



The Dog and Cat Meat Trade in Southeast Asia: A Threat to Animals and People

A FOUR PAWS report on the dog and cat meat trade in the Southeast Asian countries: Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia, and recommendations to end the trade.

February 2020





© FOUR PAWS



© FOUR PAWS

Foreword



© FOUR PAWS | Adrian Almasan

Josef Pfabigan

CEO

FOUR PAWS

Every year, over 30 million dogs and cats are captured, tortured, and killed for the dog and cat meat trade in Asia, making it arguably **one of the most serious and compelling issues facing companion animals today**. In the Southeast Asian countries of Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia alone, the number of dogs and cats involved in the trade is staggering, accounting for an estimated total of **over 9 million dogs and over 1 million cats killed each year for the trade**.

Every aspect of this trade involves extreme levels of cruelty. Our investigations have documented the horrendous suffering inflicted on **dogs and cats as they are snatched from the streets or stolen from their homes**, transported and held in appalling conditions, to be brutally and mercilessly slaughtered by the crudest of means.

The animal welfare problems associated with the dog and cat meat trade are enormous and constitute in themselves an unobjectionable reason to terminate this industry. But it is not only animal welfare at stake; the trade also presents **grave implications for human health and welfare**. People involved in the trade and those consuming the meat are at risk of **contracting and spreading life-threatening diseases such as rabies**. Exposure to extremely violent slaughter methods has the potential to affect the psychological

welfare of adults, children and tourists who witness them. All of these considerations can have a negative impact on tourism and the economy in these countries.

The illegal capture of family pets and stray dogs and cats from communities to supply the trade adds a uniquely distressing element to the issue and makes it **the ultimate betrayal of the human-animal bond**. Pet ownership is becoming increasingly popular throughout Southeast Asia, and the younger generation who see dogs and cats as companions are speaking out against this cruel trade, making it even more **imperative that we do everything we can** to expose its widespread cruelty and bring the trade to an end.

Significant measures are being taken in some regions of Southeast Asia by both local communities and national governments to **implement new laws and enforce existing bans against the trade**. There is also a growing local opposition to the trade, especially as it involves the slaughter of pets, and many young people in Southeast Asia do not see it as part of their culture. It is now up to the international community and Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam to work together in fast-tracking these steps.

At FOUR PAWS **we care about the welfare of all sentient beings** and work tirelessly to make the world



© FOUR PAWS

a better place for them all. We know dogs and cats are not the only animals with the capacity to suffer, but their unique role in our lives as **our much cherished and respected companions** who trust us implicitly makes the continued existence of this trade particularly shocking. Humans have domesticated cats and dogs to be protectors and family members. What does it say about our humanity if we do not try to bring an end to this brutal trade and seize the opportunities for change?

We are calling for a complete end to the trade, rather than regulation, because as we have learned from the plight of farmed animals, regulation is not the answer to ending animal suffering and there will still be substantive and unnecessary threats to public health. **We envisage a world where dogs and cats are no**

longer killed for their meat, where both the public and governments understand the grave dangers inherent in the trade and take action to protect animals, public health, and the welfare of communities by taking a stand against it.

This report provides **the most comprehensive overview to date** of this deplorable trade in Southeast Asia and outlines how stakeholders can take important steps to end the cruel dog and cat meat trade in the region.

Josef Pfabigan

With thanks to:

Lola Webber, Change For Animals Foundation.

Tuan Bendixsen, Animals Asia Foundation.

Daniel Turner and Helen Usher, ANIMONDIAL.

Greg Salido Quimpo, Animal Kingdom Foundation.

Our thanks also to FOUR PAWS project team, FOUR PAWS partner organisations and the coalitions in Southeast Asia who have and continue to work tirelessly to bring an end to the dog and cat meat trade in the region.

Contents

Executive summary	4
1. Introduction to the dog and cat meat trade	6
2. Why the dog and cat meat trade should be banned	8
2.1 Why regulation is not the solution	8
3. About FOUR PAWS	9
4. A threat to animal welfare	10
4.1 Sourcing	10
4.2 Transport	11
4.3 Holding	11
4.4 Force-feeding	11
4.5 Slaughter	11
4.6 Post-slaughter processing	13
5. A public health risk	14
5.1 The link between the dog and cat meat trade and rabies	14
5.2 The mass movement of animals	16
5.3 Other public health issues associated with the trade	17
6. Country profiles	20
6.1 Cambodia	20
6.2 Vietnam	23
Dog meat	23
Cat meat	28
6.3 Indonesia	31
7. Regional situation and developments	38
7.1 Philippines	38
7.2 Thailand	39
8. Tourism – a high-pressure influencer	40
9. Changing attitudes to dogs and cats as pets	42
9.1 Local opposition to the dog and cat meat trade	43
10. Putting an end to the dog and cat meat trade	45
10.1 FOUR PAWS recommendations	47
11. ANNEX	50
11.1 FOUR PAWS – specific investigations	50
11.2 Coalition investigations	52
11.3 FOUR PAWS Southeast Asia alliances and local activities	52
11.3 FOUR PAWS alliances	54
12. References	56

Executive summary

This report provides an insight into the dog and cat meat trade in Southeast Asia, with a focus on Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. While it's impossible to quantify the exact number of animals involved due to the illicit and unregulated nature of the trade, it is of an incredible magnitude. In Cambodia, over 3 million dogs are involved, in Indonesia over 1 million dogs, and in Vietnam, over 5 million dogs and approximately 1 million cats are killed for the trade every year. All aspects of the trade from catching, transporting to slaughtering involves unacceptable levels of cruelty and suffering, making it one of the most pressing companion animal concerns of our times.

Aside from the obvious animal welfare issues, the trade also poses a significant health risk to both animals and humans. There is an undeniable link between the dog meat trade and rabies, and it is simply incompatible with regional and global rabies elimination strategies. In many cases, the trade and slaughter of dogs and cats for consumption also operates in breach of existing national disease control and prevention legislation, and encourages other illegal activities such as pet theft, which is a growing societal problem in the region.

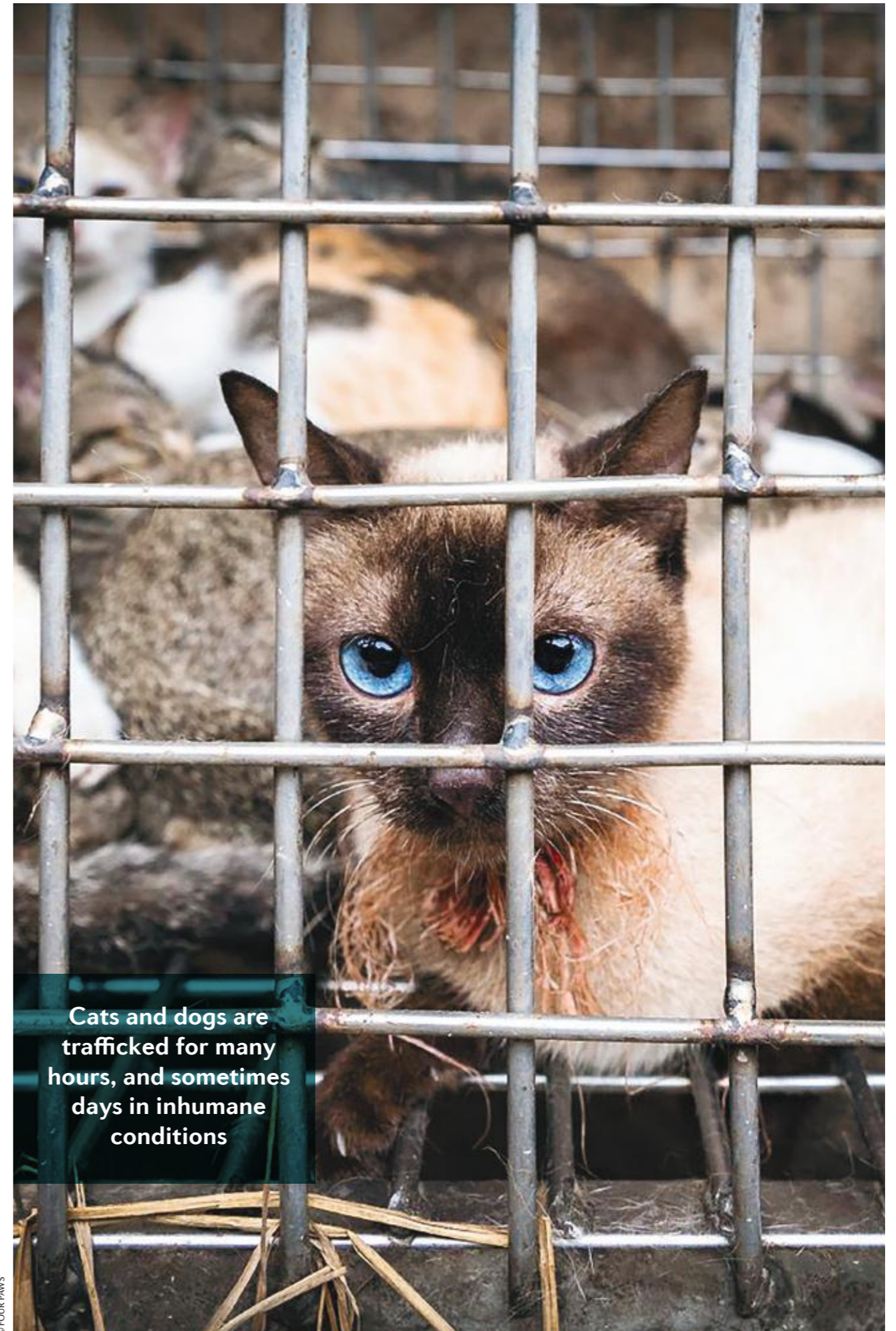
There is an undeniable link between the dog meat trade and rabies

However, times are changing, and there is undoubtedly a growing local opposition to the dog and cat meat trade throughout Southeast Asia, particularly amongst the younger generation and amongst pet owners in the region. Government officials in the countries involved are also showing signs of wanting this trade to end. Regulation of the trade is not a viable solution, particularly given the huge economic and societal costs.

Drawing from FOUR PAWS investigations, market research studies, coalition data, and local animal welfare partnerships, this report reveals that:

- Dog meat consumption is an activity of the minority, not the majority. In Indonesia, fewer than 7% of Indonesians consume dog meat nationwide, and less than 1% of people in Jakarta. In Cambodia, approximately 12% consume dog meat regularly, and in Vietnam this number is even lower. In Vietnam, 11% eat dog meat regularly in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City, less than 2%. However, this still results in several million animals being slaughtered inhumanely every year.
- Motivations for dog and cat meat consumption vary widely depending on both the country and consumer. For many, it's an activity to partake in during social gatherings accompanied with alcohol. For others, dog and cat meat is eaten for its perceived energy-giving properties, to cool or warm the body, or for its perceived medicinal or healing qualities.
- While often overshadowed in the media by the dog meat trade, cats are subject to an equally cruel trade for their meat, which is increasing in popularity in Vietnam. Black cats in particular are targeted for their purported medicinal value.
- To meet local demand for dog and cat meat, pets are frequently stolen or traded, and stray animals captured off the streets. Unlike South Korea, there is little to no organised farming of dogs and cats in Southeast Asia for the meat trade.
- Cats and dogs are trafficked for many hours, and sometimes days in inhumane conditions. Their journey often spans cities, provinces, and even countries. Many die along the way from exhaustion and injuries.
- Slaughtering methods are crude, and commonly involve drowning, bludgeoning, boiling, hanging, and blow torching. The suffering of animals involved is immense.

Given these findings, FOUR PAWS is calling for a ban of the dog and cat meat trade in Southeast Asia based on the extreme cruelty involved, the fact that the trade is incompatible with rabies elimination efforts, and its reliance on illegal and often dangerous activities.



Cats and dogs are trafficked for many hours, and sometimes days in inhumane conditions

1. Introduction to the dog and cat meat trade

Much of what is known about the dog and cat meat trade in Southeast Asia is largely anecdotal, undocumented, and dispersed amongst news articles, social media, and sporadic investigative summaries. This report aims to fill that gap by bringing together all the information currently available including media reports, published literature, investigative findings, market research data and interviews, to provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Southeast Asia, with a specific focus on Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

An estimated 30 million dogs are killed for their meat every year in Asia. The number of cats killed is unknown but likely to be in the millions, making the dog and cat meat trade arguably one of the most severe companion animal welfare issues in the region. In Southeast Asia specifically, the number of dogs and cats involved in the trade is staggering. While impossible to quantify precisely given the illicit nature of the trade, in Cambodia it is estimated that over 3 million dogs are involved, in Indonesia over 1 million dogs and an unknown number of cats, and in Vietnam, over 5 million dogs and 1 million cats every year. Investigations have documented extreme cruelty at all stages of the dog and cat meat trade including the sourcing, transport, holding, sale, and slaughter. Over the past decade, campaigns by international animal welfare organisations have targeted the infamous Yulin



In Southeast Asia the dog and cat meat trade is largely supplied through stolen family pets or stray animals taken from the streets and rural communities. The theft and handling of these animals is brutal, with many poisoned, lassoed around the neck with a wire snare, electrocuted, or snatched with metal tongs. Many dogs are dragged down the street behind motorbikes, or severely beaten during the capture process. Following capture, animals are crammed into small cages and sacks so tightly that they can't move; their mouths bound shut so they can hardly breathe. They are taken on long journeys, sometimes lasting days, on overcrowded trucks and motorbikes with no food and water, to supply markets, slaughterhouses, and restaurants. Many die from suffocation, dehydration, or being crushed by the weight of others before they even reach their destination. When they do arrive, a painful death awaits. Slaughter techniques are crude and torturous, with some of the most common methods including drowning, torching alive, hanging, stabbing, and bludgeoning.

While the number of animals involved in the trade is almost unimaginable, it is important to note that dog and cat meat is only consumed by a minority of the population in Southeast Asia. As pet ownership rises throughout Asia, dogs and cats are being increasingly viewed as members of the family rather than as food, and opposition to dog and cat meat consumption is growing throughout the region. However, while a handful of Southeast Asian countries and cities have already enacted legislation banning the slaughter and sale of dogs and cats for human consumption on the grounds of public health and animal welfare, many are yet to respond to the calls to end the trade.

festival in China and dog meat farming in South Korea. These have significantly increased international awareness of the dog meat trade in Asia; however far less attention has been paid to Southeast Asia, which is also home to a widespread and equally cruel trade.

An estimated 30 million dogs are killed for their meat every year in Asia. The number of cats killed is unknown but likely to be in the millions



2. Why the dog and cat meat trade should be banned



The dog and cat meat trade (DCMT) causes immense animal suffering, poses a human health threat, and creates anguish for pet owners and communities through the loss of their pets and stray animals that are stolen for the trade. To that end, FOUR PAWS is campaigning for an end to dog and cat meat trade in Southeast Asia, with a focus on Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia. These three countries have been prioritised on the basis that each has a particularly widespread dog and cat meat trade, but they also have local FOUR PAWS partner charities on the ground committed to ending the trade.

2.1 Why regulation is not the solution

FOUR PAWS is calling an outright ban on the trade and consumption of dog and cat meat, because regulation of this trade would fail to resolve the innate and organised cruelty that animals suffer. Regulation would also fail in reducing the risks that the trade poses to human health. There are no compelling human health, economic or societal benefits that would justify the existence of a regulated trade.

Regulation has not stopped the daily abuse of hundreds of millions of 'conventional' livestock species around the world; in fact, in many cases, regulation has simply institutionalised the systematic use of cruel

Regulation of this cruel trade would fail to resolve the innate and organised cruelty that animals suffer

farming methods. Often animals are bred and reared in a system that fails to meet their basic needs and many suffer every day through legalised practices, including permitted cruel methods of rearing and slaughter. Regulation cannot be seen as a way forward for addressing the problems associated with the DCMT; and in a worst-case scenario, may result in legalisation of cruel handling and slaughter methods.

3. About FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Founded in 1988 in Vienna by Heli Dugler, the organisation advocates for a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. FOUR PAWS' sustainable campaigns and projects focus on companion animals including stray dogs and cats, farm animals and wild animals – such as bears, big cats, orangutans and elephants – kept in inappropriate conditions, as well as in disaster and conflict zones. With offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Hungary, the UK, the USA and Vietnam, as well as sanctuaries for rescued animals in twelve countries, FOUR PAWS provides rapid help and long-term solutions. The work of FOUR PAWS is based on substantiated research and scientific expertise, as well as intensive national and international lobbying. The goal of FOUR PAWS' campaigns, projects and educational work is to inform the general public about animal suffering and to bring about long-term improvements – enshrined in legislation.

Over the past several years, FOUR PAWS has expanded its companion animal programmes from Eastern Europe to Southeast Asia. In Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam, FOUR PAWS operates a unique Southeast Asia Partnership Program, providing desperately needed services to stray animals through partnerships with local charities. FOUR PAWS is also a member of the Dog Meat Free Indonesia Coalition and Asia Canine Protection Alliance, which work to combat the dog meat trade in Indonesia and Vietnam

respectively. In December 2018, FOUR PAWS and local charity partner Animal Rescue Cambodia (ARC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian Mine Action Center to combat the dog meat trade in Cambodia. FOUR PAWS has also commissioned a variety of market research studies focusing on dog and cat meat consumption in Southeast Asia, in addition to carrying out undercover investigations of both the dog and cat meat trade. With a strong network of local charity partners in the region, FOUR PAWS has an unprecedented opportunity to improve animal welfare and end the brutal dog and cat meat trade in the Southeast Asian region.

