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Fur flies over Weir's foxy skating outfit

Article **Photos (1)**

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Johnny Weir has set fur flying again.

Friends of Animals has posted an open letter to the American figure skater, criticizing him for having white fox on one of his costumes and asking him to stop wearing fur.

"I totally get the dirtiness of the fur industry and how terrible it is to animals. But it's not something that's the No. 1 priority in my life," Weir said Tuesday night. "There are humans dying every day. There are thousands if not millions of homeless people in New York City. Look at what just happened in Haiti.



In this Jan. 17, 2010, file photo, Johnny Weir competes during the men's free skate at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Spokane, Wash. Weir finished third in the competition. Friends of Animals has posted an open letter to Weir criticizing him for having fox fur on one of his costumes and asking him to stop wearing fur.

ELAINE THOMPSON/AP FILE PHOTO

"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."

Weir said he thought the costume was "lovely," but Friends of Animals disagreed. Foxes are electrocuted or beaten and their pelts are obtained by skinning the animals alive, said Anai Rhoads, spokeswoman for the group. Weir said he understands the group's objections, but he doesn't share their point of view. Besides, he's not the only skater wearing animal skin.

"Every skater is wearing skates made out of cow," Weir said.

"Maybe I'm wearing a cute little fox while everyone else is wearing cow, but we're all still wearing animals."

Associated Press

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