailer Program. This does not include fleece, sheepskin or leather with its hair attached to the skin typically used as leather, or synthetic fur.

### **Down and feathers**

Down and feathers must originate from birds that have been bred for meat production with exception from feathers as a by-product of fowl raised to produce foie-gras, which is not permitted. Nor are ostrich, peacock, and marabou feathers. Down and feathers must not originate from farms practicing live plucking or force feeding. All down and feathers must be carefully washed and sterilised before used in Bubbleroom products.

All virgin down or feathers used for Bubbleroom products must come from farms with a valid certification that verifies the wellbeing of animals. Either Responsible Down Standard (RDS) or Global Traceable Down Standard (TDS) certified down will be required. The certification needs to be checked and approved by Bubbleroom before an order on any product containing down and/or feathers can be placed.

### **Leather/skin**

Leather and skin must originate from animals bred for meat production. Leather or skin must not originate from aborted animals nor from horses or other domesticated animals (e.g., dogs, cats). The leather used for Bubbleroom products must be sourced from medal-rated leather manufacturers that have been audited and certified via the Leather Working Group protocol.

### **Reptiles**

Materials (for example skin, bone, teeth, or claws) must not originate from reptiles, including but not limited to alligator, crocodile, lizard, and snake.

### **Coral, shell & pearl**

Bubbleroom does not allow the use of coral in our products or the use of shell from species listed by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) on Red list of Critically endangered; Endangered; or Vulnerable listed species. If pearls are used in our products cultivated pearls must be used.

### **Horn & Bone**

Bubbleroom does not accept any animal derived horn or bone to be used in the products.

### **Animal testing**

Materials or ingredients that have been tested on animals are not allowed, including but not limited to glue and self-adhesives.

## 5.2 Material Ethics & Prohibited Production Activities

This part of the policy highlights which methods and tools for material sourcing and processing are to be avoided when producing products for Bubbleroom. The Material Ethics Policy focuses on materials and processes outside the scope of The Animal Welfare Policy. For information regarding material with animal origin we refer you to above Animal Welfare Policy.

### **Viscose**

Viscose used in our products should be ethically sourced and not come from endangered forests.

### **Cotton linked to forced labour, child labour or any other form of modern slavery is prohibited**

As clearly outlined in our Code of Conduct, Bubbleroom does not, under any circumstances, accept the use of forced labour, child labour or any other form of modern slavery. Country of origin certificates may be requested for cotton products due to severe human rights concerns related to the cotton sector.

### **Sandblasting and related processes are prohibited**

Sandblasting is a technique for refining jeans and other denim products to give them a used look. In this method, the material is irradiated with sand under high pressure. The dust, if inhaled, can cause severe respiratory problems for workers. In cases of intense or long-term exposure, it may even lead to the contraction of fatal diseases such as silicosis and lung cancer, posing an extremely high health risk for those involved in the production of denim items. Additionally, the chemicals used in this process cause extreme damage to the environment when discharged without filtering into the wastewater.

Suppliers are expected to switch to alternatives for the treatment of denim products, such as:

- Washing and stone-washing
- Chemical treatment
- Laser/ozone treatment
- Hand sanding/manual treatment using sandpaper
- Hand brushing
- Machine sanding