

The Truth About *Feather*
Fashion, Fishing,
Clothing & Bedding

A Presentation by Karen Davis, PhD
President of United Poultry Concerns



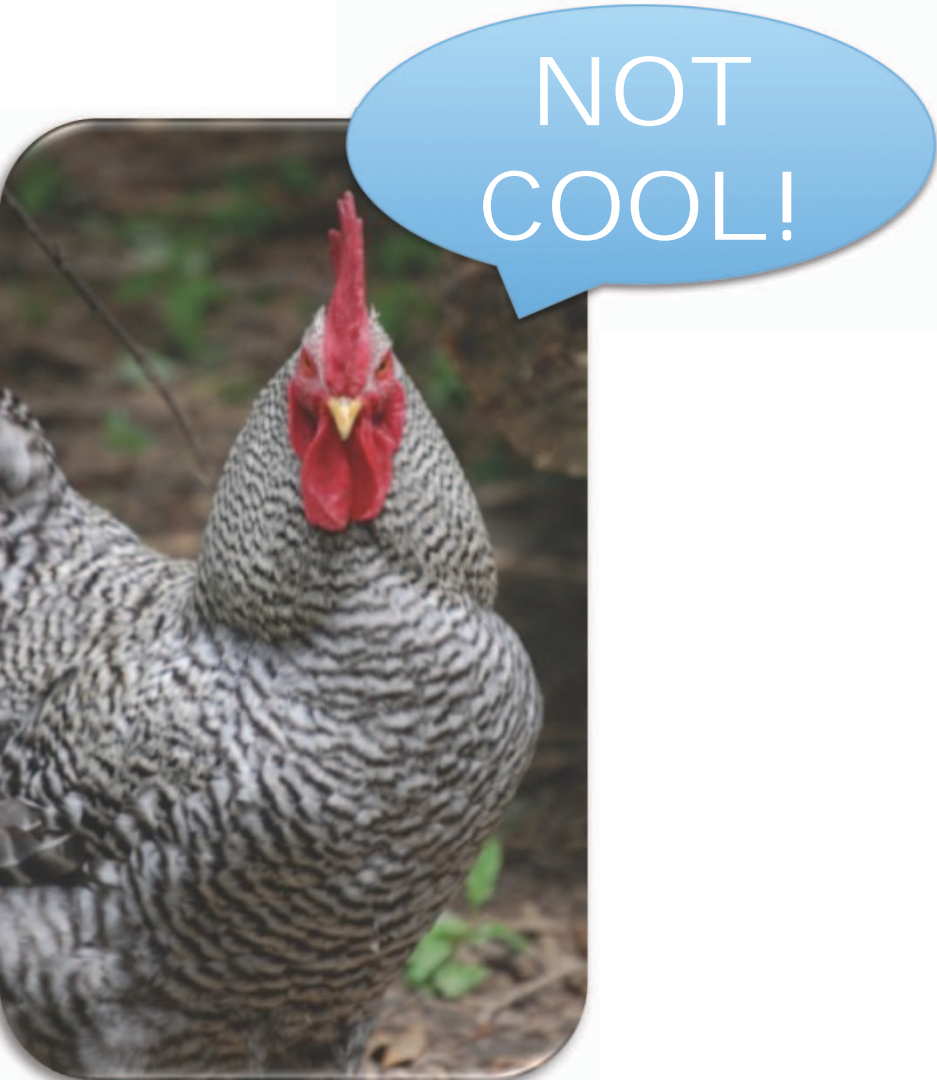
Photo by Frank Johnston,
The Washington Post



NOT
COOL!



Musician Steven Tyler helped popularize rooster feather hair extensions.



Fashion closet of Reed Krakoff.

Birds suffer horribly for
FEATHER HAIR ORNAMENTS
& FISHING LURES

Supercuts shop at
14844 Burbank Blvd,
Van Nuys, CA 91411.
Phone: 818-901-1075

The snapshot was
taken on March 7,
2013



Feather hair extensions, earrings and related feather fashion accessories are obtained from caged roosters who are warehoused for this purpose in battery cages.

Whiting Farms in Colorado, which supplies feathers for the fashion and fly-fishing industries, explains how the roosters are used: "Each rooster has only a small number of tail feathers that can be used for sales – sometimes none, sometimes 5 or 6." The dead roosters, whether some of their tail feathers are used or unused, are thrown away like garbage because commercially speaking, as Whiting Farms president Thomas Whiting put it, "They aren't good for anything else."

Fly-fishing lures as hair ornaments.



