






INJURIES AND FUR CHEWING

Injuries:

Animal injuries occur on mink farms for a variety of reasons. The most common injuries are abscesses, open wounds, scratches, sores/lesions, and biting injuries. It is vital that injured mink are quickly identified and the injuries properly evaluated. Below are injury levels 1-3 to be referenced in determining an injury’s severity.

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO EXAMPLE
1	Unhealed injuries with a diameter < 0.5 inches OR minor healed lesions, for example, missing part of an ear or less than half the tail	
2	Unhealed injuries with a diameter < 1.25 inches OR major healed lesions, for example, missing more than half the tail	
3	Unhealed injuries with a diameter > 1.25 inches OR other major unhealed injury, for example, missing more than half the tail or bone exposed	




When considering treatment options reference the herd health treatment protocols (Form A-101) that were developed in consult with a veterinarian. Any mink with injuries Level 2 or 3 shall be marked and/or segregated. It is important that the farmer take measures to prevent reoccurrences of an injury by investigating and remedying any possible causes (for example moving or separating mink.)

If the animal does not respond to the recommended treatment in a reasonable amount of time, or is determined to be untreatable, it must be euthanized immediately.

Fur Chewing:

Fur chewing is described as a behavioral disorder where mink chew their own fur or that of a cage mate. It is most often observed on the tip of the tail but larger areas on the tail and body may be fur-chewed.



SCORE	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO EXAMPLE
0	No/very little fur chewing (The outer tip of the tail is not visible and/or less than 0.2 in ² of the tail or body has been chewed).	
1	Moderate fur chewing (The outer tip of the tail is visible and/or fur chewing of less than 1.25 inches of the tail or less than 1.25 x 1.25 inches fur chewing of the body).	
2	Severe fur chewing (> 1.25 inches of the tail or > 1.25 x 1.25 inches of the body has been chewed).	
3	Extensive fur chewing (> 4 inches of the tail or > 4 x 4 inches of the body has been chewed).	

Any animal that exhibits fur chewing at a **Score 2** or higher must be marked for observation and/or treatment.