



Open Letter to American Figure Skater Johnny Weir

January 20, 2010 | [view comments \(90\)](#) | [add yours](#)

Dear Johnny Weir,

A recent *New York Times* article discussed your quest for the gold medal at the Vancouver Olympics.

The author mentioned your outfit had a "touch of fox" on the shoulders, and, despite your third place showing at the United States Figure Skating Championships on Sunday, you thought your outfit "looked pretty."

Please consider that there's nothing pretty about the fox that suffered and died to trim your outfit. The beautiful fox was likely anally electrocuted, or may have had its head bashed in, only to serve as decoration for someone's performance.

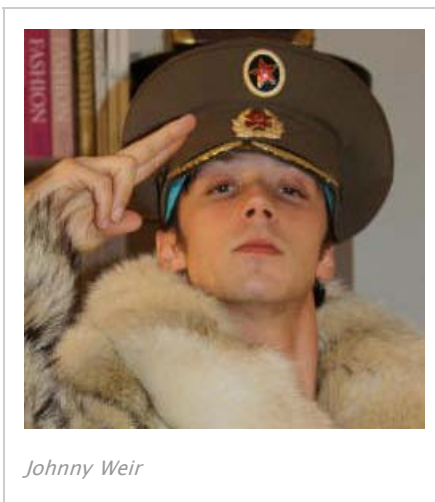
If you buy fur, no matter what size piece, or which animal it comes from, you're supporting an industry that has no respect for animals.

You say that you want to bring an "artistic style" to the Olympics, stating that "everyone can do jumps." But, as past Olympic champions have shown us, style isn't everything. In addition to skill, you must also have a sense of decorum in order to bring home the gold. And projecting a conscientious view of the planet's animals is a starting point.

While you may believe that wearing fur is a "personal choice," kindly know that the animals you wear had no such choice. The fur doesn't magically slide off these beautiful beings. Their nightmare begins in the cramped cages they spend their lives in, where they are forced to lay in their own feces, and ends with first cut in their anuses. Or maybe some animals you wear were caught in leghold traps, and struggled in vain to gnaw off their legs? Either way, there is nothing glamorous or pretty about the cruelty they endured. And it can't be morally justified either.

Friends of Animals urges you, for the sake of humanity, your Olympic ambitions and the hopes of all Americans this winter, to stop wearing the skins of animals. Instead, wow the judges with amazing performances. In the end, nobody cares what a figure skater wears. You will only be judged on your performance and the strength of your character.

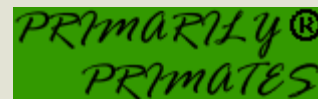
Priscilla Feral
President of Friends of Animals



Johnny Weir

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90 Comments

On January 20, 2010, Diane Gallagher wrote:

Thank you for bringing this to everyone's attention. There is nothing stylish about wearing the pain, suffering and murder of living creatures. Murdering animals is not a personal choice and animal lovers will no longer sit by while others use that as an excuse to butcher millions of living creatures for their own selfishness!

Thank you,
Diane Gallagher

On January 20, 2010, Leno Sislin wrote:

WHAT A GREAT LETTER!!!!
ONE THOUSAND PERCENT IN AGREEMENT WITH EVERYTHING YOU SAY IN IT!!!

THANK YOU FOR WRITING IT AND I HOPE IT CAN BE PUBLISHED MORE WIDELY, SO THE PUBLIC WILL KNOW!

AGAIN, THANK YOU.....

On January 20, 2010, Peter Hood wrote:

I am pleased for this letter, and feel the public should do the same. I do not want Mr. Weir representing the US in any international competition or public performance. His ignorance, foolishness and conceit on the issue of fur should not stand as what we want in our sports figures. This man needs some serious education, and he needs to put some thought into what the consequences of his choices can be.

On January 20, 2010, Patricia Browne wrote:

Whenever I see someone wearing fur; I do not think they are being stylish. I instead think they are either ignorant (in the case they have no idea fur comes from an animal that was killed for their fashion) or possibly mean and cruel (if they know how tortured the animals death was for the fur and don't care).

On January 20, 2010, Katherine Lopez wrote:

Priscilla, thank you for this. This should be posted far and wide. I certainly don't want him progressing with such a backwards mentality. Embarrassing.

On January 20, 2010, David Sessions wrote:

This proves that just because a goal has been met, (performing at the Olympics) one's

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Friends of Animals' goal is to free animals from cruelty and institutionalized exploitation around the world.

consciousness does not necessarily go hand in hand. I applaud this letter and only hope there is a guarantee that this unenlightened skater sees it.

With all the respect for the work you are doing.

David Sessions

On January 20, 2010, Melissa wrote:

This is as bad as Phelps smoking grass. What an idiot thing to do. But this involves a living being who has pain and fear even though "they're just animals". I'd save an animal well before I'd save a human being.....

