

Was She **Killed** to Make Your Carry-On?



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CRUELTY DOESN'T FLY | CHOOSE VEGAN

PETA

More than a billion cows, sheep, and other animals are killed for their skin each year worldwide. Much of the leather sold in U.S. stores comes from countries where animal welfare laws are nonexistent or largely unenforced.

In Cambodia and Thailand, investigations by PETA entities revealed that workers repeatedly bashed cows in the head with sledgehammers. In India, herds of sensitive, social cows are often forced to march hundreds of miles to their deaths in the scorching heat without food or water. Their tails are deliberately broken, and tobacco and chili peppers are rubbed into their eyes to drive them forward or force them to stand back up after they collapse. In Brazil, the world's single largest source of animal hides, a video exposé by PETA U.S. revealed that gentle cows and bulls were beaten, burned in the face with hot irons, and electroshocked.

There's nothing natural or eco-friendly about leather. Turning a cow's skin into leather is a highly unnatural process in which decomposition is halted through the use of chemical baths and dehydration. Formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, and various oils, dyes, and finishes, some of which are cyanide-based, are used in turning animal skin into finished leather goods. According to the Higg Materials Sustainability Index, leather made from cow's skin contributes more to the climate catastrophe, water pollution and depletion, and greenhouse gas emissions than any synthetic or plant-based vegan leather. Cow leather has nearly 10 times the negative environmental impact of plant-based leathers, such as Piñatex, and nearly six times that of polyurethane, a synthetic vegan fabric.

The next time you shop for luggage or a new jacket, consider the animals whose skin may have been stolen and processed into those items and what they were forced to endure. You can find a list of companies selling vegan luggage at **[PETAApprovedVegan.com](https://petaapprovedvegan.com)**.

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