



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAMIBIAN KARAKUL GRANTED OA™ MARK

Fur from karakul sheep from Namibia has just been approved to carry the international Origin Assured (OA™) mark by the International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF).

Karakul (also known as Persian Lamb) from Namibia provides the local native people with meat, wool, milk as well as leather and fur. Marketed as Swakara, the fur is highly desirable and is often seen on the catwalks of Paris, London and Milan.

The Karakul Board of Namibia, which represents Namibian producers, worked hard to qualify the OA™ mark. With the assistance of the Namibian Government and the European Union, they introduced a welfare code of practice⁽¹⁾. This draws on the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) best practice guidelines, and has been approved by the Namibian cabinet⁽²⁾. It is being enforced by the Directorate of Veterinary Services.

Andreas Lenhart, Chairman of the IFTF, says: “We are really pleased to welcome this wonderful fur into the Origin Assured™ programme. Namibia’s hard work shows that the OA™ mark, which aims to assure consumers that OA™ fur comes from a country where there are recognised welfare standards in place, is having a very positive effect on the fur trade as a whole. Consumers can feel good about buying fur with the OA™ mark.”

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¹ Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Karakul Sheep in Namibia

² Cabinet decision 14th/21/08.07/007

Through its work, and the activities of members, International Fur Trade Federation seeks to protect fur trade interests and promote innovation, high standards and a positive factual image of fur and the fur industry worldwide. The IFTF promotes strict codes of practice that meet, or exceed, established animal welfare standards for farmed and wild fur. IFTF represents 39 members in 32 countries.

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SAGA FURS