



Bimonthly Review - Cat and Dog Welfare Programme, China (May - June 2013)

NGOs agree to work together to end “criminal and cruel” dog and cat eating in China



Jill Robinson, Founder and CEO of Animals Asia Foundation presents at the symposium



Group photo for the 4th China Companion Animal Symposium.

Animal welfare organisations across China have agreed to work together against the “criminal and cruel” dog and cat meat industry.

Over 170 delegates were in attendance at the **4th China Companion Animal Symposium** in Changsha, Hunan Province hosted by **Animals Asia Foundation** and co-organised by **Humane Society International (HSI)** and **Changsha Small Animal Protection Association**. They represented around 100 NGOs, including both grassroots Chinese organisations and international charities.

Survey data presented to delegates at Changsha, collected from across 28 provinces, showed that the dog meat industry continues to rely on animals stolen from homes and on strays picked up from the streets. Many such dogs are poisoned before being taken to markets and restaurants and are served with toxic residues still present.

Delegates shared evidence that criminality extends to every level of the dog meat trade from theft, through to transportation and sale. The shared findings will be published later this year.

Conference attendees agreed a final resolution to work together across China towards common goals, specifically aiming to reduce demand through increased public awareness of the cruelty and health risks associated with dog and cat meat and working

with the government to highlight and crack down on the inherent illegalities of the trade.

More details of the symposium:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=2KYBB4XEHO8>

“Be healthy. Say NO to cat and dog meat”



The cruel and unhygienic nature of the cat and dog meat industry and continuing problems with overall food safety have aroused widespread concern in recent years in Chinese society. Through a large number of media reports and Animals Asia’s investigations over several years, we have found that most cat and dog meat in restaurants is from stolen pets or stray animals. Therefore, the whole industry chain of transportation, trade, slaughter and consumption of these animals is against the law.

In addition, through random, spot investigations we have also found that most cat and dog meat has serious food safety and hygiene problems. The animals are sourced illegally without breeding and immunization records and most of them are very ill. Eating such meat of unknown and unregulated origin may cause harm to public health.

To inform the public of the potential health hazards of this illegal industry, Animals Asia designed a series of advertising posters with the theme of “**Be healthy. Say NO to cat and dog meat**”. The three posters have been put on Weibo and so far, have had over 20,000 reposts and comments of support, including from some famous celebrities such as Karen Mok, Hu Ge, Qi Qin and Lu Yi. We are exposing the truth behind the cruel and filthy industry to the general public and urging them to “Say NO to cat and dog meat.”

Click to find Animals Asia’s Weibo “**Be healthy. Say NO to cat and dog meat**” posters and more details:

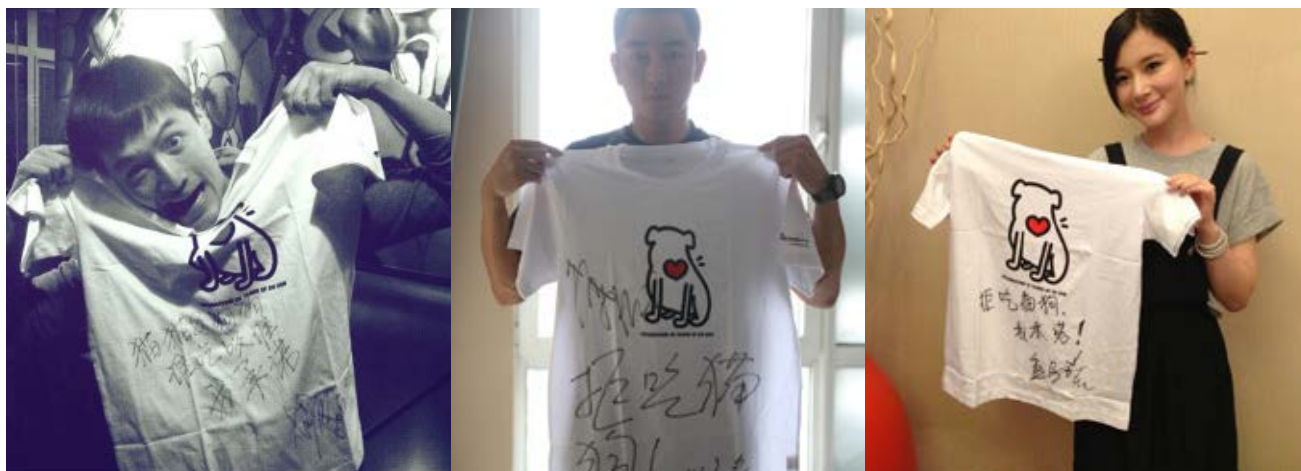
Sina Weibo: <http://weibo.com/1868995340/zCh1cbuB4>

Tencent Weibo: <http://t.qq.com/p/t/281478061499255>

Website:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=NT9NLVZQCZC>

Celebrities say NO to cat and dog meat



With the pulling power of some famous TV stars, Animals Asia is now running an activity called “**Celebrities say NO to cat and dog meat**”, to inform the public about the cruel and filthy nature of the cat and dog meat industry.