FOUR PAWS has an unprecedented opportunity to improve animal welfare and end the brutal dog and cat meat trade in the Southeast Asia region



Wild animals



Companion animals



Farm animals

© VIER PFOTEN | Mihai Vasile

© FOUR PAWS | Nanang Sujana

© VIER PFOTEN

4. A threat to animal welfare

Given its illicit and unregulated nature, the dog and cat meat trade operates without any oversight and is fraught with extreme cruelty from capture to slaughter. FOUR PAWS and its charity partners have documented within this report the immense animal suffering during all stages of the trade.

4.1 Sourcing

The nature of pet ownership in Southeast Asia is significantly different to that in the West, creating rich pickings for traders sourcing animals for the dog and cat meat trade and perpetuating their illegal activity. Pet dogs and cats in Southeast Asia countries are rarely

Many dogs and cats found in dog and cat meat markets and restaurants are still wearing their collars, indicating that they were pets. On occasion, pets are also actively sold into the trade by their owners, either for behavioural reasons (e.g. excessive barking or chasing livestock), or for financial need such as paying off debts or trading them in for kitchen utensils, like pots and pans. Given that spaying and neutering is limited in most communities across Southeast Asia, the frequent birth of unwanted puppies works in favour of the trade – puppies are readily traded for older, unwanted adult dogs that fetch a higher price given their heavier bodyweight for the dog meat trade.

Many dogs and cats found in dog and cat meat markets and restaurants are still wearing their collars, indicating that they were pets

Animal capture methods vary. In some places, poison including cyanide and strychnine is commonly fed to dogs to quickly immobilise and catch them. In other places, unsuspecting animals are trapped using a wire snare thrown around the animal's neck by a rider on a motorbike driving past. The dog is quickly snared and dragged behind the motorbike until it asphyxiates or can no longer fight back. In other instances, dog thieves beat animals over the head into submission, then load them in a cage and onto a truck for transport. In Vietnam, the use of homemade stun guns is a popular method of capture, and for cats, homemade traps with food are deployed in areas with large outdoor cat populations.

It is a common misconception that dog or cat meat is sourced from farms in Southeast Asia. FOUR PAWS investigations in Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia have failed to uncover any evidence of established dog or cat meat farms; although the small-scale breeding of dogs specifically for the meat trade occasionally occurs.



© FOUR PAWS

confined inside homes and yards but rather allowed to roam free. Stray dogs and cats are often 'community owned' and roam freely within the community. Alongside these free-roaming animals, a significant lack of spaying/neutering programmes and insufficient veterinary capacity in the region means that there are many animals that can be easily taken for the trade. Thieves either target animals on the streets or, in areas where stray animals are scarce, free-roaming family pets become the target.

4.2 Transport

In an effort to satisfy increased demand in certain areas, dogs and cats are often transported hundreds of kilometres, in overcrowded, inhumane conditions. Transport vehicles can vary from small motorbikes equipped with cages to larger vans or lorries, some with the capacity to transport more than one thousand animals at a time.

During transportation, animals are crammed together in small cages or burlap sacks, and in some cases have their legs and muzzles bound tightly with rope. Due to the stress of close confinement, dogs also often attack each other, or are crushed by the weight of other animals. During transportation the dogs and cats receive no food or water and many die from dehydration, hyperthermia, and injuries sustained during capture, transport or due to fights with other animals.



© FOUR PAWS

4.3 Holding

Before being transported to slaughterhouses or markets, dogs and cats are often held in large holding areas which may consist of pens, cages, or pits dug into the ground. Rarely are animals provided food or water, and many have their legs and muzzles tightly bound for the duration of their holding period. Terrified animals often huddle closely together, until it's their turn to either be killed or transported to a slaughterhouse. Dogs and cats may be held for days or weeks, depending on the demand for their meat.

¹ AVMA American Veterinary Medical Association (2013)



© FOUR PAWS

4.4 Force-feeding

Force-feeding has been observed prior to sale of the animals, particularly in Vietnam. This is similar to the practice of force-feeding geese for foie gras: dogs are brutally force-fed rice and water or food waste using a plastic tube inserted into their stomach to increase their weight, and subsequent market price. This occasionally kills the dogs as their stomachs rupture from excessive pressure and rough insertion of the tube.



© FOUR PAWS

4.5 Slaughter

There are various methods of slaughter employed, none of which meet published guidelines for the euthanasia of cats and dogs¹. In almost all cases, animals are slaughtered in full view of other animals, resulting in extreme stress and anxiety. Slaughter of the animals is carried out in various locations, either at small stalls open to the street, in restaurants, or in larger slaughterhouse establishments. They are often killed using the quickest, least expensive, and most labour-efficient methods.



© FOUR PAWS

The most commonly used methods, are as follows:

Drowning

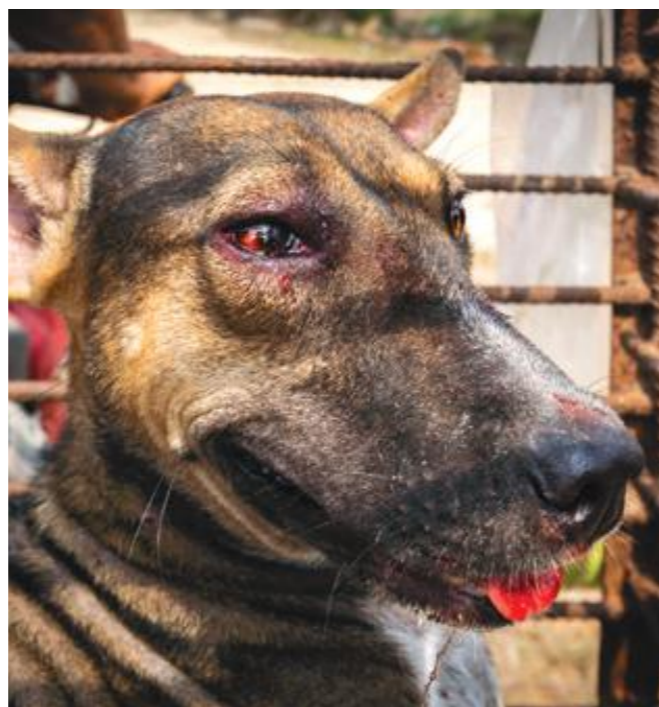
Drowning is employed to kill large numbers of animals simultaneously, with limited noise. The dogs and cats may be kept in a larger holding cage and transferred into small cages that fit into a pit filled with water. Cages are lowered into the water, submerging animals for approximately 10 minutes. The animals die due to fluid filling their lungs and hypoxemia, a method that causes extreme pain and distress. This is a common method for the slaughtering of dogs in Cambodia, as well as cats in Vietnam.



© FOUR PAWS

Hanging/strangling

Hanging is used to kill individual dogs. This is typically accomplished with the use of a rope noose which is used to either hang the dog from a tree, or is pulled tightly and quickly, choking the dog while still in the cage. When dogs are hung with a noose, it can take up to 30 minutes for muscular contractions to cease. During strangling, there is a quicker loss of consciousness, after about one minute.



© FOUR PAWS

Perhaps one of the most brutal slaughter methods is dogs being tied up in a sack and blindly beaten to death

Beating/exsanguination (bleeding out)

Perhaps one of the most brutal slaughter methods is dogs being tied up in a sack and blindly beaten to death. In other situations, individual animals are grabbed out of a holding cage, often using metal tongs or pincers, and are hit once or twice over the head with a hammer or large stick, hung upside down by the hind legs, then stabbed in the neck, severing the jugular vein with a large knife. When performed in this manner, the blood drains into buckets and is later used for gravy. In other instances, dogs and cats are bludgeoned over the head and their fur and skin are removed while the animal is still conscious. Given that dog and cat meat slaughterhouses are completely unregulated, and staff are untrained, slaughtering methods do not minimise pain but actually increase it. This is evidenced by the frequent inappropriate or total lack of stunning of animals, and prolonged suffering endured by the animals while being slaughtered.



© FOUR PAWS

Torching

Blowtorching is often used as a means of hair removal, however in some cases it is used to physically kill animals as well. At the live animal markets in Indonesia, investigations performed by the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition have revealed the blowtorching of dogs and cats while they are still alive. At these markets, dogs and cats are hit once or twice over the head with a large wooden stick, tossed onto the ground and then blow torched until they die.



© FOUR PAWS

Boiling

Dogs and cats that are still conscious are plunged into boiling water which helps aid the fur removal process. In some but not all cases, they may have been hit on the head once before being boiled alive for their meat. This method is used in both Cambodia and Vietnam.

4.6 Post-slaughter processing

Following slaughter, dog and cat carcasses must be processed for consumption. Fur must be removed along with organs which may also be prepared for consumption. To remove the fur, dogs and cats are often plunged into hot water, sometimes still conscious. Once in the hot water, a knife is used to scrape off the fur, or the fur may be manually removed by ripping. In other cases, a blowtorch is used to singe off the hair. Cats might also be put in a poultry defeathering machine to remove their fur.



© FOUR PAWS

There are different recipes and preparation methods for dog and cat meat. Roasting, grilling or steaming the meat and serving as cuts, or preparation of the meat as a curry or with shrimp paste is commonly seen. Muscle is used primarily as the 'meat' of the dish, while organs might be boiled or grilled. The blood may be used for gravy. Skin might also be used as a by-product – in Indonesia for instance, dog skin is used to produce badminton shuttlecocks.



© FOUR PAWS

5. A public health risk

The dog and cat meat trade involves the large-scale movement, sale and slaughter of dogs and cats of unknown health status², posing a significant human health risk through the transmission of zoonotic bacteria and diseases including but not limited to rabies, cholera, and Trichinella. Furthermore, the dog meat trade undermines rabies control programs by removing vaccinated dogs (who help form a barrier against the spread of rabies), and transporting potentially infected animals across cities, provinces, and national borders.

5.1 The link between the dog meat trade and rabies

Rabies, a viral disease categorised by the World Health Organization³ as a neglected tropical disease, kills tens of thousands of people every year, mostly among underserved populations in Asia and Africa. More

than 95% of human rabies deaths result from the bites of infected domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*)⁴. Cat bites have also been known to lead to rabies transmission. While the disease is almost 100% fatal, effective human and dog vaccines to prevent rabies are available.

While rabies poses a major public health threat in many countries causing substantial economic and human health impacts, the necessary tools for control and disease elimination do exist. For instance, with the assistance of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), many countries in the Caribbean and Latin America have demonstrated a 90% reduction of human and canine rabies⁵. In Asia, successful rabies elimination has also been recorded in Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. Rabies elimination is largely attributable

to large-scale dog vaccination, dog population control programmes through capture, neutering and release programmes, post-exposure prophylaxis for humans, and epidemiologic surveillance.

Despite these regional successes, canine rabies remains endemic in much of the Asian region. Governments do recognise the need to tackle the enormous health burden of rabies and as such, the Health Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries (China, Japan and South Korea) have pledged their support for the 'Call for Action towards the Elimination of Rabies' in the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries by the year 2020⁶. Yet despite significant investment in national rabies prevention and control programmes, canine rabies remains endemic in much of the region.

Often overlooked as a contributing factor, the trade in dogs and cats for human consumption is incompatible with rabies elimination strategies. It directly undermines the ASEAN Plus Three countries' pledge to eliminate rabies by 2020 in the following ways:

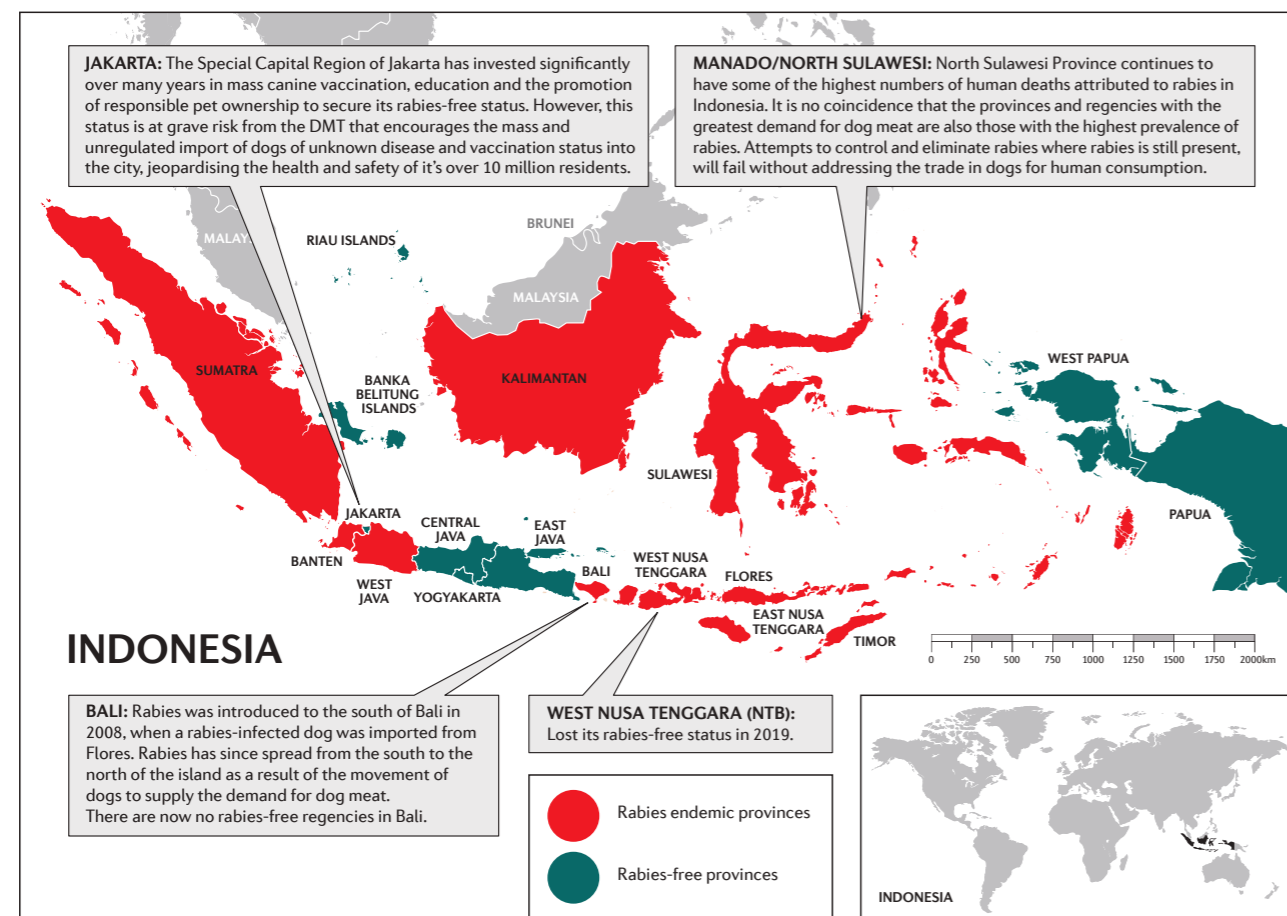
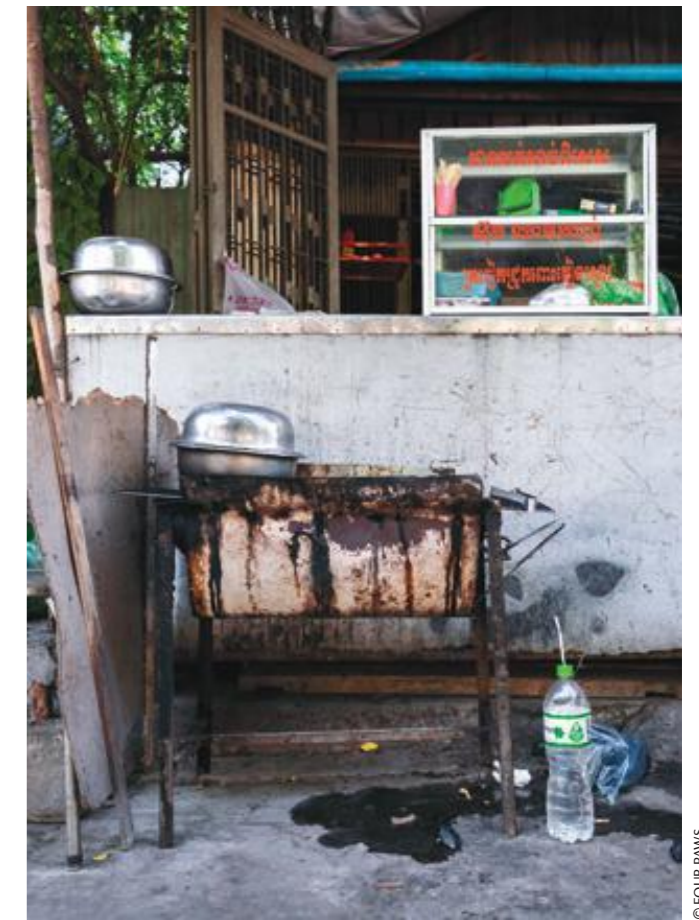
Undermining rabies control programmes

The key objective of a successful canine rabies elimination programme is to maintain a high enough level of rabies vaccination coverage to interrupt rabies transmission within a defined dog population⁷. Vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in an area to eliminate rabies from a free-roaming dog population is a widely acknowledged recommendation by public health professionals⁸. Maintaining stable dog populations with relatively low turnover rates is an essential part of rabies elimination programmes.