On January 20, 2010, Maryanne Appel wrote:

What a beautiful letter, Priscilla! Concise, with a starkness that is razor-sharp. If this doesn't touch the most indifferent, egotistical fur-wearer, I don't know what will.

On January 20, 2010, Jan Baybusky wrote:

I am dismayed to think that I did not notice he was wearing fur. I am a big Johnny Weir fan but I am going to have to rethink that. Part of the problem is that he now trains with a Russian trainer and in Russia (and Russians who live here), the people don't believe there is a problem with killing animals to wear.

Johnny, I am ashamed of you and hope you will change. Please do not wear fur!

On January 20, 2010, Margaret Sweeny wrote:

Anybody that wears fur, please stop for a second and think what the animal goes through, shame on the person that wears it, believe me you are making a big statement like you don't give a #### for animals, it's clear to say this skater feels this way. SO WRONG!!!!!!!

On January 20, 2010, Beverly wrote:

I think this is awful! That is abuse to an animal... There should be laws to protect ALL animals on this earth from such cruelty!

On January 20, 2010, Lisa K wrote:

Please, cruelty is never in fashion OR a fashion statement. Please leave fur where it rightfully belongs... on our non-human friends and family members. Thank you kindly.

Please be the voice for the voiceless victims of human cruelty and set an example for our young people to learn and grow from.

On January 20, 2010, Laura wrote:

When are people going to realize that wearing fur is primitive and so outdated? We don't live in a day and age anymore where people rely on animals for food and

clothing. We now have plenty of options made out of synthetic materials and non-animal products. Anyone who still thinks fur is classy needs a reality check. It isn't classy to cause the death of innocent animals, it's sad; and people really show their ignorance when they choose to wear fur.

On January 20, 2010, Barbara Schmitt wrote:

I'd love to see this letter published in every major newspaper across the country. 'Too many are "forgetting" and/or choosing to ignore the fact that animals are sentient beings. Feral highlights this fact, along with the unbearable and unconscionable suffering they must endure so that we can dress with some sort of sick "ornation"; and she does so with heartbreaking acuity. I am going to forward this to as many editors as I possibly can...the NATION needs to read this, hopefully before the Olympics commence. Well done, Priscilla. I am proud to be a member of FOA.

p.s. 'Will forward also to major department stores like Nordstrom, which, despite protests on behalf of so many animal rights groups and intelligent, caring citizens, still insist on carrying "fashion" that requires dire and unthinkable suffering.

On January 20, 2010, Robin wrote:

I've been a figure skater for longer than Johnny Weir has been alive and I am appalled at the use of fur in a competition outfit. Actually, I'm appalled at the many figure skating professionals who still think it's somehow fashionable to wear fur at the rink. This is BAD. Johnny, you should be ashamed of yourself.

On January 20, 2010, Dr. Susan Turner wrote:

I think the animals who suffered and died for your little piece of fox deserved a life and not to be worn. It is ridiculous to think it made you look nice, it makes a person look like a barbaric, uncivilized being to wear the skin or fur of an animal. This is unconscionable and you should rethink your priorities and remember compassion.

On January 20, 2010, Wendy Wamser wrote:

Fur should be worn on those it was born on. It's a barbaric practice & no matter how little is used, the animal was tortured brutally & probably skinned alive. You're a great skater, Johnny. Show us you have a good heart too. Drop the fur.

On January 20, 2010, Rev. Ericka Shimkonis wrote:

I think this letter to Johnny says it all! Fur looks better on the animal not the human!

On January 20, 2010, Peter wrote:

It just goes to show how out of touch people are with what it means having animal parts sewn into their clothing. They don't draw the association between animals and the clothing. They understand—or even take the time to think about—what the animals must go through to give them their fashion choice. Johnny should know better. It's better to think before you act in this case.

On January 21, 2010, Paula&Bob Harris wrote:

In 2010, there is NO need for fur! Come on, now! How sick!

On January 21, 2010, Patricia Bordewieck wrote:

Great letter. We can only hope it will do some good. Maybe a letter writing campaign to him asking him to be a spokesman on behalf of animals – or at least using them for decorations would be a good way to go. Look at Michael Vick, for example, a guy I think is rotten to the core and now seemingly perfectly acceptable – think that might entice him?? Nah!

On January 21, 2010, Nancy wrote:

Thank You for writing the letter, I had not heard about this until now. I do hope Johnny Weir will take this as a great opportunity to learn something and pass it on..

Thank You ,

Nancy

On January 21, 2010, Barry Faires wrote:

I have always appreciated your aesthetic performances. In my opinion you rank among the most beautiful skaters who have ever performed on the ice. It would be tremendous, if you spoke about the ill conceived choice that you made by wearing the skin of a tortured and murdered animal.

