

About Acorn Naturalists' Kind Fur®

Over the years, we have received inquiries from individuals who want to teach about animal fur diversity, form, or function, but do not want to purchase fur taken from wild animals. To find reasonable substitutes, we reviewed hundreds of high quality faux furs, and have created the *Kind Furs*® collection, representing 30 different mammal species.

Bearing the look and feel of each animal, these replicas are perfect for storytelling, discovery tables and nature centers. Unlike real furs, these do not require special storage conditions, permits, tags, or chain of custody documentation. We need to emphasize, however, that these replicas are not study skins and as such lack eye holes, ears, paws and tails. *Kind Furs*® are replicas and they will not match perfectly with any given actual animal skin.

Kind Furs® are available in two forms: (1) as convenient 9" x 5" two-sided lightweight swatches that are sewn around the edges and finished with a strong loop for hanging or clipping onto a ring, or (2) as 9" x 12" sections adhered to the bottom of a (hand-crafted in the US) wooden box with a protective sliding lid.

Interestingly enough, many of our replicas are so realistic that we have had concerns from individuals who thought the replicas were real. Whenever you have this question about any fur, you can always distinguish faux fur from real fur by looking at the backing. In faux fur, the hairs are always directly attached to cloth fabric, not to animal hide.

As was the case when we started promoting replica animal skulls over 25 years ago, we are aware that these will work perfectly for most educational applications but not for all situations (such as research). Like all of our products, *Kind Fur*® replicas are fully guaranteed and returnable if they do not meet your needs.

Badger Kind Fur® (*Taxidea taxus*)

In nature, badger fur varies considerably in color from steel gray to honey gold. This fur replica shows the long, rusty-brown and black guard hairs that are found on the badger's back.

Bat Kind Fur® (*Myotis sp.*)

There are many species of bats, but all exhibit relatively short, smooth, velvety coats. This fur replica demonstrates the typical look and feel of bat fur.

Bear, Black Kind Fur® – black phase (*Ursus americanus*)

Black bears are not always black! North American black bears can sport multiple color variations, from honey-colored blond to cinnamon, dark brown or black. This fur replicates the black bear's dark, thick coat, muted black with a slight sheen.

Bear, Black Kind Fur® - blonde phase (*Ursus americanus*)

This replica demonstrates the more unusual honey-colored blond phase of the North American black bear.

Bear, Grizzly Kind Fur® - cinnamon phase (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

This replica demonstrates the classic cinnamon color of the grizzly. Coat is thick with a dense undercoat.

Beaver Kind Fur® (*Castor canadensis*)

Beaver fur is thick, short, brown in color, and soft to the touch with a velvety texture. This replica demonstrates these typical beaver fur attributes, including a slight sheen when dry.

Bobcat Kind Fur® (*Lynx rufus*)

In nature, color and pattern of bobcat fur are highly variable, ranging from numerous dark areas to only a few. Overall coat color is also highly variable, from a more solid tan to much darker tans. This replica demonstrates the darker bobcat phase, ideal for nocturnal hunting.

Chinchilla Kind Fur® (*Chinchilla lanigera*)

Chinchillas come in many color phases, from silvery gray to shades of brown. This fur replica demonstrates the chinchilla's thick, silky soft coat.

Cougar Cub Kind Fur® (*Puma concolor*)

A cub's spots can be reddish-brown or darker brown. Serving as camouflage when cubs are most vulnerable, the spots start to fade after about three months. Adults have honey-colored coats. This fur replica shows the distinct mottling that characterizes the coat of a young cougar.

Coyote Kind Fur® (*Canis latrans*)

Coyote fur comes in a rich variety of colors, from silvery-brown to blond, rusty-cinnamon to brown, depending on the habitat and the individual. This thick, soft fur replica demonstrates the dusty, blond-gray color with a hint of chestnut.

Fox, Arctic Kind Fur® (*Vulpes lagopus*)

The coat of an Arctic fox changes with the seasons. In winter, thick white fur blends with snow and ice. By summer, the fur darkens to blend with rocks and soil. This fur replica shows a fox's coat in transition. It is streaked with some dark guard hairs, remnants of its summer coat.

Fox, Gray Kind Fur® (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Like other canines, soft fur lies beneath long, coarse guard hairs that can vary from white to gray to black. This fur replica represents the darker silvery-gray phase.

Fox, Red Kind Fur® (*Vulpes vulpes*)

A red fox has a soft, fine undercoat that ranges in color from red to chestnut. Long guard hairs mottle the color, sometimes bringing in darker brown shades. This replica duplicates the thick chestnut with white undercoat color phase of the red fox.