The DCMT is directly responsible for removing millions of dogs from populations, including many of those that are vaccinated. The removal of vaccinated dogs effectively reduces the immunity of the population (herd immunity) and increases dog population turnover, which in turn decreases the efficacy of rabies vaccination programmes⁹.

Facilitating national and international disease spread

The lack of control over dog movement has been blamed for disease spread in rabies-endemic areas and disease incursion in previously rabies-free countries or regions¹⁰. Research has demonstrated that it only



²World Health Organization (2018)

³World Health Organization (2019)

⁴World Health Organization (2019), Hampson, K. et al. (2015)

⁵Belotto, A., et al. (2005)

⁶Association of South-East Asian Nations. (2015)

⁷Taylor, L.H. (2017)

⁸WHO (2018a)

⁹World Health Organisation (2018b)

¹⁰Fahrion, A.S., et al. (2017)

¹¹Windiyaningsih, C. et al. (2004)



© FOUR PAWS

5.2 The mass movement of animals

The DCMT encourages the mass movement of dogs of unknown disease and vaccination status over long distances, between provinces and even across international borders for slaughter. In countries where legislation exists to prevent the movement of unvaccinated animals, dogs and cats continue to be transported in trucks with falsified documents including fake quarantine certificates, some potentially carrying the rabies virus while still appearing healthy.

The movement of animals for the DCMT has been identified by the World Health Organization as a definitive hindrance to the elimination of rabies in Indonesia, particularly as animals are often moved from rabies-infected areas to those declared 'rabies-free'. It has also led to the spread of rabies strains within countries. Molecular epidemiology has demonstrated that northern Vietnamese rabies strains have come directly from Southern China, again implicating live dog movement across borders, most likely associated with the dog meat industry¹².

Clearly, attempts to maintain rabies-free statuses of cities and provinces, and to control and eliminate rabies where it is still present will fail without addressing the inherent risks posed by the trade in dogs and cats for human consumption.

Jeopardising the health of handlers, consumers, the public and tourists

Published research reveals evidence of rabies transmission to humans at the following stages of

the dog meat supply chain: slaughter, butchering, preparation and consumption. Due to the characteristics of rabies transmission, it is a health risk in all of the stages of the dog meat supply chain.

In 2009, researchers described two case reports with laboratory-confirmed rabies infections. Patients became symptomatic after butchering, preparing, and consuming a dog and a cat in Vietnam. The point of entry of the rabies virus in these cases was unclear, but the authors speculate that infection may have resulted from the removal and preparation of the dog's and cat's brains harbouring large amounts of infectious rabies virus, with transmission occurring via either the conjunctiva, or the oral and nasopharyngeal mucosae. Alternatively, the patients may have become infected by contamination through unrecognised cuts or abrasions on their hands¹³. In a different study, researchers tested saliva and cerebrospinal fluid from 31 patients who were believed to have rabies and were admitted to hospitals in northern provinces of Vietnam. A total of five rabies patients did not have any history of dog or cat bites, but they did have experience of butchering dogs or cats or consuming their meat. The rabies virus was also detected in two out of 100 sick dogs from slaughterhouses¹⁴.

Additional studies have revealed a high incidence of rabies-infected dogs in dog meat restaurants, slaughterhouses, and markets throughout the region¹⁵. The slaughter of potentially rabies-infected dogs poses a significant risk to slaughterhouse workers.

In Vietnam, a 2007 rabies outbreak in Ba Vi saw 30% of human deaths linked to exposure during the slaughter and butchering of dogs¹⁶. In July 2018, the Dog Meat Free Indonesia Coalition performed random testing of eight dogs slaughtered at the live animal markets in the Minahasa regency, which revealed the presence of a rabies-infected dog¹⁷. This is consistent with prior findings in North Sulawesi which demonstrated that between 7.8% and 10.6% of dogs being sold for human consumption at the same live markets were infected with rabies¹⁸.

In countries where legislation exists to prevent the movement of unvaccinated animals, dogs and cats continue to be transported in trucks with falsified documents

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology of Vietnam (NIHE) conducted a study in dog slaughterhouses in the Hanoi area in 2007 and found that two out of ten (20%) sick dogs were positive for rabies¹⁹. An epidemiological survey in China reported that two out of 64 patients contracted rabies by either killing, cooking, or consuming dogs²⁰. As a result of the documented risk these activities pose, researchers have recommended that the slaughtering of unvaccinated rabies reservoir species in endemic areas needs to be considered a category III exposure requiring post-exposure rabies prophylaxis²¹.

In regards to the public health risk the dog meat trade poses, Professor Louis Nel of Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) explains: "We may not be able to easily change culture or habit, but we should ensure compliance with proven animal disease prevention measures and stop the smuggling of dogs, to limit the spread of rabies, an endemic disease across Asia. These traders are driven solely by profit and are disregarding the risks to human and animal health."

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) also condemns the dog and cat meat trade on the basis of health risk. Co-chair of the Animal Welfare and Wellness Committee, Dr Shane Ryan comments: "We have serious concerns, not only about the welfare of the animals involved, but also about the potential health risks to the people who consume the meat."²²

In a letter to the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States (CDC) states: "There are reports that dog meat markets have a higher rate of rabies than the general dog population, as people often sell dogs to the markets when they are sick; some of these sick dogs have rabies... Furthermore, there are at least three published reports of humans acquiring rabies from activities associated with the dog meat market, emphasizing that the risk is very real."²³



© FOUR PAWS

5.3 Other public health issues associated with the DCMT

There is the potential for other diseases besides rabies to be spread through dog and cat meat. There are also growing concerns for the impact the dog and cat meat trades might have on the physiological and psychological welfare of children exposed to the slaughtering of dogs and cats, which often takes place in public markets.

¹²Nguyen, A.K.T. et al. (2011)

¹³Wertheim, H.F.L. et al. (2009)

¹⁴Nguyen, A.K.T. et al. (2011)

¹⁵Nguyen, A.K.T., et al. (2011), Hu, R. L., et al. (2008), Adiani & Tangkere (2007)

¹⁶ACPA (2013)

¹⁷Polak (2018)

¹⁸Adiani & Tangkere (2007)

¹⁹Nguyen K.A.T., Ngo G.C., Nguyen D.V., Nguyen T.Q., Phan T.T. et al. (2008)

²⁰Kureishi, A. et al. (1993)

²¹Wertheim, H. F. L. et al. (2009)

²²World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) (2017)

²³Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2018c)

Cholera

Cholera is a form of acute diarrhoea that continues to be a significant public health burden of both epidemic and endemic proportions around the world, accounting for an estimated 120,000 deaths annually regardless of the advances in rehydration therapy and disease management²⁴. Cholera is caused by the gram-negative toxigenic bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. In 2007–2008, unprecedented cholera outbreaks occurred in the capital city of Hanoi, prompting immunisation in two districts. From 24 October to 4 December 2007, nearly 2,000 diarrhoea cases were reported from Hanoi and neighbouring provinces, of which 295 were laboratory-confirmed as cholera cases²⁵. At the beginning of the outbreak, most of the patients had taken dog meat to their homes or had dined at dog meat restaurants²⁶. The World Health Organization's representative in Vietnam, Jean-Marc Olive, warned that eating dog meat, or other food from outlets that serve it, is linked to a 20-fold increase in the risk of developing the severe, acute, watery diarrhoea commonly caused by the cholera bacterium²⁷.

Consuming dog and cat meat may also put the consumer at risk of other deadly infections including E. Coli 107 and salmonella

Trichinella

Trichinellosis is a global food-borne parasitic disease caused by eating raw or undercooked meat containing the infective larvae of *Trichinella* nematodes. Human infection with adult or larval stages of *Trichinella*, known as trichinellosis, is the direct result of ingesting *Trichinella* larvae. Trichinellosis if left untreated can be fatal. The common source of human infection is the domestic pig; however, trichinellosis may also occur from ingesting improperly prepared meat from other animals including dogs.

Dog meat has become a major source of *Trichinella* infection in humans in China, and most likely in other

countries where dog meat is common. Epidemiological surveys were performed in nine provinces or Autonomous Regions of China among 19,662 dog samples. Canine trichinellosis prevalence ranged from 7% in Henan to 39.5% in Heilongjiang, with an overall prevalence of 21.1%²⁸. Dog meat has also been implicated in human trichinellosis in Thailand²⁹. In the north-eastern part of Thailand, a survey showed seven infected dogs out of 421 in one dog meat market³⁰.



Miscellaneous pathogens

Consuming dog and cat meat may also put the consumer at risk of other deadly infections including E. Coli 107 and salmonella, commonly found in contaminated meats. Other more serious bacterial diseases that can jeopardise the health of consumers include anthrax, brucellosis, hepatitis and leptospirosis.

Poison

To facilitate the capture of dogs and cats, a variety of toxicants and/or sedatives are sometimes used on the animals. Poisonous substances may be hidden in meatballs and thrown to unsuspecting animals to weaken and immobilise them, facilitating capture. Commonly used poisons include potassium cyanide, strychnine, and the muscle relaxant suxamethonium, used to paralyse the dogs. These poisons are not only incredibly cruel to the animals that are targeted but can also pose a real health threat to consumers. In May 2006, 50 villagers from Bingyang Village, Guiangxi, China were poisoned through eating meat from dogs that had been poisoned³¹. The use of cyanide – commonly referred to as potas – is popular for dog catching in Indonesia. Not only

does the consumption of poisoned animals present a potential health risk, but there are also reports of dog thieves firing crossbow arrows tainted with poison at dog owners when confronted.



Hygiene

Given the unregulated and illicit nature of dog and cat meat slaughterhouses, restaurants, and markets, public health risk abounds. There is a gross lack of basic sanitation such as no or poor cold facilities for meat storage, use of dirty utensils and lack of cleaning surfaces, all of which leads to a high risk of cross-contamination. Given that most dog meat processing facilities are outdoors, there are also large numbers of flies, other insects, and mice contaminating meat products, and potentially contributing to the spread of zoonoses.

Psychological trauma

Children witnessing animal cruelty may experience a serious negative impact on their emotional wellbeing and resilience. There is a lack in peer-reviewed literature concerning the psychological effects that pets being stolen and slaughtered for meat, or witnessing routine slaughter at a market or restaurant might have on children and on adults. FOUR PAWS investigators however, have witnessed children being exposed to slaughter in dog meat markets, and most appeared worryingly desensitised to the violence.

Literature examining the psychological effects of witnessing violence towards animals in a home environment³² notes that children:

- Are nearly three times more likely to be cruel to animals than children who are not exposed to such violence³³
- Suffer significant psychological harm if that pet is threatened, harmed, or killed³⁴
- Are more likely to use family pets as “emotional blackmail” (threats, harm, or killing) in adulthood³⁵.

Children who witness the extreme cruelty to animals common in the DCMT could therefore be highly likely to experience long-lasting negative psychological effects. This could be particularly pronounced in children that have a pet at home. If these children then see animals being tortured on markets (beaten, blow-torched etc.) or the streets (hit by cars, dragged off, etc.) they may be significantly traumatised.



There is also potential physiological trauma amongst adult pet owners who witness their pets being beaten, stolen, or killed. On the other hand, workers in the trade have become desensitised to the extreme suffering they witness every day, which is also a concern.

²⁴Sack, D. A. et al. (2004)

²⁵Anh, Dang et al. (2011)

²⁶Ngo, T. C. et al. (2011)

²⁷Bloomberg (2008)

²⁸Cui, J. & Wang, Z. Q. (2001)

²⁹Chalermchaikit et al. (1982)

³⁰Khamboonruang (1991)

³¹Nibert, D. (2017)

³²Phillips, A. (2014), McPhedran, S. (2009)

³³Currie, C.L. (2006)

³⁴Phillips, A. (2014)

³⁵Arkow, P. (2014)

6. Country profiles

The following section details the particularities of the dog and cat meat trade in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

6.1 Cambodia

The dog meat trade in Cambodia has received little international attention compared to neighbouring Thailand and Vietnam. Despite this, Cambodia is home to a rampant dog meat trade, involving millions of dogs each year. Referred to as ‘sach pises’ in Khmer, which translates literally to ‘special meat’, restaurants specialising in dog meat can be found throughout the cities of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and nationwide. While it is difficult to conclusively prove that the consumption of dog meat is increasing, sentiment among both consumers and sellers indicates that it is. Cat meat consumption also occurs sporadically in Cambodia, particularly in more rural areas, but is far less popular than dog meat. However, the theft of cats from Buddhist pagodas for consumption is frequently reported.

Legislation pertaining to the dog and cat meat trade

Cambodia lacks any legislation specific to the dog and cat meat trade. However, it does have other relevant legislation which, if enforced, could help curtail the trade. The Cambodian Law on Animal Health and Production (No. NS/RKM/0166/003), enacted by the National Assembly on 16 December 2015 is the country’s first animal health and production law, setting out guidelines for the humane treatment of livestock and the safe processing of meat. The law was enacted largely to help prevent outbreaks of disease and improve food safety, while protecting human and animal health. While dogs and cats are not explicitly mentioned in this piece of legislation, activities associated with the dog meat trade are blatantly in violation of Chapter 8 (Slaughterhouse and Sanitation), Chapter 9 (Movement of Animals and Animal Products), Chapter 11 (Animal Welfare), and Chapter 19 (Inspection).

In the Sub-decree 108 on “Control of Slaughterhouse and Slaughtering Business and Primary Animal Product Processing Premises” Article 9 states, ‘Selling meat



© FOUR PAWS

and animal products which contain the source of contamination or communicable disease to animal or human beings shall be prohibited and punishable in accordance with the applicable law.’ Article 4 details slaughterhouses for cows, buffalos, pigs, and birds. Pets and wild animals are explicitly excluded as a ‘slaughtering business’. But because dogs are not referenced as a species in sub-decree 108, dog meat slaughterhouses cannot be legally registered and fall into a legal grey zone.

Motivations for consumption

In 2019, FOUR PAWS conducted a market research study on the dog meat trade in Cambodia to determine attitudes, behaviours, and prevalence of dog meat consumption³⁶. From this study, overall a total of 53.6% of respondents indicated that they have eaten dog meat at some time in their lives (72.4% of males and 34.8% of females). There is a stereotype among Cambodians that only men eat dog meat, however in reality, while women tend to hide their consumption, they constitute 20-25% of total dog meat consumption. Despite the prevalence of the practice, it remains controversial, with 59.8% of those interviewed actually saying that they refuse to eat dog and cat meat.

There are varying reasons for eating dog meat reported by consumers. For most, it is not eaten for any specific reason, but rather consumed during social gatherings involving alcohol, where the dishes are shared communally amongst the group. The meat is seen as a good fit for these occasions because consumers believe that the taste complements the alcohol.

Theravada Buddhism is the official religion in Cambodia and as of 2010, it was estimated that 96.9% of the population in Cambodia was Buddhist³⁷. According to scriptures of Theravada Buddhism, there are monastic guidelines prohibiting consumption of ten types of meat, one of which is dog³⁸. Results from the FOUR PAWS market research study however indicate that religion is a relatively low-importance factor in the decision to eat or not eat dog meat.

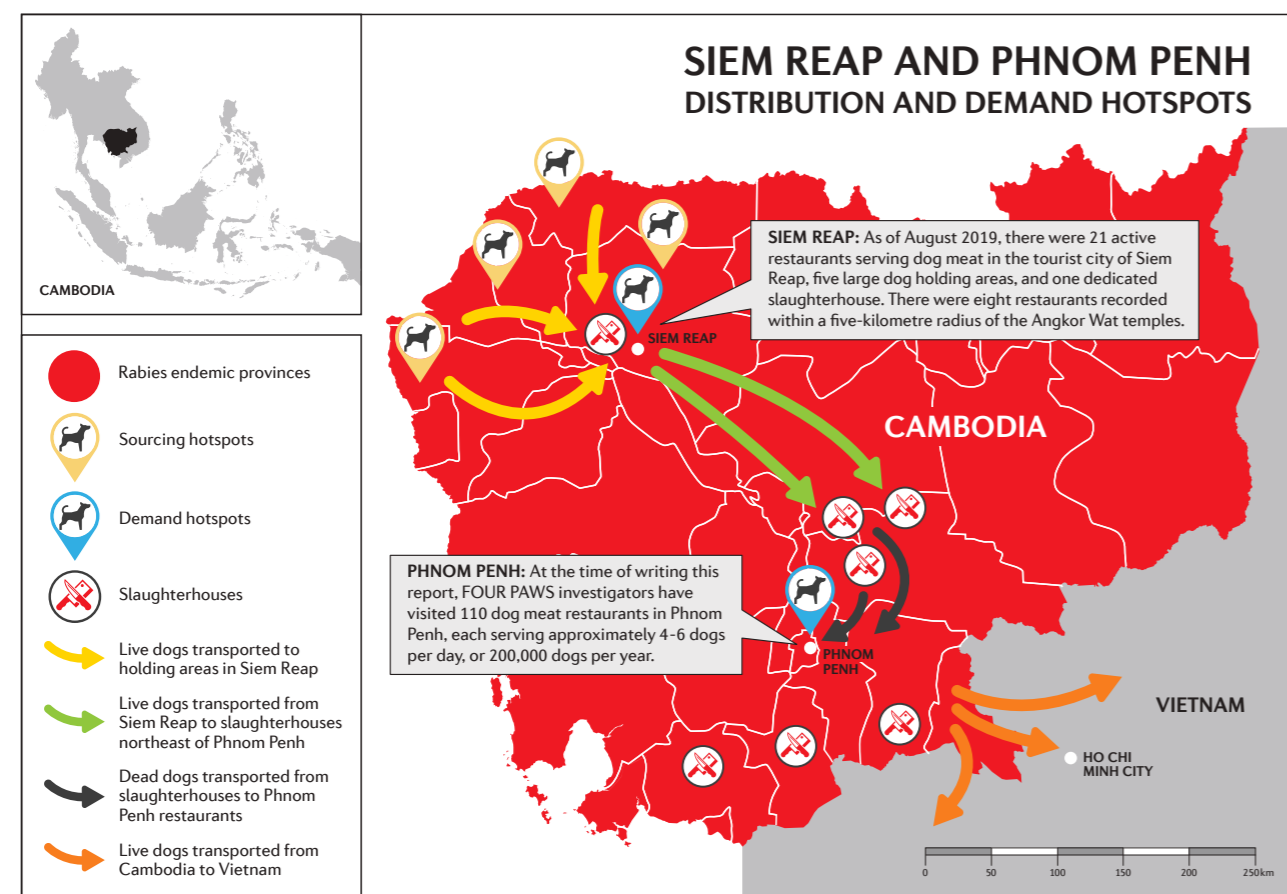
Despite the large number of dogs being killed for the trade every year, dog meat consumption is not a tradition deeply embedded into the nation’s culture. According to the market research study, all consumers interviewed believed that eating dog meat was not a tradition of Cambodian culture. Respondents largely attributed dog meat consumption to the presence of a large Vietnamese population for a prolonged period in the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, the consumption of dog meat was increasing in Vietnam itself after a significant lull during the period of French colonisation of Vietnam, when eating of dog meat was banned. Respondents also indicated that this period coincided with severe starvation, which may have been a factor, with dogs being eaten as a final effort to avoid starvation.