On January 21, 2010, cindy tyler wrote:

Thank you for writing this letter let's only hope he takes your advice!!!!

On January 21, 2010, Annamaria Boscarino wrote:

You're wrong Mr. Weir. Fur belongs to the animal only just as your skin belongs to you only.

On January 21, 2010, loVegan wrote:

Sportsmen should be true men in their everyday life, and true men wear their own skin: leave animals alone Johnnie, you don't need to torture and murder anyone to be fashionable. Respect life, animals have your same right to live

On January 21, 2010, Pam wrote:

Excellent letter – I hope it is read and comprehended by Mr Weir.

In the 21st century, there is NO need for the barbaric ,mindless cruelty that is fur.

On January 21, 2010, Barbara Smith wrote:

I don't know who you are but I will make sure it remains that way, I hope that your evil towards animals bites you in the butt.

On January 21, 2010, anita mahdessian wrote:

Words just fail me...cruel and barbaric! I think Johnny Weir has lost many fans over this fur wearing issue. But hey, he gained many critics! I'm sure his career will be dead soon...just like the animals he wears.

On January 21, 2010, Laura A Valdes-Borsum wrote:

The ignorance and cruel ideals of Johnny Weir make him deserving of failure in the Olympics. I for one will be watching and will cheer and laugh at every error he makes.

On January 21, 2010, debara delgatto wrote:

Shame on You. you are a heartless piece of crap. i hope you get your skinny little butt whipped on the ice.

On January 21, 2010, Yvonne Dixon-Williams wrote:

What a beautifully written letter! Lets hope that Johnny Weir makes the right decision and gets rid of the fur. This is not about us controlling your style, this is about the pain & cruelty suffered by the animals that you choose to wear!! Sir Paul McCartney always looks impeccably stylish, he wows people wherever he goes...and he is against the fur industry. You can wow the crowd with your talent and style without the cruelty! If anything, the added fur takes away from your performance...you see style, we see death. Please feel for the animals! Please be more stylish and just say NO to fur, thank you.

On January 21, 2010, Elizabeth Salz wrote:

Shame on you!! I used to love you as a skater & now I can't stand the ground you walk on. You are a disgrace to the human race. I'm glad now you've had so many problems in your skating career & could never quite make it to the top...it couldn't have happened to more of a jerk. Karma'a a bitch, Johnny. May you be reborn as one of the animals you hate so much. Hopefully one on a mink farm. See how you like that horrifying life & death. Ugh.

On January 21, 2010, carolina wrote:

He is a stupid grudge, like all who hate and envy the unique beauty of the animals!

On January 21, 2010, Sue wrote:

While I cannot take credit for the following excerpt, it certainly bears posting here ...

"Human hands will strap a metal noose around my neck. They will pull me out of my cage by the neck. My initial joy at leaving the cage will shift to terror as the same human hands shove an electric prod into my rectum. They will yank my mouth open to force a metal conductor down my throat. I will panic just before they flip a switch to shoot 240 volts of electricity through my body. My eyes will close in pain and my body will grow rigid. I'll emit a crackling sound just before my teeth fall out. The force of the shock will make the anal probe fall out. I'll convulse and cry out as they electrocute me over and over.

The pain will be unbearable. The electric current won't stun my brain, so I'll remain fully conscious up to 2 minutes to feel the excruciating force of massive heart attack.

Millions of animals live intensively confined on fur farms, to eventually die by genital electrocution, neck snapping, gassing, clubbing or drowning.

Millions more suffer in steel-jaw leghold traps, to be stomped to death under the feet of trappers. There is no such thing as humane fur coat or trim. I may only be a fox to you. Still, I ask you to consider the truth behind the fur trade...and to reconsider before you purchase my violent death."

On January 21, 2010, Lee wrote:

Real men don't wear fur. Real men don't glory in the barbaric cruelty that produces a fur garment. You're a disgrace to your sport and to your country and I sincerely hope your career is short. I personally will never watch one of your performances again and I am confident in saying that the world would be better off without you in it. I know the animals who are tortured on your behalf would certainly concur. You disgust me.

On January 21, 2010, Stacey Rakic wrote:

Yet another whiny ice diva more concerned with himself than anything else much less the suffering and exploitation of animals. Hey, Johnny, did you know that animals are skinned alive, and anally and genitally electrocuted just so you can look like a barbie doll on ice? Do you know how hideous fur farming is and how idiotic you look wearing dead animals? Can you possibly imagine for even ONE SECOND the utter horror, agony, and pain humans inflict on animals just so you can look fluffy on ice? If it were not such a barbaric industry, I'd laugh at you, you look so ridiculous. Is that to draw attention away from you utterly embarrassing skating? Wow, skating has certainly hit bottom.