Up to 1,500 roosters may be killed by Whiting Farms each week just for hair ornaments. The company competes with other feather suppliers in the U.S., China and elsewhere for the fashion and fishing lure trade.

To keep blood off the feathers, Whiting Farms and other suppliers asphyxiate their birds with Carbon Dioxide. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) inflicts a terrible, painful death on the roosters, who panic as they realize they cannot breathe.

Every inhalation to try to get oxygen and expel the poisonous gas from their lungs tightens the strangulation. This is the torture that Whiting Farms and its competitors put innocent birds through merely for a trivial fashion ornament and for the doubly brutal sport of fly-fishing.

Steve Oualline of Bob Marriott's Fly-fishing Store in Fullerton, in Orange County, CA, displays taxidermied roosters similar to the ones that have been providing the feathers for the hottest new fashion trend – feathered hair extensions.

Orange County Register, March 7, 2011.





Birds suffer horribly for
PILLOWS & COATS

Down, the soft breast feathers of live birds that grow very tight to their skin, is mixed with slaughterhouse feathers from ducks and geese to fill pillows and coverlets at many hotels and in the making of designer outerwear.



*Photo by Society
for the Advancement
of Animal Wellbeing*

The feathers originate on farms where workers get paid to rip the feathers out of the bodies of live geese, leaving them bleeding in excruciating pain.



Photo of live-plucked geese on PETA Website.

Other feathers used for clothing and bedding are byproducts of the foie gras industry, in which ducks and geese are force fed with metal tubes to create diseased livers for gourmet appetizers.



Photo by Gourmetcruelty.com

Investigator Marcus Mueller tracks the Hungarian plucking brigades – men and women who go from farm to farm stripping feathers from live geese. There are plucking brigades in Poland, Russia and Moldova, but Hungary is the largest source of live-plucked feathers and down.

Birds are stripped every five weeks. Each time, their bleeding wounds are roughly sewn up with needle and thread until they are slaughtered at 6 months old.



These geese were rescued from one of the farms. Otherwise, they would never be outdoors as they are in this photograph.

Mueller describes the process: "The men and women from the brigades work without feeling, grabbing terrified geese by their wings or legs, sometimes breaking them, always hurting them, as they tear out the birds' feathers."

Mueller further explain why manufacturers and retailers who say they don't use down from live-plucked birds cannot prove their claim: "Brigades go from farm to farm stripping the birds as they go, then the feathers are sold to brokers and middlemen who mix live-plucked feathers with those recovered from slaughtered animals."

Birds who are not plucked alive but whose feathers are included in pillows, comforters and clothing are similarly confined in filthy, disease-ridden buildings the same as the live-plucked birds.

Feathers from slaughtered chickens also go into pillows and coats along with feathers obtained from more than 2 billion slaughterhouse ducks each year.



Ducks in a duck slaughterhouse.

Photo by Silvia Meriggi, Animals' Angels



Sad Hungarian ducks & geese on their way to the slaughterhouse.

What Can I Do?

- Do not buy or wear feather products. If you are wearing feather hair extensions, feathered earrings or other feather items, give them a decent burial.
- Choose compassionate fashion. There are many beautiful feather-free fabrics, beads and other ornaments you can buy or create that don't come from tortured birds.
- Do not buy a coat, jacket, comforter, pillow or any other clothing, bedding or household product filled or decorated with feathers/down, fur or fleece. Read labels. If down/feathers or other animal products are involved, skip the purchase and choose a product made of all animal-free materials. Inform the store's customer service department how down/feather products originate and why you refuse to buy them.

What Can I Do?

- When making hotel reservations, arrange to have only polyester-filled pillows and coverlets in your room when you arrive. When you get to the front desk, renew your request for feather-free pillows and when you get to your room, check the pillows! Remove the pillow slips and READ THE TAG. It will say if the pillow filler is down/feathers or polyester. If down/feather pillows are in your room, call the front desk and ask that they be removed immediately and replaced with feather-free pillows. Inform the hotel that you are ALLERGIC TO ANIMAL ABUSE and that their “pillow policy” will influence your future hotel choices.
- Educate your family and friends and look for opportunities to write letters to the editor & participate in media forums about the cruelty of down/feather products. No one who learns the truth will want to wear a fashion made of suffering or sleep on a pillow of pain.

Please be kind to me. Don't wear my feathers.



Please be kind to us.
Don't wear our feathers.



Karen Davis with UPC Sanctuary Chickens

Photo by Frank Johnston, The Washington Post



For more information, visit



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