Medicinal properties associated with dog meat and associated products

In Cambodia the consumption of dog meat is often recommended, particularly to women, by physicians because of its alleged healing qualities. It is commonly believed that dog meat increases blood flow for women during their menstrual cycle and after giving birth, and that the meat heals scars and enhances sexual power. It is also thought to reduce drunkenness when drinking. However, there is no scientific evidence to support these beliefs.

Consumers often report that they eat dog meat for nutrition, sustenance and energy – particularly due to the ‘energy-giving characteristics’ of meat. One dog meat consumer explained, “It [dog meat] does help to boost physical power. Sometimes I eat it before playing sport; I feel energetic!” The consumption of dog meat increases on cold and rainy days, as the meat is also perceived to provide a warming effect.

Cambodians tend to be superstitious, and there are several myths surrounding dog meat. It is thought that



³⁶VIER PFOTEN & MSD (2019)

³⁷Pew Research Center (2015)

³⁸Bhikkhu, T. (1993)

the meat of black dogs possesses special medicinal properties. When worn around the waist, dried penises of black dogs are thought to also protect the wearer from bad spirits. For many women, due to superstition and cultural norms, dog meat cannot be eaten in public or around those they are not close to. One woman in Phnom Penh explained, “I never dare to tell others I eat dog meat; especially when I have to join some official gathering with my husband. It’s quite embarrassing if others know about it.”

For men, eating dog meat is a social event shared by friends, usually accompanied with beer or rice wine, and while watching sporting events. For women, the motivations uncovered by our market research varied. A prominent reason for women was to treat an ailment (32.9%) or for general health benefits (15.7%). It was found that women most frequently eat dog meat whilst at home (84.3%) whereas men eat it in a variety of places.³⁹

Supply chain in Cambodia

Hundreds of thousands of dogs are sourced from cities, provinces, and border towns throughout Cambodia every month to supply the demand for dog meat. The rural areas spanning the Thai-Cambodian border are particularly popular places for sourcing dogs; Poipet, a city in Western Cambodia which shares a border with Thailand is frequently cited as a common source supplying dog meat restaurants in Siem Reap.

Traders on motorbikes often travel more than 100 km per day, travelling from village to village collecting, stealing, and trading dogs. Traders commonly trade cookware (aluminium pots and pans) for unwanted dogs. Puppies might also be offered in exchange for adult dogs to be sold into the trade. There are even reports of thieves targeting Buddhist pagodas to capture stray cats and dogs living on the pagoda grounds, as well as pet theft from owners.

The collection process is brutal, with dogs often beaten over the head into submission. During the catching and transport process many dogs suffer from broken bones, wounds, dehydration and other injuries, which often kill them well before they arrive at their final destination.

Motorbike cages are filled with dogs, packed so tightly they can’t move: a typical motorbike cage can contain up to 12 dogs, depending on their size and how tightly

they are packed in. The animals are then transported to holding areas before slaughtering.

Several villages in Cambodia are dedicated solely to holding and transporting dogs for the dog meat trade. At the holding areas dogs will wait for days, trembling in fear, many of them injured from their ordeal, waiting to be transported to slaughterhouses or restaurants. To transport dogs from holding areas, minivans retrofitted with large cages are used, holding up to 100 dogs in inhumane, overcrowded conditions. A popular trafficking route for the dogs collected from near the Thailand-Cambodian border is from holding areas in Siem Reap province to slaughterhouses in Krong Kampong Cham or Kandal Province, approximately 80-110 km to the northeast of Phnom Penh.

FOUR PAWS is aware of four high-volume slaughterhouses in this area north of Phnom Penh that routinely slaughter, de-fur, and butcher up to 100 dogs per day each, to supply dog meat restaurants in the capital city of Phnom Penh. The use of drowning pits to kill up to 15 dogs simultaneously is common. While awaiting slaughter, dogs are housed in overcrowded, unhygienic conditions with no food or water, watching cages of dogs being drowned before it is their turn.

At the time of writing this report, FOUR PAWS investigators have visited 110 dog meat restaurants in Phnom Penh, each serving approximately 4-6 dogs per day, or 200,000 dogs per year. As of August 2019, there were 21 active restaurants serving dog meat in the tourist city of Siem Reap, five large holding areas, and one dedicated slaughterhouse. There were eight restaurants recorded within a five-kilometre radius of Angkor Wat temples.

Pricing

Pricing of live dogs and meat is as follows:

- Live dogs: 8,000-12,000 riels (\$2-3) per kg
- Raw meat: 11,000-17,000 riels (\$2.75-\$4.25) per kg
- Dog meat dish (soup or curry) at a restaurant: 5,000 riels (\$1.25)
- Roasted meat: 50,000 riels (\$12.50) per kg

6.2 Vietnam

Vietnam is home to a rampant and brutal trade in dogs and cats for their meat. It is estimated that over five million dogs and over one million cats are trafficked for consumption every year. Given the large-scale trade in both dogs and cats, the two species will be discussed separately, although it should be noted that there are often overlaps in the supply chain.

Dog meat

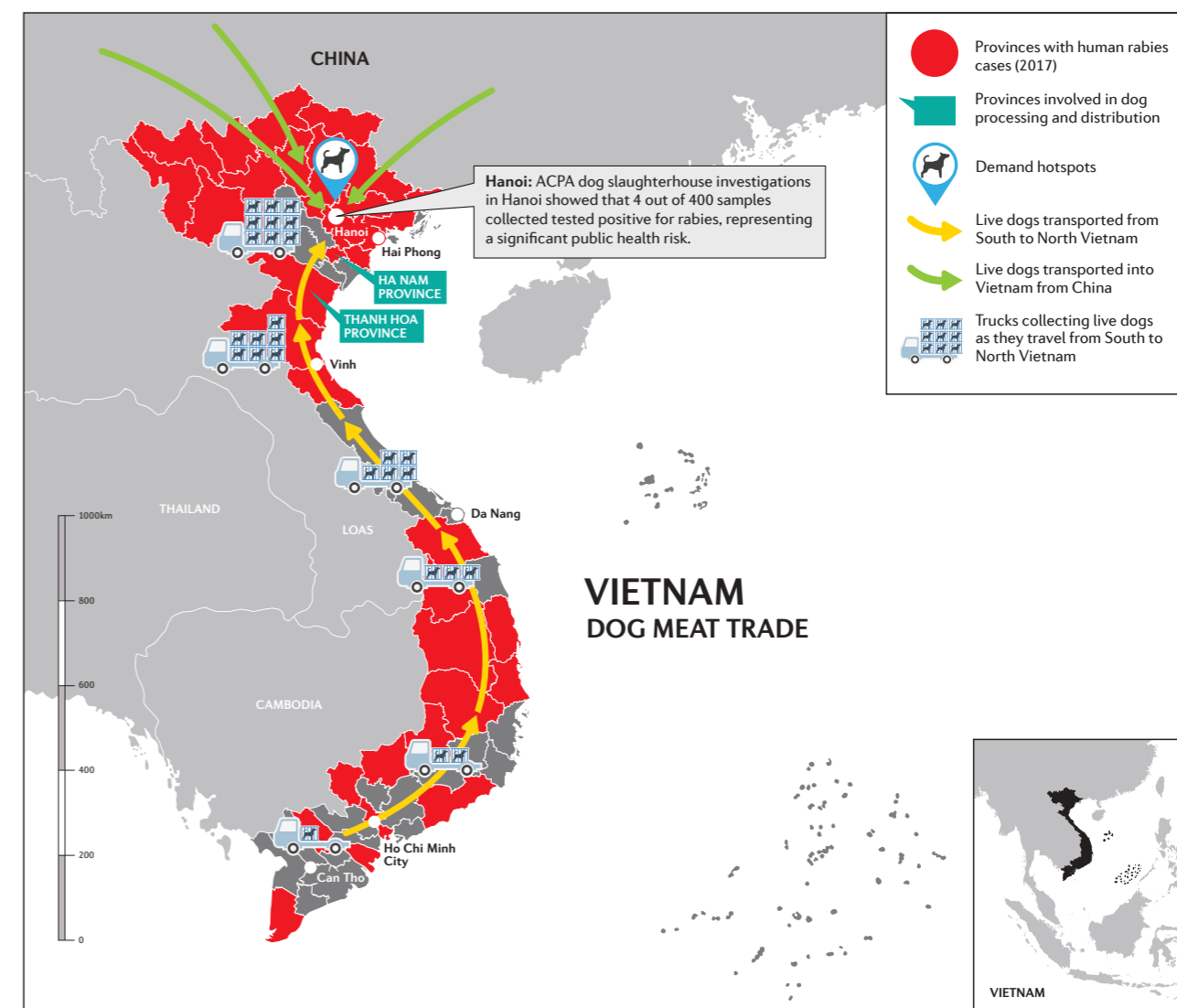
The origins of eating dog meat, referred to as “*thit cho*” in Vietnamese, are not completely clear. During French colonisation from the end of the 19th century to 1945, the trade and consumption of dog meat was banned and anyone who violated the law risked going to jail. However, the trade did not disappear, but went underground. Following the end of French colonial rule, markets started selling dog meat and its consumption increased, peaking

in dog meat eating ‘hotspots’, such as Hanoi in Northern Vietnam, from the mid-1990s. To satisfy increasing demand, some villages near Hanoi saw the opportunity to make more money by switching from noodle-making businesses to that of the dog meat trade⁴⁰.

Legislation pertaining to the dog meat trade

The trade in and slaughter of dogs and cats for consumption, and the sale and consumption of dog and cat meat and all associated products, operates in breach of existing disease control and prevention legislation, and encourages other illegal activities such as dog and cat theft which is a growing societal problem, as well as the sale of meat that has not been certified as fit for human consumption.

However, whilst the sale and consumption of dog meat is not illegal in Vietnam, the unregulated international import and trans-provincial movement



³⁹VIER PFOTEN & MSD (2019)

⁴⁰Bendixsen, T. (2014)



© FOUR PAWS

of dogs has been illegal since 2009. In the 2008 amended Vietnam Animal Health Law it is stated that quarantine is a legal requirement when transporting animals: When “transporting or circulating within the country terrestrial animals or animal products... subject to quarantine, goods owners shall declare and send quarantine dossiers...”⁴¹. Dogs and cats must be vaccinated or quarantined to be transported across borders or provinces.

Furthermore, on 14 September 2012, the Vietnamese Central Government enacted regulations to control and eliminate rabies which included updated regulations on the transportation of dogs and cats. These updated regulations require all dogs and cats being transported to have quarantine and rabies vaccination certificates and proof of origin. If this information is not provided, the authorities/ inspectors can confiscate the animals. In addition, if the inspectors are suspicious that the animals are infected with rabies, they can confiscate the animals for euthanasia.

However, interceptions of illegal traders at quarantine checkpoints are rare and lack of enforcement enables the trade to continue. Quarantine documents accompanying shipments of dogs are almost always forged, given that most transported animals are stolen, unquarantined, and unvaccinated. Additionally, the government lacks any suitable shelter space in which to house intercepted animals, which probably contributes to its reluctance to take action and enforce regulations.

Perhaps the strongest motivation for tightening legislation is the increased prevalence of pet theft and the resulting societal discontentment in a country where pet ownership is increasing rapidly in popularity. In July 2016, a law was amended to enable prosecutions against thieves whose crimes cause social disorder. The amendment meant that the theft of even a single dog could result in a jail sentence. For years, criminals had stolen dogs from homes with near immunity as the dogs were considered to have too little financial value to bring a prosecution (with cases being treated as

petty property thefts). However, in May 2017 this new amendment was used for the first time when a court in the southern province of Tay Ninh used it to hand out custodial sentences of three to seven years each to six dog thieves who had been stalking houses at night and shooting dogs with home-made stun guns to supply a local dog meat restaurant⁴².

Subsequently, in September 2018 a statement was issued by the director of Hanoi Department of Animal Health stating that raising public awareness of the risks of dog meat consumption needed to be strengthened to discourage the consumption of dog meat, and that the dog meat trade would be eliminated from the city’s central 21 districts by 2021. At the time of the statement, official statistics indicated that more than 1,000 shops within Hanoi were still selling dog meat⁴³. The announcement came just weeks after government inspectors raided the largest dog meat trading area in Ho Chi Minh City (September 2018). In September 2019 the Food Safety Management Board of Ho Chi Minh City urged people to stop consuming dog meat, citing severe potential health risks⁴⁴.

Motivations for dog meat consumption

In Vietnam, dog meat and associated products have strong links with custom, medicine, and dietary tradition. However, in addition to the perceived health properties associated with dog meat, in more recent years its production has proliferated for commercial reasons and is sometimes considered an “exotic food” or eaten to accompany alcohol. Dog meat eating has a long-standing history in Vietnam, with a resurgence beginning at the end of World War II due to famine and superstitious beliefs, and the belief that it brings good luck⁴⁵. According to a market research study conducted by FOUR PAWS, the typical dog meat consumer in Vietnam is male, lives in or is from northern Vietnam, is an adult older than 25 years of age, is married and has children, has at least a high school education, and is a white-collar worker. The same study found that approximately 60% of people living in Hanoi had consumed dog meat at least once in their lives⁴⁶.

According to folklore, the consumption of dog meat started with dogs being offered as sacrifices in ceremonies⁴⁷. It is now a well-known superstition that dog meat consumption at the end of the lunar month will bring good luck. Yet whilst the dog meat trade is

often defended as ‘culture’ or ‘tradition’, the reality is that there are significant health and societal impacts associated with the trade which are becoming a growing concern within Vietnam and internationally.

Medicinal properties associated with dog meat and associated products

Dog meat is often consumed for its perceived medicinal qualities, believed to help cure a variety of conditions and improve sexual performance. For example, dog meat consumption is most popular in winter months in Vietnam for its perceived ‘warming’ effects; and a number of classical Eastern medical texts dating back centuries recommend dog meat to “fortify the spirit, warm the body, and aid in recovery from illness”, classifying dog meat as a medicine, as well as a food. Dog meat is occasionally recommended by doctors to women for its perceived healing qualities, including its ability to heal scars and help with pregnancy. However, there is no scientific evidence to support these claims.

Dog meat is often consumed for its perceived medicinal qualities. However there is no scientific evidence to support these claims

Dog meat supply chain in Vietnam

Domestic transportation

One of the main transport routes for dogs in Vietnam is the National Route 1A, (“Highway 1”), the trans-Vietnam highway, spanning over 2,300 km from the Huu Nghi Quan Border Gate near the China-Vietnam border in the North, to Năm Căn township in Cà Mau Province, Vietnam’s southernmost province.

According to the Asia Canine Protection Alliance, an estimated 1-2 trucks travel this route per day each carrying anywhere from 200 to up to 1,200 dogs. The direction of transport is largely from the south to the

⁴¹Government of Vietnam. (2008)

⁴²“Vietnam Jails Six Dog Thieves for Combined 30 Years” (2017)

⁴³Smith, K. (2018)

⁴⁴Nam, L. (2019)

⁴⁵Nikkei Asian Review, 2018

⁴⁶VIER PFOTEN & MSD (2019)

⁴⁷Bendixsen, T. (2014)

north, where dog meat consumption is more popular, notably in Hanoi and surrounding provinces. In an article published by the South China Morning Post, journalists describe the slaughter of hundreds of dogs daily by one of over 40 traders in Thanh Hoa province⁴⁸. According to the article, the animals slaughtered there are transported from as far south as Ho Chi Minh City, a 1600km journey.

Dogs are largely stolen and traded by small-scale traders using motorbikes in Central or Southern provinces such as Nghe An and Ha Tinh, then taken to holding areas until enough dogs have been collected to justify the cost of a truck to continue the journey north. To meet demand, dog traders make quick profits by snatching dogs off the streets and stealing them from people's properties. Capture methods are brutal, usually involving tasers, iron pincers, poison, and metal snares.