On January 22, 2010, juliana wrote:

Wow! How easy is to decide to wear fur and agree with it when it is not your life in danger!! Johnny, How about you try to skin yourself first,see how you feel ?! GO FUR FREE!! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!!!! COME ON!! EVOLVE !!

On January 22, 2010, NADINE BEAUCAGE wrote:

GOOD THING I AM NOT ON PANEL.I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE ABLE TO PAY ATTENTION TO HIS SKATING, BUT SITTING IN AWE AT HOW STUPID, CARELESS, AND ILL ONE COULD BE TO WEAR REAL FUR.

MAYBE HE SHOULD SPEND A FULL DAY AT ONE OF THOSE FARMS TO SEE WHAT GOES ON THEN GO HOME A TRY TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT, IF YOU CATCH A WINK YOU HAVE NO

SOUL,

On January 22, 2010, Troy Conn wrote:

Thank you Pricilla

For taking the time to educate Mr. Weir on his choice of clothing. Like him so many are living with their eyes "wide-shut" to the world and the evil in it. As humans we were given this world by god to take care of not to rob and pillage it of all it life, just so we can look good. Johnny I challenge you to turn this negative image around, and help us educate others. We have taken the time to express our disappointment in you. Make us proud today — use your popularity to educate others.

Thank you for your time,

God bless,
Troy Conn

PS. I ALSO CHALLENGE Friends of Animals! If Johnny can do an about face and see our view that we can help him present our case to the world through sponsorship.

On January 22, 2010, jwaldie wrote:

You, little boy, are without a doubt, the most egocentric maniacal inhumane person. You care not that even one innocent creature suffered so you, and you are the ONLY one that thinks it, could look good on skates. You not only look ridiculous but you sound like an idiot as well. Hopefully you will listen to what people are trying to tell you and reconsider your thinking process about innocent creatures. I hope you view a video about what it took to get you your fur for your costume and then maybe you will not be so cavalier about it.

On January 22, 2010, Tony Michaels wrote:

I try to give athletes a little slack before judging them because their actions are frequently the result of ignorance or poor guidance. But it's hard to excuse this fool. Thanks for the letter.

On January 22, 2010, Suzanna van der Voort wrote:

With all my heart thanks for the well written letter to Johnny Weir. Everybody has a "free" choice in what to wear and what to eat and so does Johnny and now it comes: wearing fur is willfully choosing for cruelty, pain, stress and also often for being skinned alive of animals.

Choosing for fur is telling that the person who wear this, is ignorant and deaf for the cruelty and torture of animals, because fur is inexorably linked to all the evil that is connected to this dirty business.

So in fact, Johnny is telling us the truth about him: deaf, blind, ignorant, without compassion, kindness and respect towards sentient living beings.

Who wants to be friends with such a person...hard-boiled when it comes to the most important things that matters: to live and to let live...

The way you make your choices and the way you live is telling who you really are.

On January 22, 2010, Lisa S wrote:

Personal choices affect only the individual making them – this is not the case when wearing fur. Many animals suffer and die unnecessarily when someone imposes their sadistic desires on innocent victims. This young man (murdering a-hole) is arrogant, rude, disrespectful and a lousy excuse for a human being.

On January 22, 2010, Coleen Tew wrote:

Mr Weir, I would like to challenge you to watch the film “Earthlings”, as there is nothing I can add to what others have so eloquently stated. Then tell me how you feel.

On January 22, 2010, Christine Paul wrote:

Nobody has the right to take a life. Wearing an animals flesh for the sake of vanity just make me sick. It’s bad enough that these beautiful creatures have absolutely no free will from the time they are conceived, but for the selfish humans that parade around in their skins, I cannot fathom how they live with themselves. There’s something missing in that persons brain. Sometimes I wish animals could come back from the dead and haunt the hell out of those who hurt them intentionally, like this jerk!

On January 22, 2010, Robyn Faith wrote:

I’m not sure I can be quite as polite as most on here. This scumbag doesn’t deserve to win anything for the lives he takes and so proudly displays, and then gloats that he hates animals. He obviously hasn’t got a soul or a heart, and quite frankly he will probably get boo’d when he goes out on the ice, because what people will see is a pathetic maggot who thinks he is better than the lives he helped take away for his sad vanity!

He might as well have held the knife or the electric prod and ripped their skin off himself!! But you know what? He wouldn’t have the guts! I won’t be watching and will never support him or others like him!

On January 23, 2010, Kelly Morehead wrote:

It’s people like him,that are teaching our children that this is ok.

