



CONTROVERSIAL ACTIVITIES

ANIMAL¹ MALTREATMENT

0. Background

For several decades, animal welfare is at the centre of attention of a social movement fighting against the cruel treatment of animals which, in most legislations, are still considered as things and possessions, not as beings with their own rights. Animal testing, vivisection and cruelty of livestock transports and slaughtering have come in the limelight of public opinion and have appalled many. Animal welfare activists argue that it is an ethical issue how a society treats animals.

1. Animal Maltreatment –definitions

Therefore, Ethibel decides to include animal welfare as a screening criterion in its methodology. The following activities are considered as violations of animal welfare.

1.1 Animal testing

Some forms of animal testing are necessary and obligatory to develop and safeguard the quality and effectiveness of drugs and other products for human or animal use. Therefore, animal testing as a disputable activity is limited to non-mandatory tests and animal testing as major business area.

1.2 Factory farming

Many, mostly industrial, practices of keeping livestock have been criticised for their cruelty. In general, animals should be kept in their natural environment as far as possible. For fowl, this means that hen batteries, debeaking, live plucking and force-feeding for foie gras should be avoided; instead, fowl should be kept on the floor and in daylight with a minimum amount of space per animal. Larger farm animals should never be kept on slats floors or with electric devices controlling their movements; pigs should not be kept in sow stalls and tethers which make it impossible for them to move; unnecessary castration of young animals as well as tail docking and teeth clipping should be avoided. All farm animals should be kept with the appropriate bedding instead of concrete floors. All animals should be stunned before slaughtering, and slaughterers should not be paid on the basis of piece rates to avoid unnecessary cruelty. Farm animals should be transported in humane conditions (with enough air, water, food, space) and no longer than eight hours non-stop. EU directives 91/628/EEC and 95/29/EC provide a useful framework to assess the quality of transport.

1.3 Fur farming

Most of the time, fur animals are kept in conditions that do not allow them to live according to their instincts and needs. Most fur animals are naturally solitary animals, but on fur farms, they are kept closely together, with too little space to move about. This causes them a lot of stress. This, together with the fact that fur does not fulfil a basic human need and is mostly used for luxury articles for which substitutes are available, makes fur farming a disputable activity.

¹ Ethibel's concept of animals is limited to vertebrates.



Animals that are grown for their skin (such as crocodiles and snakes) are considered as fur animals.

1.4 Fishing and hunting

Here, two concerns arise: cruel practices and the capture or death of endangered species. In general, the over-fishing of many ocean parts worldwide is a serious concern, but cannot be attributed to one single company. However, some fishing practices cause more harm than necessary and are subject to dispute, for example, whaling or the use of trawler nets that cause the death of dolphins and tortoises. In hunting, body-gripping traps (especially for fur), battues or hound hunting should be avoided. For the hunting and fishing of endangered species, Stock at Stake refers to the list of animals endangered by extinction as defined by the CITES convention.

1.5 Captive wild animals

The keeping of wild animals in zoos, circuses, aquariums, leisure parks and other institutions is (sometimes) subject to serious public controversy as it means care and housing that are not meeting the needs of the animals concerned. However, zoos and aquariums also facilitate the study and conservation of endangered species. Therefore, keeping captive wild animals constitutes a disputable activity if the animals kept are born in the wild (with the exception of wild animals that are abandoned or confiscated) or if they are kept in conditions that are not comparable to their natural habitat and inflict serious damage on them.

2. Degree of Involvement

A. Animal testing

2.1. Major Involvement

Companies are regarded as majorly involved in animal testing if they:

- 2.1.1. Conduct or commission non-mandatory tests on animals for their own cosmetic or personal care products or ingredients, food ingredients and luxury goods in general and don't have a policy on reducing the number of test animals AND significant results;
- 2.1.2. Conduct tests on animals as a specialised service for other companies;
- 2.1.3. Have a non consolidated participation in a facility engaged in one or more of these activities and if they accomplish more than 1% of their revenue with this activity.

2.2. Minor Involvement

Companies are regarded as minorly involved in animal testing if they:

- 2.2.1. Conduct or commission mandatory tests on animals for their own cosmetic or personal care products or ingredients, food ingredients and luxury goods in general;
- 2.2.2. Conduct or commission non-mandatory tests on animals for their own cosmetic or personal care products or ingredients, food ingredients and luxury goods in general but have a policy on reducing the number of test animals AND significant results;
- 2.2.3. Conduct or commission mandatory or non-mandatory tests that are clearly and exclusively aimed at the improvement of human or animal health and for which there are no alternatives;
- 2.2.4. Retail cosmetic or personal care products or ingredients, food ingredients and luxury goods in general, that were developed by the use of non-mandatory tests.
- 2.2.5. Have a non consolidated participation in a facility engaged in one or more of the activities described under 'major participation', if they accomplish less than 1% of their revenue with this activity.

2.3 No involvement

Companies are regarded as not being involved in animal testing if they:

- 2.3.1. Retail products that were developed by the use of mandatory animal testing.
- 2.3.2. Have a non consolidated participation in a facility engaged in one or more of the activities described under 'minor participation', if they accomplish less than 1% of their revenue with this activity.



B. Other practices detrimental to animal welfare

These guidelines apply to activities 2 – 5 mentioned above, as well as any violation of legislation concerning other animal welfare issues.

2.1 Major Involvement

Companies are regarded as majorly involved in practices detrimental to animal welfare if they

- 2.1.1 Have a consolidated operation in facilities engaged in one or more of these activities;
- 2.1.2 Have a non-consolidated participation in a facility engaged in one or more of these activities if they accomplish more than 1% of their revenue with this activity;
- 2.1.3 Accomplish more than 10% of their revenue with the distribution of products made under these conditions, with the exception of food retail companies;
- 2.1.4 Accomplish more than 10% of their revenue with the distribution of the following products that are subject to public controversy: fur, whale products, goose liver, frog legs.

2.2 Minor Involvement

Companies are regarded as minorly involved if they have

- 2.2.1 Have a non-consolidated participation in a facility engaging in these activities that provides them with less than 1% of their total revenues;
- 2.2.2 The distribution, marketing or sales of products made under these conditions provides them with less than 10% (but more than 1%) of their total revenues.

SUMMARY

	Animal testing	Production violating animal welfare	Distribution violating animal welfare
Major involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-mandatory tests for own products and no policy and results - specialising in animal testing as service to other companies - non-consolidated participation if more than 1% of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -always in case of consolidated operation - non-consolidated participation if more than 1% of revenue 	consolidated operation if more than 10% of revenue
Minor involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always in case of mandatory tests for own products - (non-)mandatory tests for health improvement if no other alternative - distribution of products with non-mandatory tests - non-consolidated participation in 'major' if less than 1% of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-consolidated participation if less than 1% of revenue 	consolidated operation if between 1 and 10% of revenues
No involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - distribution of products with mandatory tests - non-consolidated participation in 'minor' if less than 1% of revenue 		less than 1% of revenues