The Vietnamese appetite for dog meat drives significant international trafficking of animals across Southeast Asia

Once the truck starts the journey north along Highway 1, it will often make stops at other holding areas along the route to keep adding dogs to the load until the truck reaches its maximum capacity. The journey for the dogs ends at a market, restaurant or slaughterhouse in Hanoi and surrounding provinces such as Thanh Hoa province, which serve as "processing hotspots" for the dog meat trade with, large-scale slaughterhouses processing hundreds of dogs each day.

In markets or at restaurants dogs are usually kept alive until they are either purchased or slaughtered. Some are brutally force-fed rice and water before sale to increase their weight. Most commonly, dogs are killed with a knife to the jugular vein, usually in full view of other dogs, or beaten to death.

Cross border trafficking of animals

The Vietnamese appetite for dog meat drives significant international trafficking of animals across Southeast Asia. Vietnamese authorities in Cao Treo, central Ha Tinh province, started cracking down on the cross-border trade with Laos in 2015. In cooperation with ACPA, a poster campaign was conducted at the Vietnam-Laos border to discourage the illegal importation and transport of live dogs or dog meat from Laos into Vietnam⁴⁹.

Vietnam also has a flourishing dog trade at the Chinese border. The dogs are sourced in China and brought to Vietnam to be slaughtered and served in restaurants throughout Hanoi⁵⁰.

Prior to 2013, up to a half million dogs were shipped illegally out of Thailand per year, through Laos and Cambodia, to supply dog meat to Vietnamese restaurants. Dogs were routinely trafficked across international borders on small boats, illegally crossing the Mekong River. Thailand utilised existing legislation in 2011 to take action against the dog and cat meat trade and introduced legislation in 2014 outright outlawing the slaughter and consumption of dogs. However, the trade and export of dogs from Thailand into Cambodia and Laos, is believed to still occur, albeit on a smaller scale than in the past (V. Jittanonta, personal communication, 2019).

Pricing

Dog meat is often double the cost of other animal protein sources such as pork.

- Dog meat in Hanoi: 232,000 VND (\$10) per kg
- Raw dog meat: 150,000 VND (\$6.50) per kg⁵¹
- Live dogs: 80,000 VND (\$4) per kg

Common dishes include dog stew, served warm in a soup of blood; barbecued dog with lemongrass and ginger; steamed dog with shrimp-paste sauce; dog entrails sliced thin like sausage; and skewered dog, marinated in chili and coriander⁵². One session of eating dog meat and drinking alcohol costs approximately 200,000 VND (\$10).

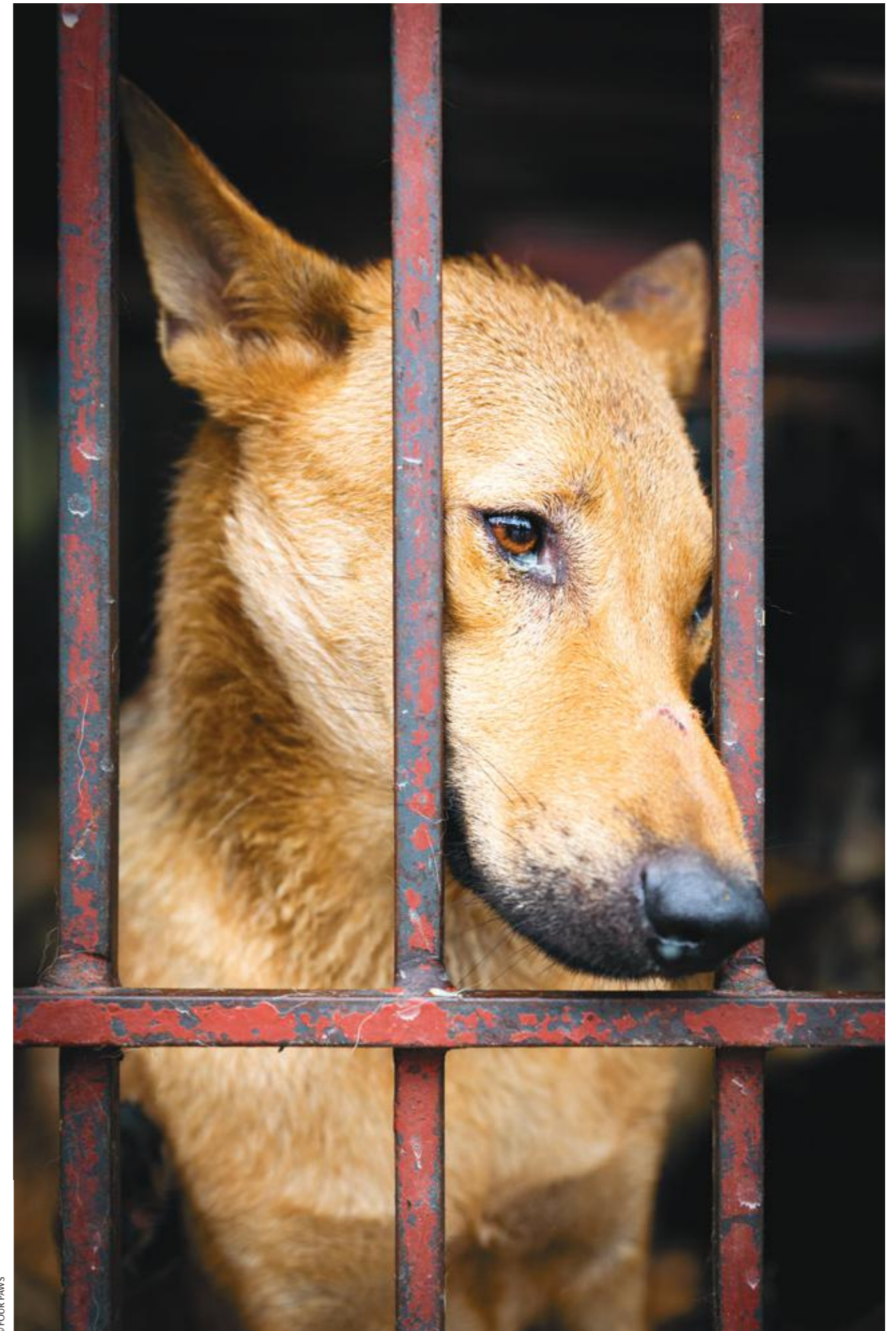
⁴⁸Perry, S. (2014)

⁴⁹ACPA (2015)

⁵⁰Tam, L. (2018)

⁵¹Lo, N. (2018)

⁵²Hodal, K. (2013)



© FOUR PAWS

Cat meat

While the dog meat trade receives significant attention, cats are the unspoken victims of an equally brutal trade. The number of cats trafficked in Vietnam every year is unknown but most likely exceeds over one million, with a significant number of cats being imported from neighbouring China and Laos.

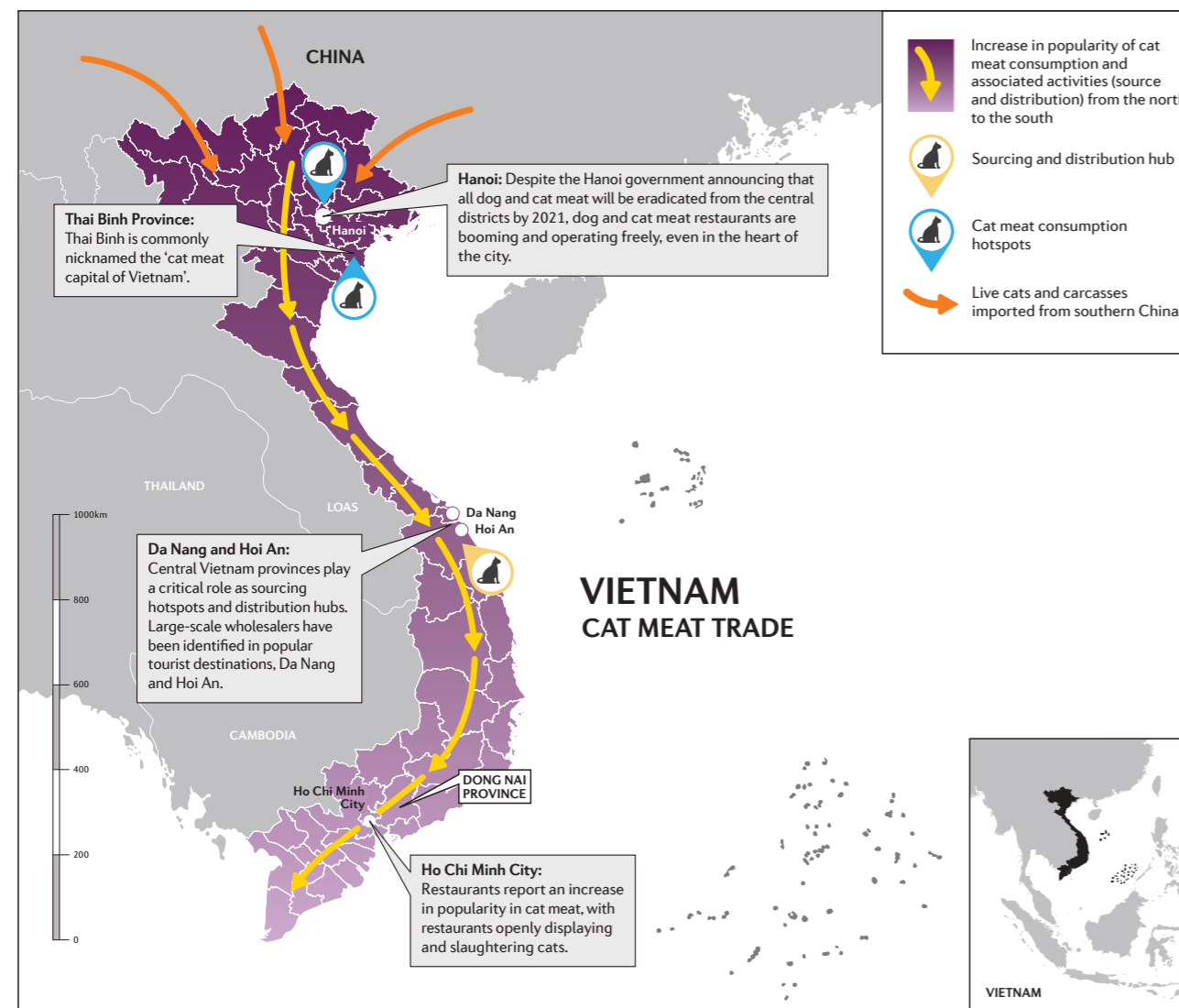
Cat meat, referred to in Vietnamese as 'thịt mèo' or 'little tiger', appears to be increasing in popularity in Vietnam, with thousands of cats killed every day. In January 2015, thousands of live cats destined for consumption were seized in Hanoi after being smuggled into Vietnam. The truck contained "three tons" of live cats, reportedly sourced from China⁵³. In October 2018, there was an interception of nine cooler boxes with nearly one ton

of frozen cats travelling from Dong Nai province in the south to Thai Binh province in the north⁵⁴.

Preliminary data from a market research study by FOUR PAWS indicates that approximately 8% of people living in Hanoi have consumed cat meat in their lives⁵⁵.

Legislation pertaining to the cat meat trade

In 1998 the Vietnamese Prime Minister issued a Directive banning the hunting, slaughter and consumption of cats. This directive was implemented to curb the rat population that threatened crops. The directive has however never been lifted and is still in effect, potentially offering an opportunity for enforcement to protect cats from the trade. However, with little enforcement thus far, the trade in cats goes largely unchallenged.



⁵³ AFP (2015)
⁵⁴ Hoa, T. (2016)
⁵⁵ VIER PFOTEN & MSD (2019)



© FOUR PAWS

Motivations for cat meat consumption

Cat meat consumers are very similar to dog meat consumers with a few exceptions. Firstly, although dog meat consumers are skewed towards males, cat meat is even more so. Cat meat consumers tend to have lower incomes, with the average household income between 6,500,000 – 7,499,999 VND (\$280-\$323) per month, even though cat meat is more expensive than dog meat.

Cat meat is eaten in the north of Vietnam more frequently at the start of the lunar month as it is believed to bring good luck for the coming month. This contrasts with dog meat which is eaten more at the end of the month when it is believed to remove bad luck acquired during the course of the month.

Medicinal properties associated with cat meat and associated products

While most cat meat consumers report that they eat it for taste and nutrition, some believe it to have medicinal benefits. Black cats specifically are often targeted for their purported medicinal value. Besides the meat, a common by-product of cat slaughter are the bones, which can be used to make a plaster believed to heal those with ailments. When sharing her experiences in eating cat meat, one woman stated, "A black cat is good for medicine, the bones can be cooked into a plaster,

and it really helps for the bones." However, there is no scientific evidence to support these claims.

Cat meat supply chain in Vietnam

Throughout Vietnam and from neighbouring countries, it is estimated that over one million cats are captured, traded or stolen, and shipped in overcrowded cages each year to supply the demand for cat meat in Northern Vietnam. Northern Vietnam is known for its high demand for cat meat, and specific locations where cat meat is sold include Thai Binh Province, more specifically the township of Quynh Coi, Hai Phong, and in Hanoi. Many of the cats that end up in restaurants in this area are trafficked from Central Vietnam, however some are believed to originate from Southern China.

At the time of this report, FOUR PAWS is currently preparing a detailed report into the cat meat trade in Vietnam in partnership with Change for Animals Foundation. Preliminary investigation findings indicate significant evidence that a large number of cats in the cat meat trade are pets stolen during the night. They are then often sold to restaurants and slaughterhouses. In the coastal city of Da Nang, FOUR PAWS has visited several cat holding areas where more than 10,000 stolen cats are housed and slaughtered each year to supply restaurants in Hanoi.

Slaughter methods varied, with drowning, boiling, or bludgeoning with a hammer being most common. After being skinned and butchered, the cat's meat is prepared for consumption. The bones are often used to make a broth or used for medicinal purposes. Cat intestines are preferred by some consumers, steamed with vegetables.

After being skinned and butchered, the cat's meat is prepared for consumption

Pricing

Cat meat generally fetches a higher price than dog meat.

- Live cat: 100,000-160,000 VND (\$7-8) per kg
 - Live black cat: 180,000-200,000 VND (\$9-10) per kg
- Cat meat: 160,000-300,000 VND (\$8-15) per kg
 - Black cat meat: 250,000-500,000 VND (\$12.5-25) per kg⁵⁶
- Cat meat dish (with noodles): 104,000 VND (\$4.50)

Both cat and dog meat are typically shared among several diners. A cat meat hot pot can cost up to \$50, which is shared by up to seven people, usually at a social event.



© FOUR PAWS

Profile of a cat meat restaurant: Preliminary investigation results

In late 2019, an investigation was conducted by FOUR PAWS and Change for Animals Foundation to document the cat meat trade in Vietnam. The full details of the report will be published in the spring of 2020. Investigators visited several restaurants in multiple locations across Vietnam. Below is an anonymised and amalgamated description of a 'typical' cat meat restaurant based on the findings.

- Traders supply the restaurant regularly with cats. The restaurant owners say the cats are caught locally during the night, although if stocks are low, they can source them from different provinces where cat meat is not eaten.
- The cats are held in cages in front of the restaurant. They appear to be domestic cats. Some of them are wearing collars indicating they were pets.
- The restaurants sell around 10 cats a day, but there is higher demand for cat meat on the first day of the lunar month, when they can sell 30-40 cats in a single day.
- The cats are killed to order. Customers can select the cat they want and be served within 30 minutes.
- They say they can offer tourists the opportunity to personally kill the cat of their choice.
- The cats are either drowned or hit over the head until they are dead. There is no dedicated section of the restaurant for slaughtering.
- Cat meat imported from China is not considered as good as Vietnamese cat meat as it is frozen as opposed to fresh.
- One restaurant owner told us that he will only kill cats that are over 2 kgs. If the cats are smaller, they will keep them in the cage and feed them until they are big enough.
- There are no cat farms as such in Vietnam as it takes up to 2 years before a cat is big enough for slaughter. In areas where demand for cat meat is high, the cats will only stay in a cage for one day before being killed.

6.3 Indonesia

Whilst only a small minority of Indonesians consume dog or cat meat, the demand still results in the slaughter of more than a million dogs and a smaller but significant number of cats each year (most notably in North Sulawesi). The animal cruelty of Indonesia's dog and cat meat trades is extreme. Investigations have documented the suffering endured by animals at all stages of the trade – from sourcing to transport to sale and slaughter. The trade is inherently cruel, with crude and brutal forms of capture and handling, and inhumane slaughter methods, including poisoning with strychnine or cyanide; repeatedly bludgeoning animals over the head; and hanging and bleeding out. Live blowtorching of dogs and cats has been documented in some markets in North Sulawesi. Slaughter in both slaughterhouses and markets happens in front of other terrified dogs and cats waiting their turn.

Legislation pertaining to the dog and cat meat trade

There are no regulations in Indonesian law specifically relating to the capture of, trade in, slaughter of or consumption of dogs. However, there are various regulations on consumer safety, violence in public, transportation of livestock animals, animal abuse, theft of animals, farm animal welfare and animal quarantine, that if properly and strictly applied could dramatically reduce and restrict the dog and cat meat trade.

