



His Excellency Samdech Techo Hun Sen

Prime Minister of Cambodia
Office of the Prime Minister
Royal Government of Cambodia
Government Peace Building
No. 38, Confederation Russia Blvd (110)
Phnom Penh
Cambodia
info_samdechhunsen@yahoo.com

May 22, 2020

Re: The Threat of the Dog Meat Trade to Cambodia

Dear Prime Minister Hun Sen,

We are writing on behalf of the Asia for Animals Coalition, representing international animal welfare and conservation organizations regarding our concerns about the dog meat trade in Cambodia and its threat to public health, in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the worsening situation of the pandemic globally and throughout Southeast Asia, with 45,209¹ human coronavirus infections in the region to date, the mass trafficking, sale, and slaughter of companion animals often alongside wild animals throughout the Kingdom continues unchallenged.

The dog meat trade is rampant in Cambodia, involving the slaughter and consumption of up to 3 million dogs each year, many of them stolen pets, with an unknown number trafficked regularly into neighboring Vietnam. Research suggests that only 12% of Cambodians regularly consume dog meat, and consumption remains a controversial practice among Khmer people.² The dog meat trade has proven to be a significant threat to public health, facilitating the transmission of deadly diseases including rabies, cholera, and trichinella. The trade also directly undermines Cambodia's rabies control efforts and disrupts any attempts at achieving herd immunity through mass canine vaccination programs. Despite growing global public health concerns regarding live animal interfaces and wet markets and the potential for the emergence of novel and deadly viruses, the dog meat trade in Cambodia continues to operate - even in the face of mounting calls to end this trade.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak emerged from Wuhan, China in late November 2019, Chinese authorities have announced that the sale of terrestrial wildlife for consumption would be prohibited nationwide.³ In

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>. Retrieved 30 April 2020.

² <https://dogcatmeat.four-paws.org/the-truth/a-four-paws-report-on-the-dog-and-cat-meat-trade-in-the-southeast-asian>

³ <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-bans-wildlife-trade-consumption-coronavirus-2020-2>

addition, in April, the Chinese cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai introduced city-wide bans on dog and cat meat consumption, and the national government has publicly proposed that dogs are considered companion animals not livestock, and should be removed from the list of animals considered “food”.^{4,5}

The dog meat trade involves the mass sourcing of animals of unknown health status, brutal cross-country transport, and import into cities including Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, and Phnom Penh under highly stressful conditions and close confinement. At the final destination, dogs are slaughtered in unhygienic slaughterhouses by means of drowning, bludgeoning, or hanging. Not only do these practices cause immense animal suffering, but there is also no way to ensure that meat sold from animals sourced, kept, and slaughtered under such conditions is safe for human consumption. The World Health Organization (WHO) has already explicitly highlighted the trade in dogs for human consumption as a contributing factor to the spread of rabies.

The dog meat trade in Cambodia is also in clear violation of Cambodia’s Law on Animal Health and Production (No. NS/RKM/0166/003), specifically Chapter 8 (Slaughterhouse and Sanitation), Chapter 9 (Movement of Animals and Animal Products), Chapter 11 (Animal Welfare) and Chapter 19 (Inspection).⁶

During this unprecedented time, it is imperative that governments act on behalf of their citizens and the world to protect public health and prevent disease outbreaks linked to the dog meat trade from occurring, while also recognizing that dogs cannot directly transmit COVID-19 to people.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations around the globe and the many millions of members they represent, we respectfully ask that the Cambodian government take urgent preventative measures by:

- Recognizing the dog’s status as a companion animal (non-livestock).
- Immediately and permanently banning the trade, slaughter, and consumption of dogs in Cambodia.
- Enforcing existing legislation to close down illegal dog slaughtering establishments according to the law, specifically sub-decree 108 on Control of Slaughterhouse and Slaughtering Business and Primary Animal Product Processing Premises, under the authority of General Directorate of Animal Health and Production.
- Issuing a public statement regarding the public health dangers of the slaughter and consumption of dogs.

