

Measures to be taken to cull minks

According to the SSI (*Statens Serum Institut*), mink farming poses a considerable risk to public health amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Against that background, the following measures will be taken:

- All minks in Denmark, including breeding animals, will be culled. A general ban will not be imposed on future mink farming in Denmark, but no minks will be allowed in the cages in 2021.
- The Government is aware that this will entail a de facto shutdown of the Danish mink industry – at least for a number of years – but, according to the Danish health authorities, even a small number of breeding animals will pose a risk to public health.
- The current efforts to cull minks will be intensified to speed up the pace.
- An emergency plan will be prepared by the National Crisis Coordination Committee (*Den Nationale Operative Stab, NOST*) to support the culling efforts. Under the auspices of the Danish National Police (*Rigspolitiet*), the authorities of the Danish Ministry of Defence (*Forsvarsministeriet*) etc. will support the planning and execution of an emergency plan and, to this end, staff and equipment from the authorities of the Ministry of Defence will be geared up to support the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (*Fødevarestyrelsen*) and the police in the effort to cull the entire population of mink in Denmark as soon as possible.
- In addition to the current compensation paid, a "speed bonus" of DKK 20 will be added for each mink culled by the mink farmer himself within 10 days – however only five days for populations of less than 7,500 animals.