For example, Indonesia's "Rabies Prevention" and "Eradication of Infectious Animal Disease" laws restrict animal movement and prohibit the transport of dogs and cats from and between rabies endemic provinces and into rabies-free provinces. In addition, these national laws can be strengthened at provincial and regional level to further restrict animal movements and vaccination requirements.

⁵⁶VIER PFOTEN and Change for Animals Foundation (2019)

It is illegal in Indonesia to capture, hold and kill animals in ways that are proscribed by animal welfare laws, yet the dog and cat meat trade almost always violates these proscriptions. Additionally, it is illegal to operate an unlicensed restaurant, yet many small unlicensed premises that sell dog meat exist.

Furthermore, as a result of growing awareness of the cruelty and danger inherent in the trade and mounting national and international opposition, there have been several recent legislative developments. For example, following a Dog Meat Free Indonesia petition signed by over one million people around the world to end the dog meat trade in Indonesia, which was submitted in August 2018 at the National Coordination of Animal Welfare meeting in Jakarta, the Director of Veterinary Public Health Mr. Syamsul Ma'arif DVM, M.Si described the treatment of the dogs and cats taken for the trade as “torture for animals”. He conceded that “[the eating of] dog meat or any animal that is not registered as farm animals, is illegal”, and agreed to issue a ban on the trade in dog and cat meat in Indonesia and prohibit the issuance of health certification for dog and cat meat for human consumption⁵⁷. Following these statements, the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed its commitment to issue a ban on the trade in and slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption nationwide. Subsequent to this, in September 2018, the Indonesian Government issued an official letter to all provincial governments ordering them to take immediate action to tackle the country's dog, cat and exotic animal meat trade⁵⁸.

Progress in Indonesia continues, and is largely dependent on each regency. In June 2019, the regency (roughly equivalent to a county) of Karanganyar announced plans to become the first regency to develop a comprehensive action plan to tackle the dog and cat meat trade. In subsequent weeks additional regencies and authorities pledged commitment to end the trade⁵⁹.

On the island of Bali, the Head of Animal Health stated that the sale of dog meat is “clearly prohibited (by law) because dog meat is not considered food”. Across the island, a total of 77 dog meat food stalls have been closed since 2018, including in Badung, Denpasar and Buleleng; though some remained open and simply stopped offering dog meat as a part of their menu⁶⁰.

Motivations for consumption

Only a small minority of Indonesians have ever consumed dog meat, and even fewer cat meat, with

research suggesting that fewer than 7% of Indonesians consume dog meat nationwide, and less than 1% of people in Jakarta⁶¹.

The motivations for dog and cat meat consumption vary from province to province, and even city to city. One motivation is that dog meat is not considered to be any different to any other type of meat. Religious and cultural beliefs also encourage consumption. In some parts of the country and amongst certain ethnic groups, dog and cat meat is associated with cultural and religious events and festivities. For example, the Minahasan people of North Sulawesi associate dog and cat meat consumption with their culture, being most popular during Christmas, Thanksgiving (“Pengucapan”), weddings and baptisms. Interestingly, despite over 90% of the Indonesian population being Muslim and therefore considering dog meat to be ‘haram’, investigations have shown that people from all religions are involved in the trade or as consumers⁶².

Dog meat is considered by some to have medicinal properties and is consumed on the misguided belief that it can cure a variety of ailments, notably asthma and dengue fever

Medicinal properties associated with dog meat and associated products

Dog meat is considered by some to have medicinal properties and is consumed in the belief that it can cure a variety of ailments, notably asthma and dengue fever. FOUR PAWS investigations have revealed local physicians recommending dog meat to patients for its perceived health benefits. It should be noted that there is no published scientific evidence to support these beliefs.

Supply chain in Indonesia

The dog meat trade is rampant in many parts of the Indonesian archipelago, where it is estimated that over one million dogs are traded for their meat every year



© FOUR PAWS

as well as hundreds of thousands of cats. The trade involves the large-scale, long-distance transport of dogs and cats across provincial borders and between islands, with hotspots for the trade located throughout the country, notably on the islands of Java, Sumatra and Sulawesi. Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, and Surakarta, in Central Java, are two particular hotspots for dog slaughterhouses and dog meat consumption.

A large proportion of dogs and cats involved in the trade are stolen pets. Investigations by local animal welfare group Animal Friends Manado Indonesia have

revealed that the theft of dogs and cats by traders is the main source for dogs and cats into markets in North Sulawesi, with an estimated 90% of all dogs being stolen and 80% imported from other provinces⁶³. This is in spite of legislation banning the movement of unvaccinated dogs across provincial borders. Dog and cat thieves often use violence and intimidation towards those who try to protect their pets. Many residents in Sulawesi report terrifying ordeals with traders who ruthlessly steal pets from their homes at night and threaten them with violence if confronted.

⁵⁷Dog Meat Free Indonesia (2018b)

⁵⁸Jacobs, S (2018)

⁵⁹Dog Meat Free Indonesia (2019b)

⁶⁰Coconuts (2019)

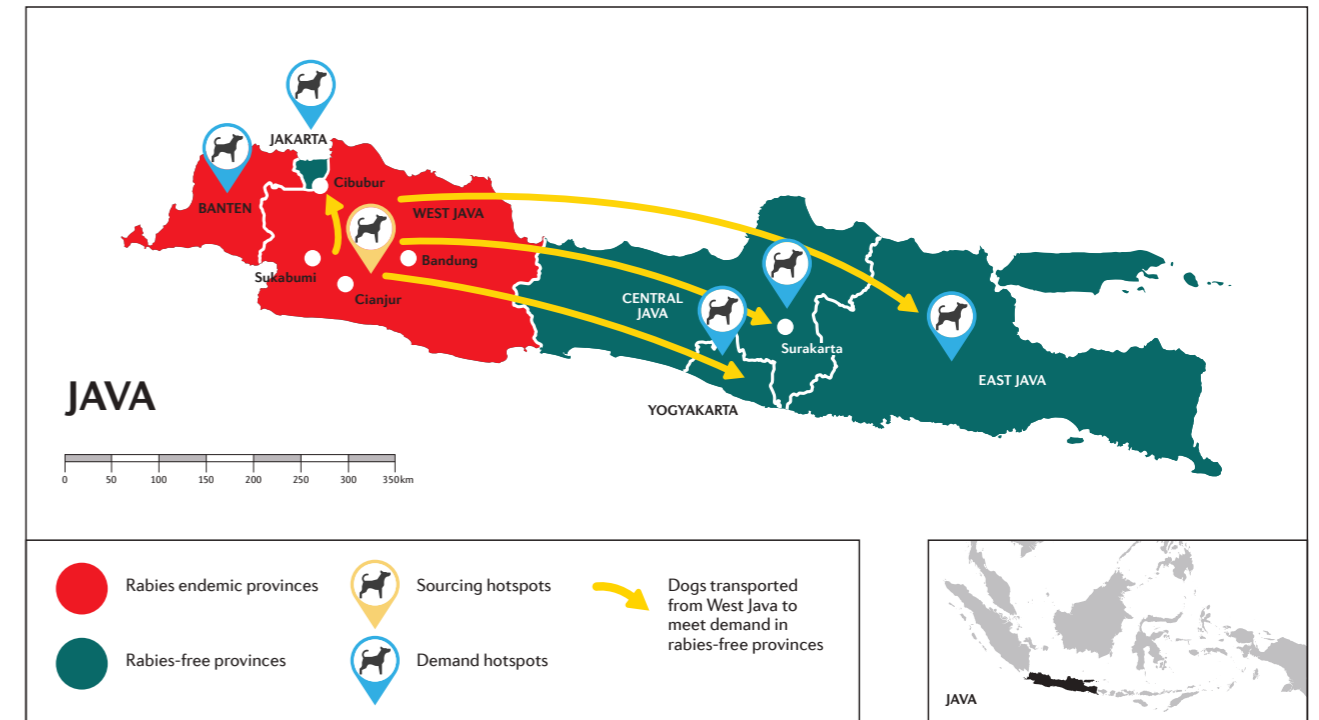
⁶¹Dog Meat Free Indonesia (n.d.)

⁶²Dog Meat Free Indonesia (2019c)

⁶³Lee, D. (2018)



An estimated 13,700 dogs are captured and stolen each month from the streets of cities throughout Java



Java

Java is the most populous island of the country, home to over 50% of the nation’s estimated population of 270 million people and covering an area of 128,297 km². It is divided into four administrative provinces: West Java, Central Java, East Java, and Banten, and two special regions, Jakarta and Yogyakarta.

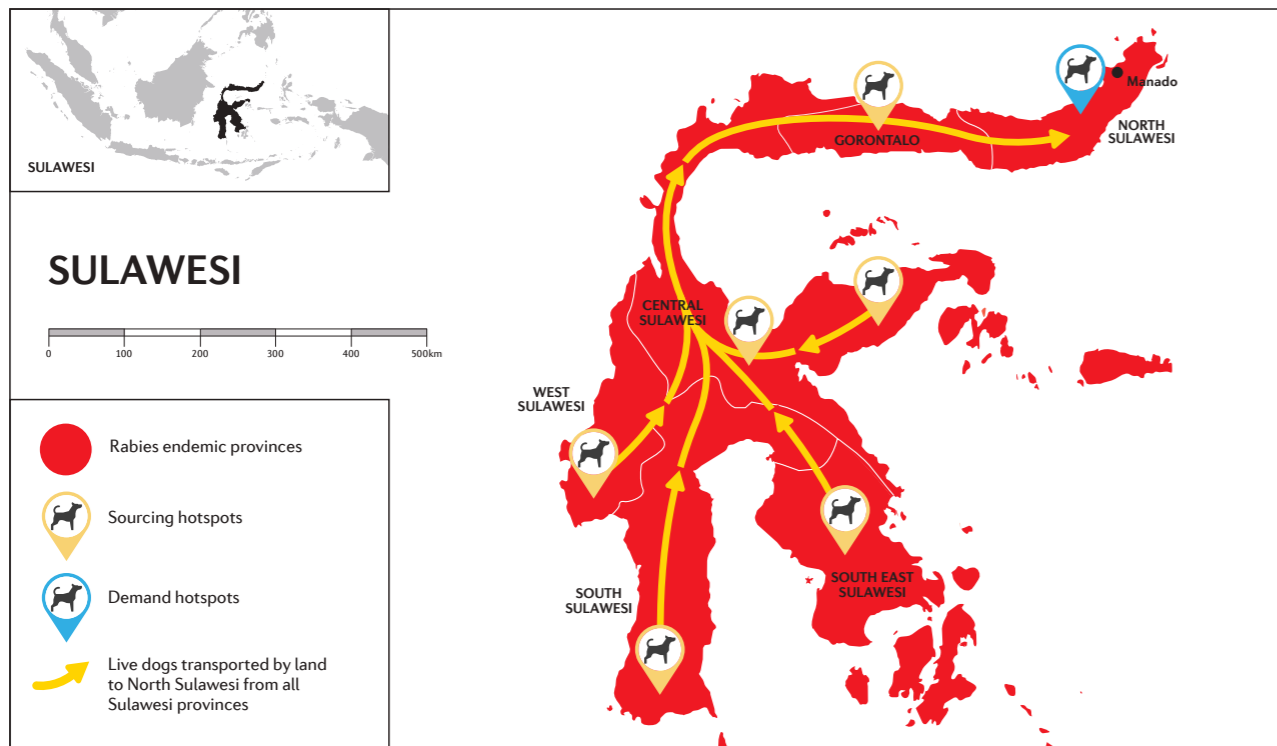
On Java, there are several “supply hubs” from which dogs are sourced to supply areas with a high demand for dog meat and associated products. For example, the city of Sukabumi in the province of West Java is a well-known “supply hub”, with thousands of dogs either stolen or collected each month from the streets and rural areas to be transported live to other cities and provinces throughout the island of Java, including Surakarta (“Solo”) and the capital city of Jakarta, as well as East Java. Dogs are transported on motorbikes in hessian sacks with their mouths bound, or in trucks concealed under tarpaulin.

Investigation by the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition in January 2019 revealed that an estimated 13,700 dogs are captured and stolen each month from the streets of cities throughout Java to be transported to Solo’s slaughterhouses to supply the city’s 82 restaurants openly advertising dog meat⁶⁴.

On Java, there are several “supply hubs” from which dogs are sourced to supply areas with a high demand for dog meat and associated products



⁶⁴Penman, A. (2019)



Sulawesi

The island of Sulawesi is the fourth-largest island of Indonesia and is comprised of six provinces – Gorontalo, West Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi and North Sulawesi. The Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition’s investigations have exposed the large-scale trade in dogs and cats into the northernmost province of North Sulawesi from the island’s surrounding provinces. The investigations have revealed that each month, tens of thousands of dogs and cats are illegally imported into the province to supply one of over 200 “traditional markets” where they are slaughtered publicly each week. These markets are visited by both locals and tourists. A sourcing hotspot for North Sulawesi is the capital city of the southernmost province of South Sulawesi, Makassar. From here, dogs and cats are taken on a journey spanning over 1,700 km and lasting over 40 hours, passing illegally through four provincial borders, with no food, water or rest.

Other areas with a rife uncontrolled trade in dogs include the islands of Bali, Sumatra and Flores in East Nusa Tenggara⁶⁵. Bali is a popular sourcing area for the dog meat trade in Java given that it is largely Hindu and has a far greater stray dog population than mainland Java. This trafficking is in flagrant contravention of

regulations restricting the movement of dogs on and off the island of Java.

‘Extreme’ live animal markets

In December 2017, investigations were conducted at Indonesia’s traditional markets in North Sulawesi, including the notorious Tomohon and Langowan markets. These markets are places of extreme animal cruelty. Every week, tens of thousands of animals including dogs and cats are traded and slaughtered, by bludgeoning and blowtorching. Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition released the results of this investigation, and the resulting public outcry led to TripAdvisor permanently removing the Extreme Market’s listing from its website⁶⁶. However, local authorities and tour operators continue to promote these markets to tourists as “must-see” attractions.

The method of slaughter at these markets is usually extremely (and sometimes intentionally) brutal, dogs and cats are often butchered in full view of those visiting the markets including children and tourists, as well as in front of the other dogs and cats waiting to be slaughtered. Dogs and cats are hit over the head once or twice with a stick, and then blow torched until they die.

⁶⁵ Sarahtika, D. (2017)
⁶⁶ Dog Meat Free Indonesia (2018a)

The unsanitary conditions of the markets and slaughterhouses and the unknown health status of dogs slaughtered for consumption are of real concern, with those involved in the dog meat trade – traders, slaughterers, vendors and consumers – at risk of exposure to rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

Pricing

The pricing of dog meat varies considerably between different cities and provinces; and profitability for those involved in different parts of the trade – from dog thieves/collectors, to traders, to slaughterhouse workers, to restaurants – also varies significantly.

- Live dogs: Rp200,000 (\$15)⁶⁷
- Dog meat dish (dog soup, barbecued dog meat, and ‘saksang’ dog meat curry⁶⁸) Rp18,000-20,000 (\$1.5)⁶⁹

Considering that the average monthly income in Indonesia is \$320⁷⁰, the trade in dogs and cats for their meat is a valuable source of income.

Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition’s investigations have exposed the large-scale trade in dogs and cats into the northernmost province of North Sulawesi from the island’s surrounding provinces



©FOUR PAWS

⁶⁷ Cochrane, J. (2017)
⁶⁸ Llewellyn, A. (2017)
⁶⁹ Walden, M. (2019)
⁷⁰ Worlddata (2019)

7. Regional situation and developments

While this report focuses primarily on Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the dog and cat meat trade is undoubtedly present in other countries in the region.

It is worth noting that wherever the dog and cat meat trade occurs, it is increasingly a contentious and divisive issue. This is especially the case in areas where there is an increasing popularity of pet ownership, and where there has been global media coverage of the cruelty and dangers associated with the trade.

Whilst no country has officially legalised or regulated the trade in dogs and cats for food, and no government or inter-governmental organisation has devised a humane way of raising and slaughtering dogs and cats for human consumption, an ever-growing number of countries and territories in the region have explicitly banned both the slaughter and sale of dogs and cats for food by taking various legal approaches, on grounds of animal welfare, as well as for public health and safety, and disease control and eradication.

For example, in Hong Kong, a local Ordinance was issued in 1953 banning dog and cat meat by prohibiting the slaughter of any dog or cat for food; and in Taiwan, despite never having had a significant history of dog or cat meat consumption, legislators took steps to ban the practice in 2001 by amending the existing Animal Protection Act of 1993. It defined all dogs and cats as pets and banned the killing of a pet for meat or the selling of its meat. In April 2017, Taiwan became the first territory in Asia to ban *eating* of cat and dog meat. This landmark legislation finally closed the gap in the earlier legislation that only prohibited the *killing* of a pet for meat or the *selling* of its meat. Taiwan's Animal Protection Act is an interesting example as by elevating the legal status of all dogs and cats to that of a pet they cannot be commercialised for food. This is a significant step forward, acknowledging that a dog or cat is a companion animal and not a farm animal that can be slaughtered for human consumption.

In other countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia, there are no explicit bans, but the practices of slaughtering and consuming dog and cat meat are considered illegal under animal cruelty legislation; and

in Singapore, animal protection and food safety laws prohibit the trade of dog or cat meat as these species are not recognised as “food animals”.

In other countries in the region where the dog and cat meat trade continues to thrive, such as China, the trade operates in breach of existing laws and regulations pertaining to theft, criminal law, and disease control and elimination laws, relying on a lack of law enforcement.

Below are two case studies of countries that have made significant progress in fighting the dog meat trade through legislation and enforcement.

