



**DON'T PULL THE WOOL  
OVER YOUR EYES**





**Sheep were probably the first animal species to be domesticated by humans, some 10,000 years ago. A sheep today is the result of many centuries of selective breeding and bears little resemblance to its wild ancestors.**

Life is not much fun for a sheep. A sheep grows far more wool than it needs for protection from the elements, and may suffer greatly in hot weather. Paradoxically, the sheep with the most wool, merinos, are kept in some of the world's hottest, driest, climates, the Australian Outback. After being sheared of its wool, a sheep becomes immediately susceptible to cold and wet. From birth to death, a sheep suffers much cruelty from being handled, sheared, transported and finally slaughtered.

***Vegans avoid using wool to avoid causing suffering to sheep.***

A sheep kept primarily for its wool does not die of old age. The commercial production of wool is inextricably linked to meat production. A sheep always finishes up on someone's plate, or kebab stick. Indeed, a young lamb may not even be allowed one year of life before it is turned into chops - usually at about 6 months of age, or even as young as 4 months. Every year, Australia and New Zealand export around 500,000 tonnes of sheep and lamb carcase. Around 7 million live sheep and lambs are also exported, - mostly to Middle Eastern countries where those that survive the journey face ritual slaughter. Some wool (called "pulled wool" in the trade) is a direct slaughter-house product, being taken from the skins

of slaughtered sheep and lambs. If you buy wool, you are supporting slaughter.

***Vegans avoid using wool to avoid supporting slaughter.***

In many parts of the world, including Britain, sheep prevent the regeneration of natural woodland by their feeding habits, creating the likes of the Sahara Desert in Africa and the desolate moors of Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire.

***Vegans avoid using wool to help protect the environment.***

When wool is first taken from sheep (dead or alive), it is rich in a natural grease called lanolin. This is removed before the wool is processed into yarn or felt. It is not, however, thrown away but used as a base in cosmetics, lotions and ointments.

***Vegans avoid using lanolin for the same reasons they avoid using wool.***

Wool, as an internationally traded commodity, represents only around 3% of the world's fibre market. So the world could do perfectly well without it. There are plenty of natural vegetable fibres and synthetics that can be used in the place of wool.

***Vegans avoid using wool because people don't need it.***

**For further information on the vegan diet, visit [www.vegansociety.com](http://www.vegansociety.com)**

**or send an A5 SAE to The Vegan Society, Donald Watson House,**

**7 Battle Road, St.Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA Tel: 0845 45 88244**

