



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



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

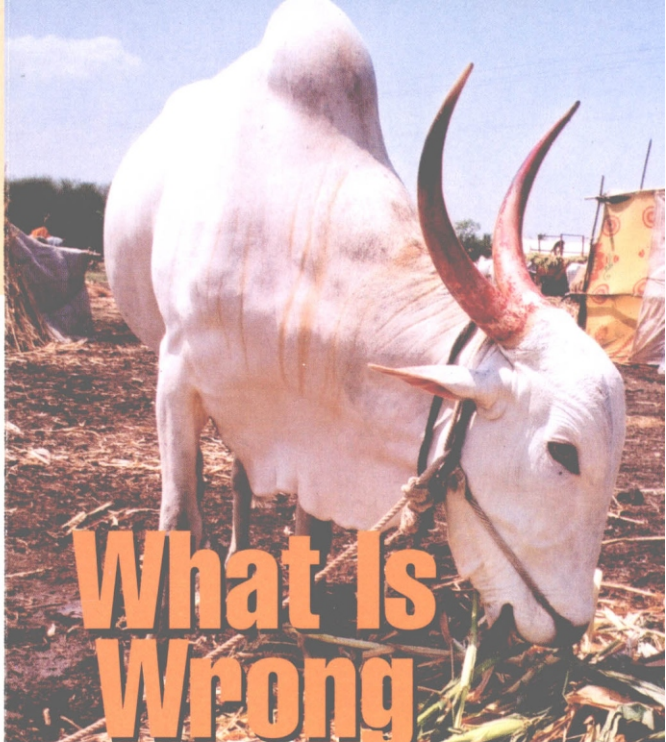
■ Never buy leather. It is easy to find quality shoes and accessories that are stylish and free of animal suffering at designer and high-end stores such as Rinaldi Designs or at retail chains such as Metro and Bata. Many shops and street stalls also carry a wide selection of non-leather styles made from materials such as cotton, linen, ramie, canvas and synthetics. And vegan shoes and accessories are often inexpensive—up to 60 to 75 per cent cheaper than leather!



■ Contact PETA for more information on leather, or visit [www.PETAIndia.com](http://www.PETAIndia.com).



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



# What Is Wrong With Leather?

In India, leather, referred to as a 'co-product' of the meat industry by the Indian Council of Agricultural

Research, is actually valued more as an export than meat is. Buying leather directly supports the cruelty of the transport of the animals and the misery of the abattoir. When dairy cows' milk production wanes, their skin is also made into leather, and their offspring are often poisoned or starved in order to be used for high-priced calfskin.

Almost all the animals who end up as belts and shoes suffer confinement, crowding and cruel treatment during transportation and slaughter, and many also suffer unanaesthetised castration, tail-docking and de-horning.



**Worldwide, more than 70 cows, pigs, sheep, buffaloes and other animals are killed every second.**



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

### Who Is in Your Shoes?

Most leather is made from the skins of cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep, but leather is also made from horses, pigs, alligators, snakes and other animals, as well as from dogs and cats killed in some parts of Asia. When you buy leather, you cannot tell where it came from or what animal it was made from. Dog skin will not be labelled 'dog', for example, and Indian skins can be made into garments in Italy and then labelled 'made in Italy'. You never really know.

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

Many of the Indian animals used for leather are so sick and injured by the time they arrive at the abattoir that

they must be dragged inside. Others have hot chilli peppers and tobacco rubbed into their eyes, and their tail bones are painfully twisted and broken, joint by joint, to make them stand up and keep moving after they collapse. Once inside, their throats are slit. Some have their legs hacked off or are skinned while still alive.

### Tannery Toxins

To stop decomposition, numerous chemicals are used on leather. Of these, many are highly toxic, such as chrome. Those working in and living near leather tanneries have high incidences of menstrual disorders, stillbirths, prolapse of the uterus, cancer, nervous disorders, asthma, other illnesses and premature death. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the US has noted that the accident and illness rate for tanneries in the US—where there are far more controls than in tanneries in India—is five times higher than the average for all other industries.



**'At the municipal abattoirs in Bangalore and Kolkatta, workers, including small children, violently pushed and dragged the**

**animals to the slaughter floor, where they were made to lie in pools of blood and guts removed from their dead brethren. The animals were made to watch their companions die while they waited their turn, their eyes wide with tears and terror, their bodies shaking. The workers used dull knives and cut off the animals' legs, often while the animals were still conscious.'**

**—PETA investigator**