7.1 Philippines

Dog meat consumption was once popular in the Philippines, with dogs being traded and slaughtered illegally. Today there is still a trade, but fewer dogs are slaughtered for their meat in the Philippines, with less than 1% of the population estimated to eat dog meat⁷¹. This is the result of the introduction and the strengthening of several laws over the last 30 years which have significantly reduced the dog meat trade.

In 1982, in an effort to safeguard animal welfare, as well as human and animal health, existing laws were strengthened with increased penalties. This has largely been achieved due to multi-sectoral partnerships – including support from local and international animal protection NGOs – that have been created to ensure adequate investment in the socialisation and enforcement of laws prohibiting the trade.

The first law, passed in 1982, banning the killing and selling of dogs for food in the capital city of Manila, was followed by a similar ban enacted nationwide in 1998 under the Animal Welfare Act (Republic Act No. 8485). This Act bans dog and cat meat by prohibiting the killing of any animal other than those listed in the law⁷². Subsequently, the Anti-Rabies Act was passed in 2007 and explicitly prohibits the trade in dogs for meat, including more severe penalties for perpetrators. The Act prohibits killing dogs for food, with minimum penalties set at 1,000 pesos (about \$20) and not less than six months in prison. However, there is an exemption in the Philippine Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (section 6, Paragraph 1) that says dogs can be slaughtered during

a ritual sanctioned by its local leaders, although local leaders are required to keep records in cooperation with the Committee on Animal Welfare.

Steps have also been taken to effectively enforce the ban. The Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF), an official partner of the Bureau of Animal Industry-Animal Welfare Division, the National Meat Inspection Service and the Philippine National Police has supported the enforcement of the laws against animal cruelty, especially against the dog meat trade. Over 250 raids of dog meat restaurants and slaughter facilities have already been carried out by the Foundation. Since 2013, the AKF has seen a substantial decrease in dogs transported for slaughter, an encouraging sign showing the progress being made and that the next generation is having an influence⁷³.

7.2 Thailand

While the majority of Thai people do not approve of eating dog meat, until recently there was a significant trade in dogs *from* Thailand to neighbouring countries, notably Vietnam. Up until 2011, millions of stray dogs were stolen from Thailand and trafficked through neighbouring Laos and Cambodia into Vietnam to supply the Vietnamese demand for dog meat, with an estimated 500,000 dogs per year being traded from Thailand via Laos into Vietnam at its peak.

Dog traders would often exchange cookware or small amounts of money for unwanted dogs. In other instances, stray and pet dogs were stolen from rural areas, and peoples' homes

Dogs were collected from provinces in Northern Thailand by dog collectors who were primarily based in the northeast provinces of Nakhon Phanom and Sakon Nakhorn, located along the Mekong River which divides Thailand from neighbouring Laos. Dog traders would often exchange cookware or small amounts of money

for unwanted dogs. In other instances, stray and pet dogs were stolen from rural areas, and people's homes.

In Thailand, the epicentre of the dog meat trade was Tha Rae, a town in Sakon Nakhorn. Once enough dogs had been collected from villages, trucks returned to Tha Rae (Sakon Nakhorn) with their load. Dogs were kept in their cages before being transported by truck into Vietnam via illegal border crossing points. At the border, traders would unload the cages and transfer them onto small boats, to make the illegal crossing on the Mekong River. The dogs were transported, through Laos, and would eventually arrive in Vietnam after several days. The journey was long and brutal, with many dogs dying before ever reaching their final destination in Northern Vietnam.

During this time, there was no legislation protecting animal welfare in Thailand. However, the Animal Epidemics Act 1999 made it illegal to trade in or export dogs without a license and permission from the Director General of the Department of Livestock Development, and eventually, with mounting national and international condemnation of the trade, action was taken to end the export of dogs for meat.

This required effective coordination between many government agencies including the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Department of Livestock Development, Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Police and Marine police responding along Mekong River. The Royal Thai navy, specifically the Mekong Riverine Unit, played a significant role in arresting the traders, which resulted in the interception and confiscation of thousands of dogs over a 2-3 year period.

Gradually this co-operative action meant the large-scale smuggling of dogs across the Thai-Laos/Cambodian border was stopped. Subsequently, the slaughter and consumption of dogs and cats was finally made illegal at the end of 2014 when Thailand introduced its first animal welfare law, the *Cruelty Prevention and Welfare of Animal Act*. The law prohibits the killing and consumption of animals that are not considered part of the “human food chain”, and the government has stated that cats and dogs are not part of the human food chain in Thailand.

⁷¹ Quimpo, G. (2015)

⁷² Republic of the Philippines Metropolitan Manila Commission Quezon City (2019)

⁷³ K9 Magazine (2016)

8. Tourism – a high-pressure influencer



© Getty Images | boule13



© Getty Images | mihander

Backpackers, family holidaymakers and adventure enthusiasts are often attracted to Southeast Asia by its warm climate, friendly people, and outdoor activities. White sandy beaches, jungle expeditions, and temples such as those made famous in the movie “Tomb Raider” are magnets for travellers from all around the world. Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia are all countries with a significant tourism industry.

Tourism Contribution to GDP and Selected Western Tourists (2018)

Country	% of GDP dependent on tourism	# of Western tourists (Europe, US, Australia)
Cambodia	32.8	4.6 million
Vietnam	9.2	18.2 million
Indonesia	6.0	10.58 million

Data in table^{74, 75, 76}

In Cambodia, tourism accounts for almost 33% of the national gross domestic product⁷⁵. Temples located in the Siem Reap region of the north are an iconic tourist attraction. Angkor Wat, the most famous of these, opens its doors to about 2.5 million tourists every year. Tourist numbers and their economic input are constantly on the rise in Cambodia; being one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, this rise is

critical to the economy and the livelihoods of millions of people within Cambodia.

Vietnam’s tourism industry leads to about 6 million direct and 2 million indirect jobs⁷⁷. Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi are two of the main tourist destinations, but other cities including Da Nang and Hoi An are actively promoting themselves as tourist destinations.

Tourists are usually unaware of the animal welfare issues behind commonly promoted tourist attractions. Often wanting to indulge in experiences not found at home, tourists are tempted to ride elephants, visit zoos, and even try cuisines forbidden in their own countries.

For tourists interested in eating dog and cat meat, restaurants can be found quite easily, particularly with the help of a guide or taxi/tuk tuk driver. Most Western travellers however tend to shy away from eating dog and cat meat, given their relationship with their pets back home. But Westerners are not the only travellers to the countries in question – travellers from China and South Korea, where consumption of dog and cat meat is common, frequently travel to Southeast Asia on holiday.

In some places, the potential exposure of tourists to the dog meat trade is more probable than in others. In Cambodia, for instance, unsuspecting tourists may walk by a dog roasting on a spit, or dog heads in a glass case outside local restaurants. In Hanoi, restaurants proudly display cages of live cats and dogs cowering in fear while they await slaughter. In Indonesia, tourists

visiting traditional markets may be exposed to dogs and cats being blowtorched to death.

Besides the risk of potential exposure outlined above, there is the undeniable evidence that the dog and cat meat trade is a significant impediment to rabies control and eradication. The continued presence of rabies in Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam presents a risk not only to the native populations but also to tourists.

The economic importance of tourism to local governments cannot be understated. The image of their country portrayed throughout the world is important: governments want their country to be seen as forward-thinking and positive, not as a society ignoring severe animal welfare issues⁷⁷.

Research into tourism and animal welfare highlights how important it is for international travellers not to be exposed to animal cruelty:

- 90% of respondents said it was important that their holiday company takes animal welfare seriously⁷⁸.
- 83% of respondents felt that tour operators should avoid activities that cause suffering for wild animals⁷⁹.
- 64% agree that holiday companies should not promote or sell attractions with captive animals⁸⁰.
- 54% agree they would complain to their holiday company if they felt an animal was being abused⁸¹.
- 52% agree they would not visit a country again after such experience⁸².
- 52% agree they would take action after seeing mistreated animals⁸³.
- 49% agree that seeing animal abuse would reduce holiday enjoyment⁸⁴.

A negative reputation due to animal welfare issues can have an impact on tourism, as the statistics above suggest. This has already been recognised by some authorities in Asian countries, as the example of Hanoi shows. A statement issued by the office of Hanoi Vice Mayor Nguyen Van Suu in 2018 reads: “Slaughtering and using dog and cat meat has created objections among tourists and international visitors living in Hanoi, affecting the image of a civilized capital”⁸⁵. Similarly, in September 2019, the Ho Chi Minh City Food Safety

Management Board urged locals to stop eating dog meat in an effort to improve the national image, as well as highlighting health risks of dog meat⁸⁶. Media coverage can spread disturbing news quickly, such as the widely publicised article on incidences in Bali where tourists reportedly mistakenly ate dog meat thinking it was chicken⁸⁷. These reports can create a very negative image of the country and significantly impact tourism.

Travellers are often advised by their doctors and home health ministries to take precautionary health measures before travelling internationally. The travel medical institutes in each country offer advice on the most necessary vaccinations and treatments prior to travelling. Travellers to most Southeast Asian countries are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against tetanus, rabies, hepatitis and diphtheria before their trip. Travellers might also be advised to refrain from coming into contact with certain animals such as livestock.

The economic importance of tourism to local governments cannot be understated. The image of their country portrayed throughout the world is important

Sadly, regardless of clear tourist revulsion to animal cruelty, and meticulous precautions over traveller health – particularly with regards to rabies – the dog and cat meat trade, along with the consumption and its associated risks, is not currently being given adequate consideration by the tourism industry. In comparison, other animal species and their welfare, such as captive wild animals, are far more frequently addressed by travel guidance and general tourism advice. In addition to the cruelty present in the trade, it is important for the tourism industry to protect their customers from diseases such as rabies. Hence, it is in the interest of tourists and the tourism industry for the dog and cat meat trade, and its associated obstacles to disease control and prevention, to end.

⁷⁴ World Travel and Tourism Council (2019)

⁷⁵ Ministry of Tourism Cambodia (2018)

⁷⁶ Das. (2019)

⁷⁷ AP News (2018)

⁷⁸ Fankhauser, P. (2018)

⁷⁹ Kantar Research on Behalf of World Animal Protection (2017)

^{80, 81, 82, 83, 84} ABTA (2019)

⁸⁵ Murray, B. (2018)

⁸⁶ Australian Associated Press (2019)

⁸⁷ Thomas, J. (2017)

9. Changing attitudes to dogs and cats as pets



With the developing culture of pet ownership, animal welfare issues have come more and more into public focus

© FOUR PAWS

Improving consumer lifestyles and increasing disposable income in Southeast Asian countries has resulted in significantly increasing pet ownership, not only among the high-income group, but also the middle class. The annual growth rate of the pet care industry in Asia between 2017-2022 is expected to be 8%, making this one of the few mass market industries to experience such rapid growth⁸⁸. The pet care market in the Philippines is expected to register a significant growth rate of 8.4%. This is expected to be followed by Vietnam at a growth rate of 8.0% during the forecast period⁸⁹.

With this developing culture of pet ownership, animal welfare issues have come more and more into public focus. It is likely that the increased ownership of dogs and cats as pets indicates and leads to a wider societal attachment to these animals in general. Keeping dogs

and cats as pets has been demonstrated to result in enhanced empathic development⁹⁰. Studies have shown that current pet owners are more attached to pets than non-owners; that adults who have owned pets as children or adolescents are more attached than those who never owned or who first owned them as adults; that women are more attached than men; that single people are more attached than married people; and that adults without children are more attached than those who are parents⁹¹.

In the 2014 ASEAN workshop on “relevant international standards for rabies”, responsible pet ownership was prominently discussed among participants. Several countries confirmed that they have ongoing campaigns on responsible pet ownership. Indonesia, being one of the countries to confirm such a campaign, also highlighted their focus on rabies and rabies awareness⁹².

⁸⁸ Fazira, E. (2018)
⁸⁹ SBWire (2019)
⁹⁰ Daly, B. et al. (2009)

⁹¹ Kidd, A. H. et al. (1989)
⁹² OIE (2014)

9.1 Local opposition to the dog and cat meat trade

There is undoubtedly growing local opposition to the dog and cat meat trade throughout Southeast Asia particularly among pet owners and young people.

Cambodia

In late 2018, His Excellency Heng Ratana, Director General of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) was one of the first government officials to publicly decry dog meat consumption. His social media post received thousands of shares, likes, and support from Khmer people.

In July 2019, CMAC, FOUR PAWS and Animal Rescue Cambodia held a workshop on the role of dogs and their importance to Cambodian society. The workshop, which also presented the results of FOUR PAWS investigations into the dog meat trade in Cambodia, was attended by more than 70 participants from the military, police, General Department of Animal Health and Production and other NGOs. At the end of the workshop, the overwhelming majority of participants indicated their willingness to join the fight to end the trade⁹³.



© FOUR PAWS

Vietnam

An increasing proportion of dogs and cats used to supply the demand for dog and cat meat are stolen pets, and this is quickly becoming a societal issue in Vietnam where the growing pet-owning and pet-loving population is becoming frustrated with the lack of laws to protect their animals. Dog thieves, armed with machetes and tasers, are hired by dog butchers to supply dogs. This illegal and violent activity with inadequate laws or enforcement to protect people's animals has

⁹³ VIER PFOTEN (2019)
⁹⁴ Winn, P. (2015)
⁹⁵ Jacobs, S. (2018)

resulted in unprecedented vigilante behaviour. Reports of dog thieves being seriously injured and even killed by furious villagers whose pets have been stolen are becoming more common. Furthermore, the media and social media in Vietnam have been flooded with clips of vigilante attacks on dog thieves⁹⁴, demonstrating the increasing opposition to the trade.

In the market research study conducted by FOUR PAWS, focus groups were conducted which assessed consumer attitudes towards trends in dog and cat meat consumption. Many indicated knowledge that younger consumers were less inclined to eat dog and cat meat. One male dog meat consumer in Ho Chi Minh City noted, “*Nowadays we raise dogs like pets and social media is more common where people write about the animals and say dogs are favourite pets and loyal. This has made people less and less want to eat the meat*”. Changing tastes in alcohol choice are also turning young people off dog meat: “*Young people drink beers and not spirits, and beer doesn't go well with dog meat*” claimed another male dog meat consumer in Ho Chi Minh City. Others noted societal concerns: “*Nowadays there is a popular trend of environmental protection and these same people are against dog meat consumption, however, it has not been made into the law in Vietnam yet*”.

Indonesia

In Indonesia opposition to the dog meat trade has become increasingly vocal, particularly amongst the younger generation, due to the exponential growth in pet ownership and associated concerns for animal welfare. Concerns over the public health and safety risks associated with the production and consumption of dog meat are growing as well, as is the global political commitment and responsibility to safeguard animals from cruelty.

On the 2 August 2018, the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition presented evidence of severe cruelty from its nationwide investigations at the National Coordination of Animal Welfare Meeting, attended by national and regional government officials. At the end of the closing session, all national participants agreed to issue a ban on the trade of dog and cat meat in Indonesia and to prohibit the issuance of health certification for dog and cat meat for human consumption⁹⁵.



© FOUR PAWS

Investigations from throughout the region have documented the extreme and inherent cruelty of all the stages of the trade



© FOUR PAWS

10. Putting an end to the dog and cat meat trade

FOUR PAWS is calling for an end to the dog and cat meat trade throughout the region for the following reasons:

1. The dog and cat meat trade is incompatible with rabies elimination: Ultimately, the unchallenged dog and cat meat trade is incompatible with the ASEAN Plus Three pledge, and all attempts to control and eliminate rabies will fail without addressing this illegal trade.

The dog and cat meat trade is the only trade known to encourage the mass and unregulated movement of dogs and cats of unknown disease and vaccination status across provincial and even international borders. The impact of the trade cannot be underestimated: experts know from experience that it takes just one infected animal to start an epidemic, so time truly is of the essence.

The trade clearly operates in breach of national disease control laws and regulations, as well as recommendations for mass canine vaccination and the restricted movement of dogs by leading human and animal health advisory bodies including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). There is mounting evidence – spanning decades – that suggests that the trade facilitates the transmission of the disease across provincial and international borders and disrupts all attempts to create herd immunity in dog populations, crucial for disease control and elimination. This coupled with an increasing recognition of the risk that all stages of the dog and cat meat trade pose to rabies transmission to humans, underlines that any attempt to eliminate rabies in the region will fail without addressing the trade in dogs and cats for human consumption. Whilst only a minority of the population consume dog and cat meat, and only a tiny fraction of society is reliant on it as a primary source of income, the dog and cat meat trade threatens the health and safety of the entire region.

2. The extreme cruelty of the dog and cat meat trade: Investigations from throughout the region have documented the extreme and inherent cruelty of all stages of the trade from sourcing/ capture, to transport,

sale and slaughter. This is often in contravention of national animal protection laws that exist, and in disregard to the vision of the OIE’s “Global Animal Welfare Strategy” endorsed by its World Assembly, of which Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam are all members. The vision is: “A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human wellbeing, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability”⁹⁶.

The dog and cat meat trade is the only trade known to encourage the mass and unregulated movement of dogs and cats of unknown disease and vaccination status across Southeast Asia

3. The trade is reliant on illegal and dangerous activities: The profitability and inner workings of the trade are often illegal and reliant on a lack of enforcement of laws that would significantly reduce – and in some instances prohibit – the trade. This includes criminal laws (including pet theft), anti-cruelty laws, and public health and safety laws (relating to health and hygiene as well as disease control and elimination).