On January 23, 2010, Corinne Thurstan wrote:

Shame on you- no excuse for fur-

On January 23, 2010, Alicia Buie wrote:

I’m not a vegan, but I am thinking about becoming one. I am almost 16 years old and I have a strong love for animals. I want to become a veterinarian when I am older and graduate high school. I have a teacher at school and her name is Mrs. Kinsley; I look up to her because she is a vegan and she strongly believes in what she’s doing to save animals. I’m glad that finally there are more people who want to make a difference in this world. I used to love meat so much I would not even over think eating it, but now I

think: What if that was my dog or cat? The same goes for anything now and everytime I eat meat I can't think too much about it because it is too sickening. I hope that this helps people to better understand what they are causing and that animals should not have to suffer because we want them to be our food, clothes, etc. If they did that to us, we would be furious.... think about how they feel.

On January 24, 2010, Chris Ford wrote:

It's obvious that Johnny Weir doesn't deserve to be on the US Olympic Team. His fur fetish and vanity over talent should be all the red flags the US Olympic Committee needs to knock him off. Just because Johnny is able to gain some publicity, it doesn't mean the Committee should give him free ride over more qualified skaters. Really, is vanity what the Olympics are about? It seems that he cares more about how dead animals look on him than his performances on the ice. Johnny Weir is an embarrassment, not a star.

On January 24, 2010, James "Guin" McGuinness wrote:

If this guy is as talented as he thinks he is, fur won't help him. It will hinder him. Seems to me he realizes he is outclassed and is hoping for a job later on the Ice Capades. Maybe a fox should wear him.

On January 24, 2010, Nanette Doyle wrote:

Furs should be banned immediately!

On January 24, 2010, Margaret Dew wrote:

The fox that died for your frivolous costume was more agile, swift, and athletic than you can ever hope to be. Think about it.

On January 24, 2010, Nan Sea Love wrote:

It is sad that someone blessed with such talent was not also blessed with a compassionate heart. I hope your heart will open and you will hear that your actions set an example for others and take that seriously and behave accordingly.

On January 24, 2010, Merrill Kramer wrote:

Sir:

How can you think that a costume trimmed with the fur of a dead animal looks "pretty"? It must take some level of intelligence to skate...how about using some of it before buying fur?

Wearing fur shows your arrogance, ignorance and lack of compassion for another living being. None of this is good.

You may believe that wearing fur is a "personal choice".

FYI, the animals you wear had no such choice! Fur doesn't magically slide off these beautiful beings backs. They are usually anally electrocuted after being stabbed.

PRETTY?

That animals nightmare begins in cramped cages they spend their lives in, they are forced to lay in their own feces, some bred to death. Life ends with first cut in their anuses. Other dead animals you wear were caught in leghold traps, struggling in vain to gnaw off their legs and escape. PRETTY?

Either way, there is nothing glamorous or pretty about the cruelty endured.

This can't be morally justified.

I am ashamed to see you flaunting a display of fur and representing a civilized nation.

You know that your ignorance and lack of compassion will be broadcast all over the world. Shame on you!

Inadvertently I hope you have become a voice for the thousands of eviscerated animals these wardrobes represent.

Find out about the portrait of Dorian Grey....and check your mirror daily, little vain,stupid, heartless spoiled brat.

On January 24, 2010, Linda Wooden wrote:

You are a wonderful example of what not to look up to...what an idiot...not only do you look like a jerk in the picture, you obviously don't care one bit about your so called fans...including young up and coming skaters who idolize you. Set some standards for these children, and while your at it, set some standards for yourself...life standards! Maybe you should concentrate more on being a compassionate human being than trying to skate your best. If you are not the best person you can be, all else fails to matter.

On January 24, 2010, Pam Allee wrote:

This is not something to be proud of.

On January 25, 2010, Launda wrote:

How about instead of being so critical of this man, we respectfully let him know how this affects us and why, and concentrate our anger and efforts on the people who actually raise the foxes for fur.

Attacking only the people wearing fur one at a time does not do enough to stop the fur industry. If there was no fur to be sold, no furtraders, then none could be bought. Perhaps he had not been enlightened to what wearing fur means to many, animals included. Lets all work together and concentrate efforts against the industry, not the individual. And who knows, maybe he can become a voice FOR the cause against fur.

FoA comments:

Respectfully, consider him enlightened. If he continues to wear fur, FoA will continue to speak out. However, the publicity resulting from FoA's open letter to Johnny Weir not to wear fur has done more to enlighten the public about fur then any possible similar criticism to the fur industry about the manufacture of fur. If people stop buying fur, the fur industry will stop making it.

On January 25, 2010, CeCe Hawkins wrote:

Yes, when humans feel they need a little something to enhance their looks, they usually do. Little Johnny is no exception! Unfortunately, there is nothing appealing about him. I personally think it was a fluke he even made the team, the insensitive little fop. I love the Olympics – Winter especially and I'm fearful of what he may turn up in at the performances in Vancouver. Hopefully, someone with half a brain is on the Olympic committee and will ban fur on all costumes; I'm truly surprised they haven't already.