Sent on behalf of the following organisations:

1. Anima-Society for the Protection of Animals (Macau)
2. Animal Concerns Research & Education Society
3. Animal Guardians
4. Animal People Forum
5. Animals Asia Foundation
6. Big Cat Rescue
7. Blue Cross of India
8. Born Free Foundation
9. Change for Animals Foundation
10. Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations
11. FOUR PAWS
12. Humane Society International

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-52131940>

⁵ <https://www.ibtimes.com/chinas-zhuhai-permanently-bans-consumption-cat-dog-meat-second-city-do-so-2960225>

⁶ Law on Animal Health and Production (No. NS/RKM/0116/003) (2016).

13. International Animal Rescue
14. International Fund for Animal Welfare
15. RSPCA UK
16. Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
17. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (HK)
18. The Jane Goodall Institute - Nepal
19. The Philippines Animal Welfare Society
20. VShine Animal Protection Association
21. World Animal Protection

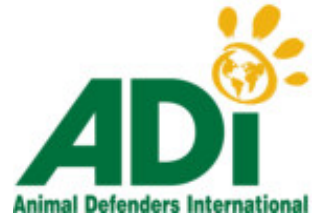
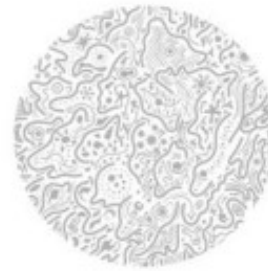


Please respond to David Neale, Animal Welfare Director, Animals Asia Foundation, Room 1501, Tung Hip Commercial Building, 244-252 Des Voeux Road Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
dneale@animalsasia.org or afacoalition@gmail.com

With support from members of our supporting network;

1. ACTAsia. ACTAsia
2. Action for Dolphins. AFD
3. Action for Primates. AfP
4. All Life In A Viable Environment. ALIVE
5. Alliance for Animal Rights. AFAR
6. Alliance for Earth, Life, Liberty & Advocacy. AELLA
7. Ananta Jyoti Dhayn Kendra .
8. Andhra Pradesh Goshala Federation.
9. Animal Aid Unlimited. AAU
10. Animal Defenders International. ADI
11. Animal Friendly Alliance. AFA
12. Animal Friends Croatia. AFC
13. Animal Friends Jogja. AFJ
14. Animal Kingdom Foundation. AKF
15. Animal Nepal.
16. Animal Projects & Environmental Education Sdn Bhd. APE Malaysia
17. Animal Protection and Environmental Sanctuary. APES
18. Animal Protection Denmark / Dyrenes Beskyttelse.
19. Animal Rescue Cambodia.
20. Animal Rights Center Japan. ARC
21. Animal Sanctuary Trust Indonesia. ASTI
22. Animal Welfare And Anti Harassment Society.
23. AnimalConcepts.
24. Bali Animal Welfare Association. BAWA
25. Bali Street Dog Fund Australia.
26. Ban Animal Trading.
27. Bikoshito Bangladesh Foundation. BBF
28. Blue Cross Odisha. BCO
29. British Hen Welfare Trust. BHWT
30. Captured in Africa Foundation. CIAF
31. Catholic Concern for Animals. CCA
32. Centre for Orangutan Protection. COP
33. China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation. CBCGDF
34. Community Dog Welfare Kopan.
35. Compassion Unlimited Plus Action . CUPA
36. Compassion Works International. CWI
37. CPR Environmental Education Centre. CPREEC
38. Darjeeling Animal Shelter. DAS
39. Djurrättsalliansen (The Animal Rights Alliance).
40. Djurskyddet Sverige (Animal Welfare Sweden).
41. Dobro Surtse.
42. Dog's Trust Worldwide.
43. Dogstop.
44. Earth Crusaders Organisation. ECO
45. Elephanatics.
46. Elephation.
47. Environment Films.
48. FAADA (Fundación para el Asesoramiento y Acción en Defensa de los Animales). FAADA
49. Fish Welfare Initiative. FWI
50. FLIGHT.
51. Forgotten Animals.
52. Franciscan Order - Hong Kong.
53. Fraternité pour le respect animal. FRA
54. Friendicoes SECA. FS
55. Friends of the Orangutans Malaysia.
56. Future 4 Wildlife.
57. Future for Elephants. FFE
58. Global Action in the Interest of Animals . GAIA
59. Global Animal Welfare.
60. Global March for Elephants and Rhinos.
61. Global Sanctuary for Elephants.
62. GREY2K USA Worldwide.
63. Greyhound Compassion.
64. Help Animals India.
65. Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust . HART
66. Hollow Paws.
67. Humane Research Australia. HRA
68. In Defence of Animals USA.
69. In Defence of Animals, India. IDA
70. International Otter Survival Fund. IOSF
71. International Primate Protection League. IPPL
72. IQRA Foundation.
73. Jakarta Animal Aid Network. JAAN
74. Japan Anti-Vivisection Association. JAVA
75. JBF (India) Trust. JBF
76. Karuna Society for Animals & Nature.
77. Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre. KAT
78. Korea Animal Rights Advocates. KARA
79. Lady Freethinker. LFT
80. Landmark Foundation. LMF
81. Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization. LAEO
82. Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection. LCRP
83. Lifelong Animal Protection. LAP
84. Love Animal House Thailand.
85. Love Wildlife Foundation. LWF
86. Melbourn Dolphin.
87. moonbears.org.
88. Moving Animals.
89. National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. NSPCA
90. Neotropical Primate Conservation.

