

## Bonfires Around the Corner

A few years ago I started enjoying all the seasons. One of my favorite activities during the winter is bonfires. I have a friend that has the quintessential place. Enjoying a roaring fire with friends in the cold is a great time. I have had customers ask me about wearing their furs to bonfires, concerned about the smell of smoke lingering in their fur. Fur, like any fabric, will absorb an odor.

Also like any other fabric, the odor will dissipate over time; it's not permanent. I wouldn't make the rookie mistake of standing in the path of the smoke for long periods of time, which I did several years ago.

You will carry the memory of the bonfire with you for several days more than you want. But staying reasonably clear of the smoke most of the time, there is no reason to not wear your fur to the event. It will smell like the rest of your clothes - like a bonfire. What you want to do is hang it out in the open for the next few days. If you have a secure and shaded spot outside, like a screened in porch, even better. If not, just hanging it out of the closet in a large room will do the trick. It may take a few days, but the fresh air will slowly remove the smoke smell. This



technique works for any smells the fur might pick up. I have had customers loan their fur to a friend and call me saying it smells like their perfume when it was returned. The same process works, airing out a few days and the smell leaves. While talking about smell, furs do have a natural earthy smell even when new. Many customers expect them to smell like leather.

The distinctive smell that leather has comes from the tanning process. The process of tanning fur doesn't use as harsh of a chemical so that leather smell isn't present. One of the many benefits to having your fur conditioned each year is this earthy smell is kept to a minimum. Furs that are not conditioned regularly will have this odor more intensely as time passes.

Customers that find older furs in a relative's house that have been left in a closet for years usually notice the smell immediately. Just as with any odor if you can't get the bonfire smell out, bring it to us for conditioning. We can get it out. One last note, watch out for the embers. No, your fur won't ignite into flames, but it can be singed. Most of all, have fun in your fur.

## The Return of Persian Lamb

Persian lamb fur jackets were incredibly popular in the 1960's. They were featured in many movies but people didn't always recognize it as a fur. There is both a vintage and modern picture here. The fur is



very short with a curl that is very understated and elegant. In years past, you would see them in grey, black, or brown. Today, they are available in any fun color you can image. The 1980s saw a decline in this great fur because of its weight. Mink was becoming more affordable and much lighter weight, so Persian lamb faded into the background of popular furs. I remember my dad saying that Persian lamb was so heavy it was bullet proof. But today it's as lightweight as sheared mink and right in the

forefront of great fur options. There are three types of lamb fur from the region that was once The Persian Empire. Persian lamb is the thicker of the three with the most curl. Swakara is thinner and



more flat with a wave pattern in the fur. And then there is Russian Broadtail, the most rare and flat with the most sheen. New technology in tanning makes all furs lighter weight and more wearable. I would say

the average new fur today is 30% lighter than just 10 years ago and with Persian lamb garments, the difference is unbelievable. Next time you're in, we would love to show you our collection.