On January 26, 2010, Karen wrote:

As my bf says real people wear fake fur. For Mr. Weir a moment of self satisfaction for the animal the end of it's life and will end up in a heap of junk on his closet floor.

On January 27, 2010, Jason (AR Group of Greater Philadelphia) wrote:

Thank you very much. I was disappointed in Mr. Weir's response to FoA's letter. While the suffering of humans is certainly something we all care about, there seems to continue to be a lack of realization with people that being vegan and being nice to animals and not wearing fur in NO WAY takes away from our ability to help people in Haiti, etc. Also, I think I should point out, as faux fur has been mentioned, that under law, faux fur may and often does contain a percentage of real fur and is probably best to be avoided in my humble opinion.

On January 27, 2010, holly d knudsen wrote:

thank you for the open letter and i add to wier.."really wier you couldn't of wore faux fur ...artistically real fur helped your performance sounds like a screwball rebuttal to me..."if that what you need to feel more of an apt performer maybe your focus should be on practice practice not ill conceived costumes that are to distract from your feelings of poor skating abilities ...

On January 27, 2010, Privately Venting wrote:

Mr. Weir's off-handed retort about the human suffering in the world is ridiculous because it has nothing to do with the issue raised by Friends of Animals. No one is suggesting there isn't human suffering – his only clothing choices were NOT human skin or fox fur. Human suffering in this instance is neither minimized or avoided by his choice (assuming his costume was not crafted by exploited labor, although perhaps we should assume it was given his lack of regard). His comparison – like that of so many people who dismiss cruelty to animals as insignificant – misses the point. The idea is that when you granted a choice, people with high integrity choose not to promote suffering. There are no lines to draw around causing pain and suffering; people just opt to draw lines to make their ill-founded, immoral choices more comfortable. This ideal can hold true for all suffering, without exception.

On January 27, 2010, James Poole wrote:

Perhaps the Friends of Animals can create an online petition that activists can sign urging the U.S. Olympic committee to ban real fur in ice skating competition.

The networks televising Weir's performance could be urged to cover the controversy over his insistence on wearing fox fur and why activists are upset.

Changing Weir's opinion seems hopeless. His worldview seems only to include himself. Perhaps peer pressure from other skaters could be helpful.

On January 27, 2010, Kim wrote:

He should be ashamed of himself. He should be more careful about what kind of karma he puts out there... He is as arrogant and personality disordered as they come.

Thanks for sending the letter — too bad he is too selfish and heartless to give a damn.

On January 27, 2010, talia wrote:

Epical letter. That prissy ice skater is just like everyone else in this world. Ignorant. Engulfed in their own pitiful existence. What we need is more education on animal cruelty. Ban fur!!! We are not worthy to wear the animals pelts. Especially the whites. My native american ancestors wore fur to keep warm back in the days. We respect animals and even prayed everytime we killed an animal. But now all everyone cares about is money and profit. Electrocuting animals to death anally? WTF??? That's the worst thing I've ever heard. My heart goes out to the animals. Humans are sick and will all perish in the hell of all their regrets and mistakes. Hope is lost now. We have desecrated sacred animals...I feel armageddon near more and more everyday

On January 27, 2010, Allison Ellman wrote:

He just lost my support. I'll be very disappointed now if he makes the podium and I am usually a pretty avid figure skating fan.

Is there anything else we can do to voice our protest?

FoA comments:

Stay tuned in. When we get more information, we'll post it here.

On January 27, 2010, Melissa Jacobson wrote:

You should "Weir" something different. They usually say any press is good press, I don't think this holds true for you. I never heard of you, now I have and I have nothing but this to judge you by. The thought that you watched video on animals suffering and still had callous things to say goes to your character. Don't bring Haiti or people suffering into this, it has nothing to do with it. You had a choice to make and seem indifferent to anything but yourself. Is faux fur not a choice for you?

On January 27, 2010, Shawn Matthews wrote:

Please send me a list of every establishment you know of that utilizes such barbaric practices, in particular, the ones which skin animals alive. I will do my utmost to see they are seen publicly for the monsters they are by taking out ad space adjoining their businesses depicting their savagery if it's legally possible.....and even if it's not. Guerilla Advertising: Our greatest weapon.

On January 27, 2010, Marcus Heath wrote:

It is very sad these days when a stuck up child like this when scolded for adorning himself in the skin of an animal, can when called out on it point a finger and say things like this

"I tend to focus my energy, if there is a cause, on humans. While that may be callous and bad of me, it's my choice."

I'm sorry but your right, it must be safe in your zone to childishly avoid and redirect your bad choices.. So what have you done for humans lately even then?? How about all those homeless that you spent all that money on your outfit on, so you can walk right by them on the street.

You're a disgrace to the US and to your sport to so callously not care about any living thing, but your own self worth.

