

Vegan shoes and accessories are often inexpensive—up to 60 to 75 percent cheaper than leather!



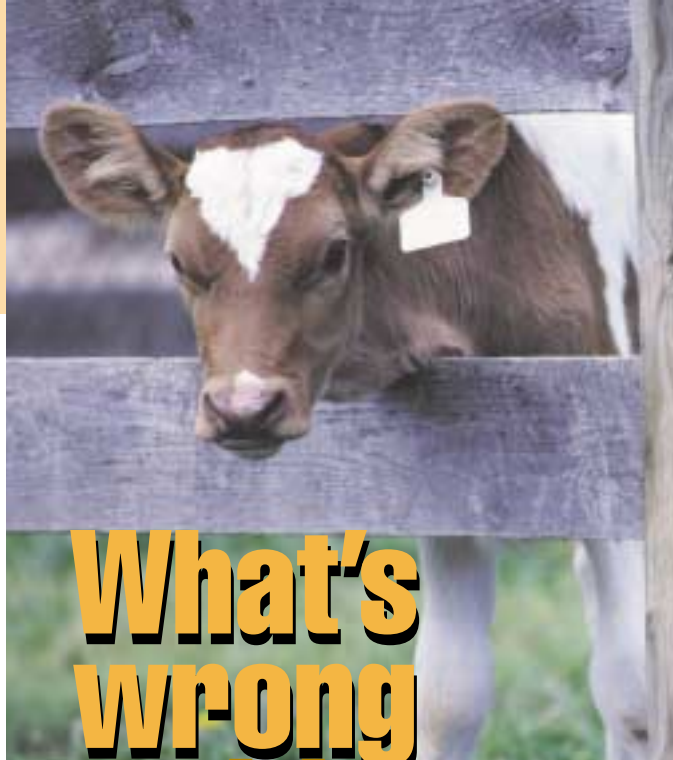
WHAT YOU CAN DO:

■ Never buy leather. It's easy to find quality shoes and accessories that are stylish and free of animal suffering. Not only designer and high-end stores, but discount store chains such as Payless Shoe Source, Gussini, Bakers, Kinney's, and Thom McAn also carry a wide selection of nonleather styles made from materials such as cotton, linen, ramie, canvas, and synthetics. Companies like Sam & Libby or Capezio offer fashionable jackets, shoes, and accessories made of synthetic materials, which are also sold in department stores.

Discount shoe and variety stores like Pic 'n Pay usually offer large selections of nonleather shoes, belts, and bags.

■ Contact PETA for more information on leather, including our shopping guide to nonleather products, or check out our Web site at CowsAreCool.com.

Shoes, bags, belts, jackets, sneakers ... dressy or casual—it's easy to find cruelty-free alternatives if you know where to look!



What's wrong with leather?

Buying leather directly supports the cruelty of factory farming and the misery of the slaughterhouse,

since skin accounts for 55 to 60 percent of the byproduct value of cattle. When dairy cows' milk production wanes, their skin is also made into leather, and the hides of their offspring, "veal calves," are made into high-priced calfskin.

Almost all the animals who end up as belts and shoes suffer confinement, crowding, branding, unanesthetized castration, tail-docking, dehorning, and cruel treatment during transportation and slaughter.



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According to a *Parents* magazine poll, 69 percent of Americans are opposed to killing animals for leather.



Cows used for leather endure broken bones, beatings, hunger, and thirst.



Who's in Your Shoes?

Most leather produced in the U.S. is made from the skins of cattle and calves, but leather sold here is also made from horses, sheep, lambs, goats, and pigs who are slaughtered for meat, as well as from dogs and cats killed in Asia. When you buy leather, you can't tell where it came from or what animal it was made from.

When you buy leather products, you may be purchasing leather from Asian dog and cat tanneries; because products are rarely labeled, there's no way to know for sure.

Much leather comes from India, where the thriving leather trade is perhaps the cruelest in the world. Many of the Indian animals used

for leather are so sick and injured by the time they arrive at the slaughterhouse that they must be dragged

inside. Others have hot chili peppers and tobacco rubbed into their eyes, and their tail bones are painfully twisted and broken in order to make them stand up. Once inside, their throats are slit. Some have their legs hacked off or are skinned while still alive.

Tannery Toxins

To stop decomposition, today's tanneries use dangerous substances like mineral salts, formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, and cyanide-based oils and dyes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the incidence of leukemia among residents near one tannery in Kentucky was five times the national average. According to a New York State Department of Health study, more than half of all testicular cancer victims work in tanneries.



"While the cows were being loaded, I could hear the gurgling of one cow choking on

her own blood. The rope in her nose had been improperly placed, and with the constant tugging on it by rough handlers, as well as being tethered to her fellow cattle during the 12-hour march, it had ripped through her nose, and blood was pouring down her face."

—PETA investigator in India

