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PRESS STATEMENT FROM ANIMALS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN GROUP CALLS FOR ALL FUR FARMS IN THE REPUBLIC TO BE SHUT DOWN

An animal rights lobby group – **Animals Behind Closed Doors** – has called for the urgent closure of all fur farms in the Republic.

‘The ending of fur farming is in the current Programme for Government, **Animals Behind Closed Doors** spokesperson, Gerry Boland, has said. ‘It was also in the previous government’s legislative agenda. There can be no procrastination on this issue any longer: the animal rights issue is reason enough to close the industry down. With the outbreak of a strain of coronavirus in Denmark and the anticipated cull of the country’s 17 million mink, we now we have another compelling reason to legislate this industry out of existence.’

According to a mission statement on the group’s website, the campaign group has been established with a view to — *‘prising open the doors of the secretive, factory farming industry and in so doing, offer people the opportunity to see for themselves what goes on behind the closed doors of these industrialised animal factories.’*

‘Mink in the wild live near water and are excellent swimmers, spending a considerable amount of their time in and out of the water,’ explained Gerry Boland. ‘They have a range of about 2 km along rivers. On fur farms, the animals spend their entire lives in small, wire cages which are so small the animals can only take a few steps in any direction. Many go insane and behave in a demented manner, circling and

padding in a frantic manner. Parasites and disease are commonplace. Roughly 85% of the fur industry's skins come from farmed animals.

'Killing methods vary around the world,' according to Gerry Boland. 'A common method is to electrocute the animal by attaching clamps to its mouths and anus (sometimes rods are inserted into the anus). Another method is to poison the animal with strychnine. This paralyzes their muscles causing them to suffocate. Breaking the neck is another method used. They can also be gassed to death by either carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide.'

'In 2019, animal rights activists were successful in California with the passage of AB44, which takes effect in 2023 and makes it illegal to manufacture, sell (or attempt to sell), display, trade, and donate (or otherwise, distribute) fur products in the state. And in New York City, anti-fur activists pressured lawmakers to introduce bill number 1476, which is to prohibit sales of fur apparel and accessories.'

Dr Gabriel Scally, a leading health expert, has warned that an outbreak of Covid-19 in minks could halt vaccine development if the mutation proves to be 'dominant'. A mutated form of coronavirus in the mammals, which are widely bred for their fur, has led to a nationwide cull in Denmark and sent parts of the country into lockdown.

STATEMENT ENDS

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