On January 27, 2010, Johnny Wei wrote:

Boycott the Olympics. They displace thousands of humans in every city it is held too. Johnny Weir is a despicable person.

On January 27, 2010, Lily Anon wrote:

Oh Johnny.

I already thought that your skating costume for the Olympic trials was a crime against fashion — but now I've learned that it's a crime against animals, too!

I share disgust with the countless skating fans who are disappointed not just by your callousness and selfishness, but by your meager attempts to imitate high culture at the expense of helpless little foxes.

Further, that vacuous response to animal rights groups only convinces me that you're soulless and devoid of politics. Avant garde? Honey please. Style without substance is mechanical, manufactured. And thus, you belong more among the ranks of Old Navy shoppers than those visionaries of the runway.

Good luck at the Olympics. I'll be laughing when you trip on your fur collar!

On January 27, 2010, Susan Loyd wrote:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Weir. His attitude toward suffering animals is as disappointing as his alleged fashion sense. He is an embarrassment to the United States on every level.

On January 28, 2010, Sam wrote:

Johnny Weir shame on you. You should place yourselves in animals and foxes shoes, and face the torture and bloodshed they succumb to just for your pride and ego. Go to a slaughterhouse and see if you don't puke and see all the blood everywhere and souls of animals dying unnecessarily.

Think before you speak and wear Johnny Weir.

On January 28, 2010, Deb wrote:

I just read of Weir's response to the letter. I realize now his ego is too big for his tasteless costume. As an aspiring athlete myself, not only do I support suffering human beings, but also those of suffering animals. It goes to show you what a small minded person Weir is for not being able to see support can be widespread. I have lost all respect for him. Even as an accomplished athlete.

On January 28, 2010, kyle wrote:

While I do not agree with this person wearing fur, it is not my place. .. If we are supposed to be vegetarian, what would we do to keep from being overrun by the animals we consume? And if we did not satisfy our primal instinct to hunt by killing animals what do you think would happen? And last, how much help are you animal lovers putting forth to help your fellow man?

[Blog editors' note: By not breeding cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, pigs and other animals for human consumption, you've removed them from an industry that makes their lives hell from birth until death. So our expanding population of humans won't be outpaced by chickens who cease to be seen as our food. I have no primal instinct to hunt or trap animals for excitement, food or commerce, so the condition you describe sounds like you're making excuses for behavior under your control.

Finally, an environmental conscience, and work for animal advocacy doesn't preclude anyone from joining and working in other social justice movements. They're not competing issues.]

On January 28, 2010, Taylor W. wrote:

I think that this is a big problem. Maybe he should use his fame to stop this situation. I think that this is a risky issue because what if people follow what he's doing by the next generation we won't have any foxes left! I read the news paper article and he said well it doesn't matter because of all the homeless people with nothing, well just because there is something lower then what your doing, dosen't make what your doing okay. And you can't hide what you doing with killing foxes by hiding what you did under the fact that yes there are worse things out in this world right now but you still have no reason to wear fox fur to make you outfit "pretty". And also in the artical I read he said that everybody wears cow skin skates. But it dose matter because we use most of the cow for food and skin and other body parts, we don't use them strictly for fashion. I am actually 13 years old and we did a journal article about this situation. It drives me mad what those selfish bastards that kill animals for fashion. What if everyone got one of those long fur coats made out of fox, there would be no more foxes. The are altermatives such as fake fur, there is NO reason for using a real animal to look "fashionable".

On January 29, 2010, Steph wrote:

I personally am an animal lover, but I can understand that not everyone is. But most human beings, animal lover or not, still don't want to see animals being abused or tortured. Johnny Weir apparently has no conscience. If he could care less about an innocent animal, then I say we should all care less about him. Right now he is on top, making money and making headlines so he doesn't care. He wont stay that way for long I'm sure. When you see him on T.V. change the channel. Don't buy tickets to any show he is in. Eventually the people at the top will figure it out and get rid of him.

FoA comments:

The latest news is that Weir says he will only be wearing faux fur on his costumes.

On January 29, 2010, Anette Juhl Allton wrote:

This has nothing to do with fashion. It is cruel and oldfashioned. Disgusting!

On February 14, 2010, lulu wrote:

Johnny's mentality makes us so very sad. Ashamed to be human, actually. The unspeakable animal torture/murder

for "just a little fur trim." Tell THAT to the animal

who died for that little trim.

He should NOT be allowed to promote wearing of FUR while representing a country, here the United States.

I implore all to take an hour and 1/2 and sit with loved

ones to watch the documentary "EARTHLINGS" compassionately narrated by the lovely Joaquin Phoenix. It should be required viewing for everyone on the planet.

And let's all treat our four-legged family members a little nicer..and do all in our power to put an end-once and forever - to this terrorism of animals and the fur trade.

PeAcE and LoVe.