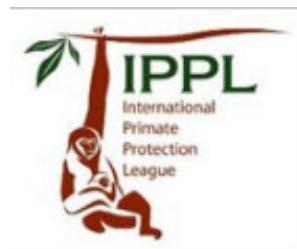
91. Nepal Animal Welfare and Research Center. NAWRC
92. Nepal Street Animal Rescue. NSAR
93. Noahs Ark Ipoh, Malaysia (Ipoh Animal Welfare Society).
94. Nowzad.
95. OneKind.
96. ONG Sante Animale Afrique. SAA
97. Orangutan Aid.
98. Orca Rescues Foundation. ORF
99. Pan African Sanctuary Alliance. PASA
100. PAWS Bangkok. PAWS
101. PEACE (Put an End to Animal Cruelty and Exploitation). PEACE
102. People for Animal Care and Kindness. PACK
103. People for Animals, Odisha. PFA
104. Performing Animal Welfare Society. PAWS
105. PETA Asia 亚洲善待动物组织. PETA Asia
106. Plants and Animals Welfare Society (PAWS Asia). PAWS
107. PSS Educational Development Society . PSSEDS
108. PupAid.
109. RAKSHA.
110. reEarth.
111. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia). SAM
112. SAI (Save Animals Initiative) Sanctuary Trust. SAI
113. Sanctuary for Health & Reconnection to Animals & Nature. SHARAN
114. Scorpion Foundation Indonesia. SCORPION
115. SEY Animal Welfare Finland. SEY
116. Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. SWT
117. Showing Animals Respect and Kindness. SHARK
118. Shree Karuna Foundation Trust - Animal Helpline Rajkot.
119. Society for Animal Welfare and Management. SAWM
120. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - Penang. SPCA
121. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Selangor. SPCA
122. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Singapore. SPCA
123. Society for the Protection of Animals Ljubimci. SPCA
124. Society for Travelers Respecting Animal Welfare. STRAW
125. Soi Dog Foundation.
126. Southern African Fight For Rhinos. SAFFR
127. Stray Relief and Animal Welfare. STRAW
128. Sun Bear Centre - Kalimantan. KWPLH
129. Taiwan SPCA 台灣防止虐待動物協會.
130. The Cattitude Trust - Chennai.
131. The Corbett Foundation.
132. The Humane League Japan. THL Japan
133. The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence.
134. The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust. WCKT
135. Tree of Compassion.
136. Unexpected Wildlife Refuge.
137. Vegan-It.
138. Vervet Monkey Foundation.
139. Voice for dogs abroad. VFDA
140. Voice for Zoo Animals.
141. Voice4Lions.
142. We Animals Media.
143. Wild & Free - Rehabilitation & Release. W&F
144. Wild Futures.
145. Wild Welfare.
146. Wildlife Alliance.
147. Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand. WFFT
148. Wildlife Rescue.
149. Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. WRRC
150. Working for Animals . WFA
151. World Animal Net. WAN
152. World Cetacean Alliance. WCA
153. World For All Animal Care And Adoptions. WFA
154. Yangon Animal Shelter.
155. Zimbabwe National SPCA. ZNSPCA
156. Zoocheck Inc...



www.animalfriendsjogja.org









MOVING ANIMALS



National Council of SPCAs South Africa



