

Status 13.01.2017

Argos:

1. Animal Welfare Policy:

Argos' Policy covers the use of feathers and down that has been harvested from live birds. Argos will amend its policy to include a statement on no force-feeding.

2. Requirements from brands:

Argos requires their own brands and proprietary-branded products to adhere to their policy of no live harvesting. The retailer has committed to implementing the strictest possible safeguards and audits available to ensure to the highest extent that the down it sources does not originate from live-plucked or force-fed animals. By year 2020, all the down in final products will be certified under the RDS/TDS or a standard or set of audits of equivalent stringency.

The following brands provided at Argos were contacted by FOUR PAWS and evaluated as follows:

Criteria	Explanation
Policy	The company clearly positions itself against the practices of live plucking and force-feeding.
Traceability	The method via which the company trace its down.
Range	How far does the company go when it comes to tracing its down? From an animal welfare view point, audits at the farm level are crucial.

Downland	
✘	No information on whether Downland has an animal welfare policy. The brand has not responded to our inquiry.
✘	No information Downland's traceability requirements. The brand has not responded to our inquiry.
✘	No information on whether, and how far down the supply chain audits take place because Downland has not responded to our inquiry.

Habitat	
✓	Has a policy against live plucking and force-feeding.
~	<p>One of their suppliers implements International Down and Feather Laboratory (IDFL) audits in line with the Downpass Standard, but is in the process of fully transitioning to the strictest available traceability standards.</p> <p>Their other supplier provides a Chinese Feather and Down Industry Association (CFDIA) no live plucking guarantee which is a self declaration by suppliers.</p>
~	<p>The IDFL audits include a small sample of farm audits.</p> <p>The planned strict traceability audits would guarantee that all industrial farms and small farm groups will be audited annually.</p> <p>Under the CFDIA no live plucking guarantee, irregular audits take place but it is not clear how far down the supply chain those audits go.</p>

Silent Night	
✗	Has a policy against live plucking but did not mention whether force-feeding is prohibited.
✗	Requires its suppliers via contract to not provide down from live plucking but has not provided information on the system they use for traceability controls or on whether force-feeding is also prohibited.
✗	The audits go back to the factory level and not the farm.

Slumberland	
✓	Has a policy against live plucking and force-feeding.
↗	Implements the Downpass with add-on modules, audits are by IDFL. By 2018, all products will be certified under one of the strictest traceability standards, the RDS.
↗	The audits go back to the farm level, the percent of farms audited is not known. Under the RDS, Slumberland will have all industrial farms and small farm groups audited by 2018.

Argos' own brands: Natural and Heart of House and Living	
↗	Argos' Policy covers the use of feathers and down that has been harvested from live birds. Argos will amend its policy to include a statement on no force-feeding
↗	No information on Argos' traceability requirements. Argos has committed to implementing the strictest possible safeguards and audits available to ensure to the highest extent that the down it sources does not originate from live-plucked or force-fed animals. By year 2020, all the down in final products will be certified under the RDS/TDS or a standard or set of audits of equivalent stringency.
↗	No information on whether, and how far down the supply chain audits take place. After 2020, the audits will be annual and go back to the farm level.