Lulu

On February 16, 2010, Fran Walsh wrote:

You are disappointing on too many levels to mention. When you grow a demeanor & character, perhaps then you will not disgust us. Wearing fur that is not your own IS DISGUSTING! How can you even focus on your Olympic dream knowing you are a joke? A bad joke who has had his 15 minutes of fame. Bye bye.

On February 16, 2010, Veganonymous wrote:

TO A FUR SCARF

The trap jaws clanked and held him fast;
None marked his fright, none heard his cries.

His struggles ceased; he lay at last

With wide uncomprehending eyes

And watched the sky grow dark above

And watched the sunset turn to grey;

And quaked with anguish while he strove

To gnaw the prisoned leg away.
Then day came rosy from the East
But still those steel jaws kept their hold;
And no one watched the prisoned beast
But Fear and Hunger, Thirst and Cold.
Oppressed by pain his dread grew numb.
Fright no more stirred his flagging breath.
He longed in vain to see him come,
The cruel biped, bringing death.
Then through the gloom that night came One
Who set the timid spirit free:
'I know thine anguish, little son —
so once men trapped and tortured me'.
F.F. Van de Water

On February 16, 2010, rachelle wrote:

i pray that there will be no more "fur farms." i am appauled at the thought. no fur for me, period.

On February 16, 2010, Fallopa Tuba wrote:

I thought that after a heated battle with FoA and other critics, Johnny Weir's camp substituted fake fur for the fox; he made a public statement and everything.

I'm against wearing fur, but I'm also against wearing leather, and he rightly pointed out that most skaters at the Olympics were wearing dead cow on their feet. (As are most humans everywhere.) Why is fur less humane than leather? Because we don't eat fox meat? Because cows are delicious and deserve to be killed? I thought by now most animal rights activists and even vegetarians could agree that leather isn't "just a by-product" of the meat industry, but a thriving industry in its own right.

So my point is that maybe we should go after the big boys; the use of leather is so pervasive in our society, that even when I've ordered a product and specified it should be made out of nylon, not leather, it still came with leather trim! People always assume your shoes are made of leather, which is why I favor plastic shoes that don't look like leather at all, when I can get them.

Are we too afraid to launch an anti-leather campaign? I think this could be big.

On February 16, 2010, Lee Hall, Friends of Animals wrote:

Thank you for bringing up your concerns. I'll address each of them in turn.

1. No heated battle from Friends of Animals' side — Pricilla Feral sent a courteous letter to Weir.

2. We agree about being against fur-wearing and the wearing of all animal skins. Friends of Animals asked Johnny Weir not to wear animal skins.

3. Yes, our intervention quickly led Weir (and others following the discussion) to see that most skaters at the Olympics (and many people) wear leather. Good discussion has been raised here.

4. No one said fur is "less humane" than leather. If someone defends a certain community under attack does that mean they do not care about others?

5. Anyone who thinks FoA holds that cows are delicious and deserve to be killed needs to get familiar with the work we do here every day (and night). Please do. I invite you to explore this website!

6. Veganism *is* an anti-leather campaign. Stop bringing farm animals into existence (or attacking free-living animals such as crocodiles, snakes and ostriches), teach people the ideal of non-exploitation, and the custom of leather-wearing stops.

But please don't ask us to sit on our hands when it comes to Arctic foxes — or polar bears, or horses and burros, or deer and elk and coyotes of the federal parklands, or bats, pelicans, sharks...We'll never do this. We intervene for them and keep them safe to live on their terms. We'll do it as much as our funds, other resources, and time in the day allows.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns up with us and allowing them to be addressed here.

On February 18, 2010, Joya Ghose wrote:

Dear Johnny, I would love to be able to support you because your skating is fabulous. But when you wear fur, you are not just causing the death of that one animal; you are encouraging others to wear fur and causing more and more pain and terror.

Yes, horrible things happen to humans every day – I'm against those too, but that doesn't make it right to deliberately torture and kill animals and wear their skins on your back.

When you wear fur, it is as if you are throwing it in the face of every person who has a heart, that this is a horrible cruel world in which there are many people who are prepared to kill their friends and that there is nothing they can do to stop them.

I try to put that out of my mind so I can go about my normal life, but whenever I see someone wearing fur, it sends a chill down my spine and puts fear in my heart. Is that the reaction you want?

On February 19, 2010, Wills wrote:

I wanted him so bad to fall flat on his face in the finals... but he did even better all on his own... He did not even place!! One word... KHARMA!!! woohooooo

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his own... He did not even place!! One word... KARMA!!! woohooooo

On February 19, 2010, Chris Ford wrote:

Congratulations tonight to Friends of Animals! What a victory!! Johnny Weir didn't wear fur for both the short and long program. Because of you, the world learned the evils of the fur industry. Thank you!

Post your comment

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