Celebrities will sign our 20th anniversary Dr Dog T-shirt and post their photos with it on Weibo to promote the idea of “Say No to cat and dog meat.” The move has attracted Hu Ge, Li Dongxue and Xiong Naijin (see photos below from left to right) to

join and support us, setting a good example to their fans and the public to care about the animals around us.

Hu Ge

<http://weibo.com/1868995340/zvslgqUFj>

Li Dongxue

<http://weibo.com/1868995340/zzJsEuSNG>

Xiong Naijin

<http://weibo.com/1868995340/zzA22fsGw>

Government and Policy

Opposition increases to Yulin Dog Eating Festival

Animals Asia has added its voice to growing calls to stop the annual summer solstice dog eating festival in Yulin in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

It took place this year on June 21st despite animal welfare activists lining up in advance against it in large numbers.

An open letter from Animals Asia in opposition to the event was sent to the Guangxi Yulin government. Copies of the correspondence were shared via Animals Asia’s Weibo accounts, receiving well over a thousand shares and hundreds of comments — the vast majority in support.

The letter was forwarded to the Mayor as well as representatives from the Tourism Bureau, Health Bureau, Cultural Bureau, Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau and the Food and Drug Administration.

Online opposition was further boosted with criticism of the event coming from celebrities Sun Li and Shu Qi with fans adding their voices via reposts and comments.

Animals Asia sent out thousands of leaflets in opposition to the festival, and had representatives leafleting at the event. The aim is to continue to point out the cruelty involved in the dog meat trade, the theft of many dogs snatched from owners and homes, and the danger to public health.

Details of our open letter available here:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=7UFCW5D9Y50>

Animals Asia calls for a more reasoned approach to the “big dogs” law

Animals Asia is supporting Beijing dog owners who have called for a more reasoned approach to the “big dogs” law now being implemented in parts of the city.

The law bans dogs that reach a mature height of over 35 centimetres as well as a long list of breeds no longer allowed to be kept. In addition, the law limits families to one dog each. As a result, dogs kept as companions are being confiscated in the city.

The move follows a ruling first passed in 2003 but not implemented in full until now. It's believed the latest moves are as a direct result of recent reported dog attacks as well as a stated increase of deaths from rabies. Larger dogs are being seen by the government as incompatible with city living.

Animals Asia understands that families are already hiding dogs or have sent them to be cared for outside the central area stipulated by the law.

In anticipation of the ruling being implemented, a number of local dog-owning groups had previously suggested amendments to government via the 30 National People's Congress members who have supported their aims. Celebrities Sun Ning, Li Jing, Xiong Naijin and Wang Yixin have also voiced their concerns via Chinese social media platforms. Elsewhere, one group of concerned dog lovers has already gathered a petition with 4,000 signatures backing a change to the regulations.

Following consultation with dog-carer representatives, Animals Asia has sent an open letter to the government suggesting a more humane and scientific approach to dog management. The letter calls upon the government to instead promote responsible ownership and concentrate on ensuring guidelines are followed with owners legally obliged to raise dogs responsibly.

Details of open letter available here:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=A6DA6HW04ZY>

Care for Animals Activities

Volunteers rock in Shenzhen Midi Music Festival

The 2013 Midi Music Festival took place from 17th to 19th of May in Shenzhen. We attended the festival and combined music with the theme of “Care for animals” and “Responsible dog ownership” together with “Don't eat friends” — an animal protection group. Our activities were supported by many music lovers.



Twins draw a dog on the promotion banner to support us.



Face painting

Guangzhou Professor Paws attend Weekend Marty Bazaar

Guangzhou Professor Paws joined the Weekend Marty Bazaar on a beautiful summer day. Our four-legged friends not only attracted visitors at the bazaar, but also those who worked for other booths became fans of these lovely dogs.



Colouring animals.



Cute Professor Jin Bao attracted many “fans”.

“Dr Dog” and “Professor Paws” events

From May to June, Animals Asia carried out a total of 51 Dr Dog visits reaching 2,068 people; 25 Professor Paws courses and 8 Care for Animals Presentations to cover 5,644 people in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Hong Kong. Here are some selections:

Dr Dog VIP programme - Hong Chi Winifred Mary Cheung Morninghope School



A student played happily with Dr Dog.

We visited seven students, aged between seven and nine, (six autistic children and one child with Downs Syndrome) from the Hong Chi Winifred Mary Cheung Morninghope School — a school that takes care of children with mild to moderate mental challenges. These children were selected to be enrolled in our “Dr Dog VIP programme”.

Each child has an individual behavior improvement plan, which outlines desirable behavioural goals both at school and at home. If the children were able to reach these goals, they were rewarded with a 10-15 minute “VIP” session with our Dr Dog.

A total of nine VIP sessions were held for these students, taking place weekly or biweekly.

During the VIP sessions the children were allowed to pat, play, feed and walk around with our Dr Dogs.

It was found that at the end of nine sessions, more than 80% of the children displayed improved behaviour, while 100% successfully learnt how to behave appropriately when approaching dogs.