Hare, Arctic Kind Fur® (*Lepus arcticus*)

In winter the Arctic hare's coat is thick and white. By summer, the coat becomes mottled to blend in with the rocks and soil. This fur replica shows the hare's coat in transition. Darker patches of fur are visible against a background of white.

Leopard, Black Kind Fur® (*Panthera pardus, melanistic*)

Black leopards do occur in the wild, particularly in very dense forests with limited light such as the equatorial rain forest of Malaya and heavily forested slopes of Mt. Kenya in Africa. Coats vary from heavily spotted to mottled, with the spots muted by the dark coat. This fur replica demonstrates the dark, mottled appearance, with rings visible but faint.

Leopard, Snow, Kind Fur® (*Panthera uncia*)

Snow leopards are one of the most elusive of the big cats. Found in the rugged mountains of Central Asia, their light colored fur blends in with their snowy habitat. This *Kind Fur*® demonstrates the classic look—light fur with light circular “leopard spots” throughout the dense, soft coat.

Leopard, Typical, Kind Fur® (*Panthera pardus*)

Leopard coats vary widely, depending on whether they come from Africa, Asia or the Middle East. This replica represents the “classic” leopard appearance with dark spots against a background ranging from cream to chestnut.

Lynx Kind Fur® (*Lynx canadensis*)

The lynx has a thick undercoat covered with coarse guard hairs. Its coat is usually a brownish-silver, with creamy, pale areas especially on the belly and chin. The coat varies from heavily spotted to more lightly mottled as seen in this replica.

Mink Kind Fur® (*Neovison vison*)

Mink fur is soft and silky and typically dark chestnut-brown, as seen with this fur replica. The guard hairs are supported underneath by shorter, softer fur that is very dense. As this replica demonstrates, mink fur has a classic glossy sheen to it.

Muskrat Kind Fur® (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

To keep warm in cool aquatic environments, muskrats have a dense, soft undercoat interspersed with coarser, longer guard hairs. Muskrat fur is thick with each animal having fur that can vary from light to dark brown, as this fur replica demonstrates.

Ocelot Kind Fur® (*Leopardus pardalis*)

Ocelot fur is sleek and short, with a honey-brown coat splotched with “dots” of black found within the round circles on the coat (or “spots”), as this fur replica demonstrates.

Opossum Kind Fur® (*Didelphis virginiana*)

Opossum fur is silvery and sometimes a grayish-white, and often has an “unkempt” appearance as this fur replica shows. A thick underfur helps shield the animal from snow and rain, also shown on this fur replica.

Rabbit, Cottontail Kind Fur® (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

Rabbit fur is very soft and fine. This fur replica demonstrates the cottontail rabbit’s dense, silky fur, which varies in color from light brown/gray to darker, richer brown, depending on season, geographical range and habitat, and individual variation.

Raccoon Kind Fur® (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon has long, two color (usually black-gray) guard hairs over a thick, woolly coat. This fur replica shows the typical coloration—dark two-color mottling caused by the guard hairs against a lighter undercoat.

Skunk, Striped Kind Fur® (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Easily identified by their signature white stripe extending from the head to tail, the striped skunk possesses two highly developed scent glands containing an oily mix of powerfully odorous chemicals that can be sprayed up to 10 feet.

Squirrel, Gray Kind Fur® (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Squirrels have soft, short guard hairs over flat, dense underfur. This fur replica demonstrates one of the gray squirrel patterns—gray-silver interspersed with black, white and rusty-brown hairs.

Weasel (ermine, short-tailed weasel, or stoat) Kind Fur® (*Mustela erminea*)

The short-tailed weasel, or ermine, has long, silky white guard hairs and a thick undercoat. This replica fur demonstrates the ermine's thick white winter coat.

Weasel (long-tailed weasel, bridled weasel, or big stoat) Kind Fur® (*Mustela frenata*)

The long-tailed weasel has a yellowish-tan underside and a darker tan dorsal side. This replica fur demonstrates the dense, lighter underside of the long-tailed weasel's coat.

Wolf, Gray Kind Fur® (*Canis lupus*)

A wolf's coat is thick and long, changing color with age and season. The soft, fine undercoat keeps the wolf warm, while thick guard hairs offer protection and additional insulation. This fur replica shows typical rich coloration with darker guard hairs.

Wolf, Red Kind Fur® (*Canis rufus*)

Wolves have noticeable guard hairs over a thick undercoat, which acts to insulate the wolf and helps shed water and snow. As this fur replica demonstrates, the red wolf gets its reddish coloration from chestnut colored guard hairs over a thick undercoat.

Acorn Naturalists
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