

Sandy Reports

W E E K L Y I N T E R N A T I O N A L F U R N E W S

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Dear Subscriber,

Humane Society of the U.S. accused of misusing tax-exempt donations. In a complaint filed last week with the Internal Revenue Service, the Humane Society of the United States has been accused of using tax-exempt charitable donations to promote the Global Animal Partnership and Whole Foods' business interests. The connections between the entities are apparent: The animal partnership is run by a Whole Foods employee, and Whole Foods CEO John Mackey sits on the HSUS board.

The complaint, which was filed by the nonprofit Center for Consumer Freedom, can be viewed here as a PDF: <http://bit.ly/2ghuiUo>.

Specifically, the allegations state that HSUS — coordinating with several other animal liberation activist groups — is threatening brand attacks on food providers unless they agree to buy Global Animal Partnership-certified chicken. This campaign benefits Whole Foods by, among other things, having other companies commit to higher-cost animal protein or be smeared in the media and on the Internet. Since November, the Center for Consumer Freedom says that almost 20 brands have publicly pledged to buy Global Animal Partnership-certified products following the launch of pressure campaigns by HSUS and allied animal rights groups.

It's important to remember that the HSUS is not connected to local humane societies, which do a lot of good in terms of placing pets in welcoming homes. Rather, HSUS is a deep-pocketed nationwide activist organization that uses almost all of its funding to further its political agenda, which includes attacks on many of today's farmers. Despite the tone of their television commercials, HSUS does next to nothing to feed, medicate, or place shelter animals.

HSUS has not commented publicly about the IRS complaint.

Fur for Spring. An increasing number of the spring issues of major publications are showcasing fur for spring on their editorial pages. According to VOGUE.com, “Furs don’t have to be strictly for keeping warm. In lighter weights and construction, fur also provides a bit of everyday opulence.” Once confined to the usual fall/winter issues, editors – and celebrities - are seeing fur as an all-year-round fashion staple – clearly music to the ears of the industry.



styling: KIM & JESS NORRIS
makeup: STEPHANIE QUINN
photography: STEVEN VOGUE



Greek fur industry rebounds during 2017. The Greek fur industry is expected to rebound in 2017 after three successive years of decline, with sales falling by more than 80%, according to Phaedon Giatas, vice-president of the Hellenic Fur Federation.

Giatas said there is strong optimism based on improving conditions on an international level, particularly in Russia, traditionally one of the best customer of the fur industry in Kastoria.

There are more than 350 commercial visitors from Russia and Ukraine currently in Kastoria, according to Giatas, along with a 40-member delegation from South Korea.

Fashion brands ban fur. The parent company of more than two dozen popular clothing brands including The North Face, Vans, Timberland, Wrangler and Nautica, has confirmed they will no longer carry garments of animal fur, angora and exotic leather. VF Corporation has partnered with The Humane Society of the US (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI) to release its first animal welfare policy, which not only bans some of the above materials used in the apparel supply chain, but makes clear that animal-friendly alternatives are the future of fashion. VF has also banned down feathers from force-fed, live-plucked geese and wool from sheep.

NAFA announces 2018 Auction Schedule. February 26 – March 2, 2018 (on show February 21, 2018); May 13 – 19, 2018 (on show May 8, 2018); July 6 – 10, 2018 (on show July 1, 2018).

NAFA's Preliminary WildFur Offering (as of May 15, 2017). Badger 1,500; Bears 60; Beaver 20,000; Cougar 25; Coyote 32,000; Ermine 30,000; Fisher 6,500; Grey Fox 10,000; Lynx 2,500; Lynx Cat 7,000; Musquash 325,000; Opossum 52,000; Otter 3,000; Raccoon 150,000; Red Fox 5,000; Ringtail 500; Sable 22,000; Skunk 2,000; Squirrel 50,000; Timber Wolf 600; Wild Mink 2,000; Wolverine 40.

Regards,

Sandy Blye

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