Hong Chi Social Worker Ms Esther Chan said, “Based on the improvement seen in the behaviour of the children, the VIP Dr Dog Programme is worth implementing”.

Chengdu and Shenzhen get another 14 Dr Dogs

Chengdu and Shenzhen Dr Dog exams were held separately in May and June with 14 Dr Dogs passing the exam and becoming our new team members in 2013.

Lesley Nicol, well known British actress acts as a cook in the popular drama “Downton Abbey”, and her husband took part in our Chengdu exam together with Jill Robinson, Founder and CEO of Animals Asia Foundation.



Chocolate Labrador “Meng Qiqi” was the first newcomer to pass the exam and join our Chengdu Dr Dog family. He was “crowned” by Lesley with a red Dr Dog scarf. Two-legged poodle Qi Xiaofu was from Sichuan Qiming Small Animal Rescue Center. Xiaofu was crippled by abuse and abandoned in the street two years ago before he was rescued by the center. Despite this, Xiaofu trusted his new human friends and is friendly to all. A warm welcome to Meng Qiqi and Qi Xiaofu, our Chengdu new Dr Dogs.

Eight dogs passed our Shenzhen exam to be new Dr Dogs. A dog’s character is closely related to its guardian’s attitude. With good care, they will reciprocate with more love and warmth.

Media reports:

Sichuan Radio and Television Station

http://tf.sctv.com/shxw/201305/t20130526_1479804.shtml

Sichuan Online

http://sichuan.scol.com.cn/fffy/content/2013-05/26/content_5288625.htm?node=894

Daily Sunshine News Express

http://jb.sznews.com/html/2013-07/01/content_2534486.htm

Famous “Cook” pays a visit with Chengdu Dr Dog

After the Dr Dog exam, and accompanied by Jill Robinson, Lesley and her husband visited the elderly from Duyuan Street Wei Lao Zhu Can Center.

The “Cook” was very moved to receive an artificial flower as a surprise gift, hand-made by an aunt from the center. She joked with laughter, “I feel like a queen.”

Qi Energy’s first Dr Dog visit

Qi Energy is a fashion brand launched by Wu Qilong, a famous actor in China. The group often acts as volunteers and supports public service.

Invited by Qi Energy — along with Wu’s fan group, Qi Guo Quan Quan Family — Guangzhou Dr Dog paid a visit to a group of autistic children, bringing them love from their canine friends.



Looking for “Care for Animals Promotion Partner”

Animals Asia is now inviting groups and individual animal lovers nationwide to carry out local “**Care for animals**”, “**Responsible dog ownership**” and “**Anti-eating cats and dogs**” promotions. We will support their promotional events with leaflets and posters as well as providing some financial support for special events.

Animals Asia will reward the three best groups each season with certificates and subsidies and select one to two overall winners at the end of the year. The overall winner could have a chance to take part in our volunteer camp and visit the Moon Bear Rescue Center in Chengdu.



Our promotion materials are separated into four themes:

- “Anti-eating cats and dogs”
- “Responsible dog ownership”
- “How to get along well with animals”
- “Care for animals”

Local groups can visit Animals Asia’s website to get more information:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=OC8WRDVAXGX2>

To know more about this activity please visit:

<http://www.animalsasia.org/index.php?UID=FE09SVRQ03L>

Support to animal protection groups

During May and June, a total of ten groups and seventeen individuals applied for our public education material, including:

- Tianjin Adoption Day
- Beijing Tianyou Lishang
- Nanchang Small Animal Protection Association
- Guangyuan Bo Ai Animal Protection Center
- Guangdong Top Best
- Lan Jingling Animal Protection Group of Shanxi Province Youth Volunteer Association
- Lanzhou Lv Di Volunteer Center
- Yulin Care for Animal Center
- Nanning Stray Cat and Dog Rescue Station
- Nanchong Chuanbei Volunteer Team

On 19th May, students from Class 2 of 2011 Practical Chemistry in the College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hunan University held a “**Love It Action**” activity.

They introduced the ideas of “Stop cat and dog cruelty”, “Anti-eating cat and dog”, “Desex stray cats and dogs” and “Say no to bear bile” to their schoolmates, teachers and residents. Li, a student of the school said, “Animals should enjoy their lives just as we human beings do, and we shouldn’t maltreat them. Now I know the benefit of sterilization for stray animals and I will spread the idea to more people.”

Media report:

Website of College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hunan University

http://cc.hnu.cn/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2242



Students expressed their best wishes to animals.

Signing on the promotion banner

Special acknowledgement

1. We would like to thank Hong Kong Chris & Nicolas Animal Hospital for their financial support to the 4th China Companion Animals Symposium.
2. We would like to say a big “Thank you” to a group of students from HKUGA Primary School for their recent hard work, completing fundraising activities for Animals Asia. They raised over \$1,000 by selling Animals Asia’s merchandise to their classmates while educating them about animal welfare.

Animals Asia China Cat and Dog Welfare Team
Animals Asia HK Dr Dog and Pro Paws Team
May and Jun, 2013