



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

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American And British Animal Protection Organizations Ask President Obama To Drop Anna Wintour

San Rafael, Calif. (December 7, 2012) - In Defense of Animals (IDA) and Animal Aid have asked U.S. President Barack Obama to remove Anna Wintour from the list of possible ambassadors to the United Kingdom or France.

The groups say Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, is a terrible choice to represent President Obama and the United States as an ambassador. Wintour has endorsed the egregiously cruel fur industry for decades. Wintour shamelessly promotes fur in every issue of *Vogue* and she often insists that the young designers she mentors use fur.

The fashion-forward First Lady of the U.S., Michelle Obama, has publicly declared her opposition to fur. "How would Michelle Obama feel about the United States being represented by someone with such close ties to an industry she is deeply opposed to?" asked IDA Executive Director Joe Haptas. Wintour also has a notoriously noxious personality. She is known to be such a tyrant that her nickname is "Nuclear Wintour." "Anna Wintour lacks empathy and compassion," says Haptas. "These are two very important qualities for any ambassador to possess."

Each year over 50 million animals, including millions of dogs and cats, are killed for their fur worldwide. Most of the fur industry's skins come from animals on "fur farms". Rabbits, foxes, mink, and other animals spend their entire short lives in tiny, filthy wire cages, until they are killed by bludgeoning, neck-breaking or anal or vaginal electrocution.

Anna Wintour's callousness and open support of animal cruelty make her a particularly poor choice to represent Americans in either the United Kingdom or France. All three of these countries are nations of animal lovers. IDA and Animal Aid have created two petitions, one on Change.org and one on the White House petition site, demanding that President Obama drop Wintour from his list of ambassador nominees. Over 1,700 have signed the petitions so far.

"Anna Wintour is directly responsible for the killing of millions of animals," says IDA's Joe Haptas. "Ambassadors are supposed to promote goodwill, not cruelty."

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In Defense of Animals is an international animal protection organization located in San Rafael, Calif. dedicated to protecting animals' rights, welfare, and habitat through education, outreach, and our hands-on rescue facilities in India, Africa, and rural Mississippi.