Korea’s Dog and Cat Meat Industries

Every year, millions of dogs and cats are neglected, abused, and killed as a result of South Korea’s dog and cat meat industries. These odious trades originated from the ancient Korean belief that dog stew (boshingtang) and cat broth (goyangi soju) offered health benefits, and they grew in popularity during the Korean War when famine necessitated new food sources.

Today, the industry continues to thrive, even though widespread famine has ended and scientists have disproven the myth of the meats’ medicinal properties. The reason: dog and cat meat have become multibillion-dollar industries. Many Koreans continue to catch, breed, and slaughter these animals for profit alone.

Government agencies often turn a blind eye toward these meat trades, and existing animal protection laws go unenforced.

It’s time to put an end to this slaughter.

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How You Can Help

Write to the President of South Korea to demand that existing animal protections laws be upheld so the dog and cat meat industries are finally stopped.

President Park Geun-hye
Blue House
1 Cheongwadae-ro
Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-820
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Two million dogs are slaughtered each year in South Korea for human consumption.

Stop this atrocity now.
Dogs and cats raised for meat in South Korea are often fed rotten food, denied food and water, crammed in cages, beaten, dragged, thrown, electrocuted, and strangled. South Korea's dog and cat meat industries are a serious animal rights issue. Most farmed dogs live less than a year. Puppies born into the trade may never experience life outside of a cage. Some farmers feed their dogs rotting human food and the ground-up remains of dead puppies. For transportation, traders fill one-square-meter cages to full capacity with dogs, so the animals can't move enough to fight. No matter how long the ride, the dogs don’t receive food or water. Traders drag dogs to and from these cages by the neck with a rope; in the process, dogs often sustain injuries to their spines and legs. Similarly, cats raised for meat are mishandled, malnourished, crammed in cages, and denied needed medical care.

During slaughtering, many dog and cat butchers intentionally prolong the pain and suffering of the animal. Slaughterers use these cruel methods because they believe the adrenaline released during torture enhances the health benefits of the meat. Dogs are hanged, electrocuted, blowtorched, bled, or beaten to death, and cats are frequently boiled alive or stangled. Even though most of these slaughtering techniques are illegal under South Korea’s 2007 Animal Protection Act, dog and cat meat traders continue to use them out of the public view.