4. Regulation of the trade is not a viable solution: Given that the trade is reliant on illegal operations, attempts to devise a way of humanely and safely regulating the trade would render it economically unviable. There is no substantiated evidence to suggest that regulation of dog and cat meat production would resolve the systematic cruelty involved or alleviate all the risks posed to human health. Furthermore, to date, no country has officially legalised or regulated the trade in dogs and cats for food, and no government or inter-governmental organisation has devised a humane way

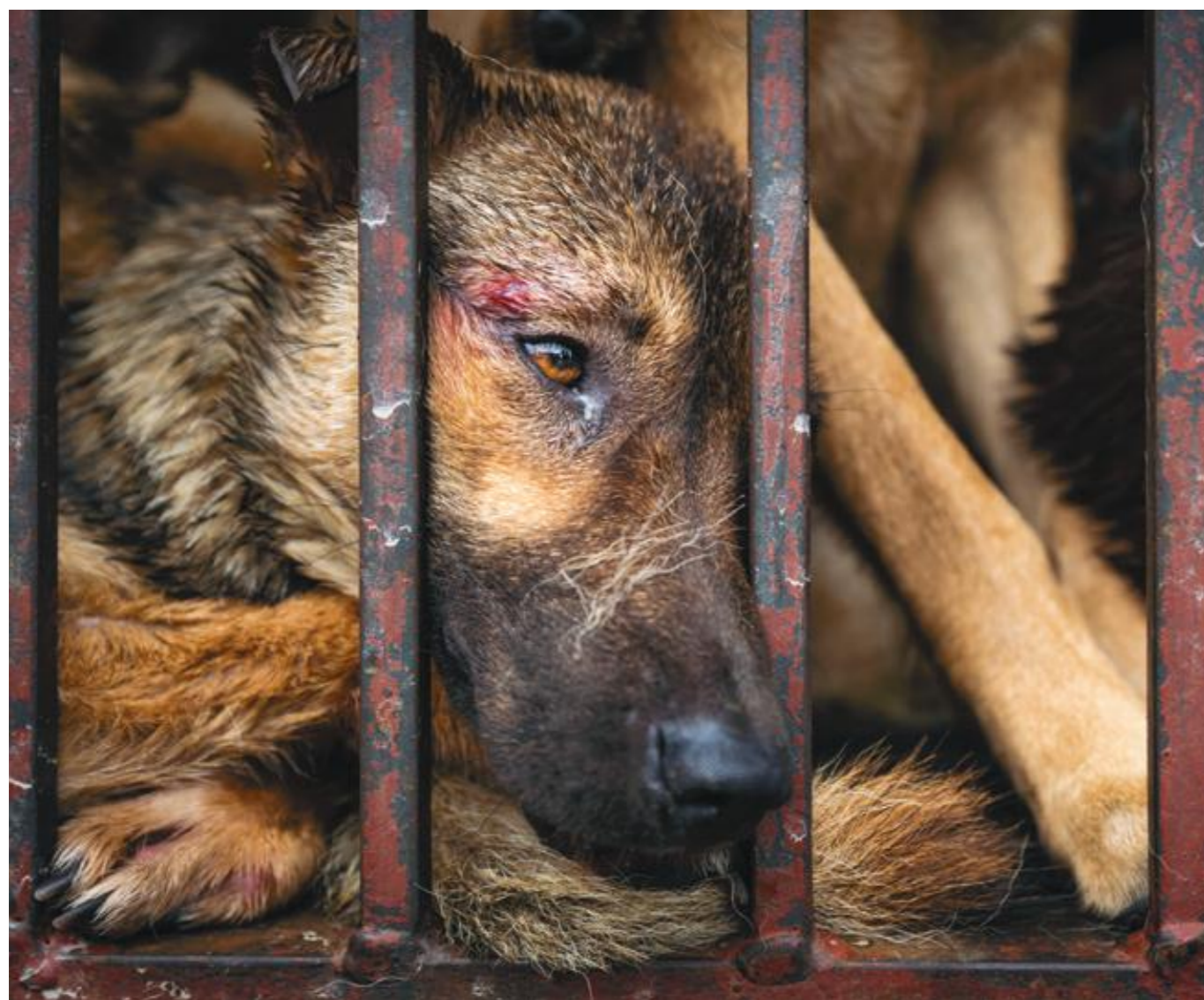
⁹⁶ OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) (2017)

of raising and slaughtering dogs and cats for commercial meat production. Any attempts to do so would be out of step with the rest of the world. An ever-growing number of countries and territories throughout the region are passing progressive laws on the grounds of animal and human health and welfare to prohibit these trades, in line with public sentiment and our knowledge of disease control requirements and commitments.

5. Economic and societal costs of the trade: Wherever dog and cat meat is popular, it is a contentious and divisive issue, with governments often caught between the demands of those defending dog and cat meat as a personal choice or “traditional food” and the ever-growing animal protection movement throughout the region. However, given the arguments above, coupled with rising pet ownership and associated responsibilities for governments and societies to provide adequate anti-cruelty legislation, as well as the

Throughout Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia tens of thousands of dogs and cats are slaughtered and consumed every day in gross violation of legislation

global intolerance to animal cruelty, the burden of the trade must be considered in terms of both economic and societal costs. Costs associated with sustaining and worsening disease transmission – notably rabies – as well as the cost to the country’s international reputation, tourism, and other investment industries and opportunities.



© FOUR PAWS

10.1 FOUR PAWS recommendations

Throughout Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia tens of thousands of dogs and cats are slaughtered and consumed every day in gross violation of legislation. Current practices not only violate animal welfare principles but can also result in the import of rabies-positive dogs and cats into and out of rabies-endemic provinces, endangering both human and animal health regionwide, even in the cities and provinces that have invested significantly in controlling and eliminating rabies, such as the Special Capital Region of Jakarta.

FOUR PAWS and its partner organisations and coalitions are well-positioned to assist governments with effective and positive nationwide campaigns to tackle the illegal activities associated with the dog and cat meat trade. Through the provision of expertise, support, coordination and resources, FOUR PAWS can assist with the implementation of a holistic approach required to tackle such a complex issue, targeting illegal activities and providing public education on the risks inherent in consuming dog and cat meat and in the trade itself.

FOUR PAWS is committed to supporting a multi-sectoral in-country and international approach to further the inextricably linked aims of eliminating rabies and ending the dog and cat meat trade forever.

Based on extensive research, investigations and on-the-ground experience, FOUR PAWS proposes and encourages the following actions to be taken by the governments of Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam in collaboration with local animal welfare organisations and international NGOs such as FOUR PAWS.

General recommendations:

- Issue strict and descriptive Directives to discourage dog and cat meat consumption.
- Publicise widely the government’s opposition to the dog and cat meat trade on grounds of public health and safety, animal welfare, economic stability and international reputation.
- Outline and update existing laws and regulations pertaining to the dog and cat meat trade and strengthening their enforcement.
- Undertake the closure of illegal dog and cat meat trade operations to demonstrate the governments’ opposition.

- Devise action plans in collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure adequate care of confiscated cats and dogs following closures of illegal establishments after the law has been fully publicised.
- Encourage those involved in the trade to transition voluntarily to alternative sources of income and livelihoods and offer incentives to facilitate the transition.
- Tighten cross-border controls and enforce existing laws pertaining to cross-border movement of dogs and cats, including making available facilities for housing confiscated animals.
- Build in-country veterinary capacity to facilitate targeted humane stray animal population management strategies, including incentivised dog and cat sterilisations and vaccinations.
- Encourage responsible pet ownership and discourage the sale of pets to the trade and pet dog and cat abandonment.
- Increase penalties for pet theft and associated violence towards pet owners by the dog and cat meat traders.



© FOUR PAWS

In addition, the following country-specific recommendations are considered of key priority:

Cambodia

The Government of Cambodia is encouraged to work with key stakeholders and provincial ministries and departments to:

- Create community plans in target areas of Siem Reap and Phnom Penh for closing establishments illegally involved in the dog meat trade.

- Engage with local and national media to declare that dog meat will not be tolerated on the basis that it is of detriment to tourism, public health, and animal welfare. Effective press coverage coupled with enforcement of existing laws will send a strong message to discourage consumption and make clear to those involved in the trade that the production and sale of dog and cat meat will no longer be tolerated.
- Develop and implement citywide awareness and education programmes with the help of national and international media, to raise awareness of the risk of the dog meat trade, particularly with regards to rabies.
- Introduce targeted sterilisation and rabies vaccination for roaming and owned dogs, to reduce the number of unwanted puppies born each year and to eliminate rabies.
- Discourage pet owners from selling their pet dogs and cats to the dog and cat meat trade through publishing information on responsible pet ownership.

Vietnam

The Government of Vietnam is encouraged to work with key stakeholders, including provincial ministries and departments to:

- Conduct further investigations into the illegal operations of the dog and cat meat trade nationwide, targeting key supply and demand provinces and cities, and assessing the threats the trade poses to public health and safety.
- Enforce existing laws and policies against the unsafe and unhygienic trade and slaughter of dogs and cats, and to enforce the explicit ban on the cat meat trade as outlined in Directive No: 09/1998/CT-TTg.
- Discourage pet theft through enforcement of existing laws and introduce tougher penalties for those caught stealing pets for the dog and cat meat trade.
- Monitor and report on cross border activity regarding dog and cat transportation, implement existing quarantine regulations, and conduct confiscations to discourage the trade.
- Develop a descriptive action plan to implement the widely publicised commitment to make Hanoi dog and cat meat-free in all of its central 21 districts by 2021.

Indonesia

The Government of Indonesia is encouraged to work with key stakeholders and provincial ministries and departments to:

- Take concrete actions towards implementing the Directive issued in September 2018 directing provincial and city governments to end the dog and cat meat trade, including issuing more strict and descriptive Directives with time-defined action plans and incentives for compliance.
- Introduce legislation to end the trans-provincial movement of dogs and cats.
- Introduce legislation to end the live sale and slaughter of dogs and cats in markets.
- Prioritise the creation of dog and cat meat-free cities and provinces in target areas, including Jakarta.

ASEAN member states

In 2014, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), FAO, OIE and WHO pledged commitment to resolve the rabies problem in Southeast Asia. The ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) set a target to eliminate rabies from the region by the year 2020. The international goal to achieve "Zero human rabies deaths by 2030" set out by FAO, OIE, WHO, and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) is recommended for ASEAN countries. To achieve this, governments in the countries need to increase their attention, funding, collaborative activities and commitment to controlling the disease, which must include ending the dog and cat meat trade.

The objectives set out for ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) include:

- To increase ASEAN cooperation to eliminate rabies and maintain rabies-free status.
- To strengthen capacities of the Veterinary Services and Human Health Services.
- To establish and continuously strengthen the coordinating and supporting mechanisms among stakeholders.
- To obtain and sustain high-level governmental engagement.



Improving consumer lifestyles and increasing disposable income in Southeast Asian countries has resulted in significantly increasing pet ownership

© FOUR PAWS

Based on the benefits of eliminating the dog and cat meat trade in relation to rabies eradication, we thereby urge ASEAN member states to:

- Assess the risks posed by the dog and cat meat trade within their countries where present, to human and animal health and societal goals, and those for ASEAN as a whole.
- Formulate and/or implement policies prohibiting the dog and cat meat trade.
- Strategically support countries in ending the trade.

Other governments and multilateral organisations

- Assess the presence and risks of the dog and cat meat trade in their countries, or those that may be posed by trading with other countries (both neighbours and trading partners).
- Take legislative action against the trade.
- Based on regional and global benefits to eliminating the dog and cat meat trade – including safeguarding human and animal health and welfare – support countries where the trade is rife in taking definitive actions to end the trade.

Tourism industry

Given that international and domestic tourists are potentially exposed to both health risks and psychological risks through potentially witnessing the

cruelty of the trade, the tourism industry is considered a key stakeholder in tackling the dog and cat meat trade and is urged to:

- Engage with countries where the dog and cat meat trade is present to highlight the reputational and public health risks of the trade to the tourism industry.
- Look at ways that they can reduce the risks of the trade through working with governments and NGOs interested in ending the trade.

International and domestic health bodies

International and domestic human and animal health advisory bodies are encouraged to:

- Consider compiling comprehensive evidence of the health risks (to both human and animal populations) of the dog and cat meat trade.
- Design and support the implementation of humane strategies for stray animal population management and mass vaccination.
- Educate the public on the risks of involvement in the dog and cat meat trade in terms of health and safety.
- Encourage and support governments in ending the trade.

11. ANNEX

11.1 FOUR PAWS – specific investigations

Cambodia – dog meat trade investigation

From November 2018 to May 2019, FOUR PAWS completed an investigation into the dog meat trade in Cambodia. During this period, the investigations team visited and documented over 130 locations involved in the dog meat trade including restaurants, holding areas, and slaughterhouses. They collected more than 100 interviews and extensive footage highlighting that in Cambodia, the dog meat trade is on a massive scale and continues to grow, while most people both locally and internationally remain unaware of just how big the problem is in this country.

Siem Reap province was identified as a key ‘hot spot’ for dog sourcing, supplying the demand for dog meat in the eastern half of the country, most notably Phnom Penh. Traffickers on motorbikes routinely travelled from Siem Reap to the Thai-Cambodian border hundreds of kilometres away to source dogs. The investigation revealed that the dog meat trade in Siem Reap province is of considerable magnitude, involving upwards of 7,000 dogs per month. At the time of the investigation, there were 21 active restaurants specialising in dog meat in and around Siem Reap, selling between 4-6 dogs per day depending on the season. Specialised minivans equipped with cages are used to export at least 3,750 dogs per month out of Siem Reap and across the country to supply dog meat restaurants in Phnom Penh, via slaughterhouses in the cities of Kampong Cham and Skun.

In the capital city of Phnom Penh, there were over 110 restaurants specialising in dog meat, the majority of which had opened only 2-3 years previously. Several restaurants were supplied with pre-killed dogs from a supplier outside the city.

The selling and trading of dogs is common. People who sell their dogs to traders commonly cite the following reasons for selling their dogs – the need to pay debt to microfinance institutions, that their dog had bitten or hunted livestock or that their dog had shown destructive behaviour. Throughout Cambodia, mass drowning is the most common dog slaughter technique, followed by choking, hanging, and bludgeoning. Several high-volume dog slaughterhouses outside of Phnom Penh supply the capital city’s demand for dog meat.

Additional findings, including from interviews conducted by FOUR PAWS investigators, showed that:

- Across Cambodia the dog meat trade involves millions of dogs, and the country also serves as a significant supplier of dogs into Vietnam.
- Many restaurant owners interviewed in Phnom Penh cite an increase in dog meat consumption and feel that the appetite for dog meat is growing across the city.
- Massive Chinese investment in cities like Sihanoukville might be further driving the dog meat trade.
- Demand for dog meat is highest in the cool and wet seasons (linked closely to the notion that dog meat warms the body).
- Dog meat consumers (women) reported that their physicians routinely prescribed dog meat to cure ailments and after having given birth.
- Given Cambodia’s lack of investment in rabies control and dog vaccination programs, the dog meat trade serves as a major public health threat both in Cambodia and Vietnam, where its dogs are consumed. During the investigation, dogs that were sick, biting, and clearly demonstrating neurologic disease were frequently sold into the trade.
- The vast majority of people involved in the dog meat trade reported that they would rather do something else but lack the skills or money to set up in an alternative business and earn an equivalent income.

Cambodia – dog meat trade market research

From January to April 2019, FOUR PAWS commissioned a market research study with a Cambodian market research agency, Market Strategy & Development Co., Ltd (MSD) to assess attitudes and behaviours towards dog meat consumption in Cambodia. The study focused on Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. The research began with a quantitative incidence check survey, followed by a usage and attitude survey, concluding with a qualitative phase consisting of focus group discussions with consumers. The study indicated that 53.6% of respondents have eaten dog meat at some time in their lives (72.4% of males and 34.8% of females).

The percentage of those who have tried it but only once is low (6.7%) compared to those who have eaten it more than 10 times (52.6%). Only 12.2% of respondents indicated that they consume dog meat regularly (defined as having consumed within the past month and more than 10 times before). Apart from the clear gender divide, consumption is similar across many demographics.

While this study focused on motivations and behaviours among dog meat consumers specifically, an initial prevalence survey indicated that dog meat is a controversial dish among many Khmer people and is actually refused by 59.8% of total respondents when questioned about their general meat consumption.

The meat is most often eaten in a group setting where food is shared, particularly among men. The most popular way to consume dog meat is with friends after work and with alcoholic beverages. Dog meat is in many ways seen as a substitute to beef as it is eaten while drinking alcohol, is shared with friends or family and is cooked and then served in a similar way. One dish is therefore not eaten whole by one person but instead snacked on throughout a drinking session. Dog meat costs approximately 5,000 Cambodian Riel (KHR), equivalent to \$1.25 for a dish, compared to beef at 10,000 KHR (\$2.50).

During focus group discussions held in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, dog meat consumers expressed little concern regarding the potential health dangers of eating the meat. In general, dog meat is viewed the same as any other type of meat. The primary concern expressed by consumers, however, related to how much or where they can eat the meat rather than whether it is safe to eat. Due to the perceived warming effects of the meat on the body, respondents indicated that it must be eaten in moderation and some believed that it cannot be eaten at home due to possible bad luck the dog meat can place on a person.

Dog meat appears not to be a traditional food and is in fact strongly viewed among consumers as not being a part of Cambodian culture. Rather, they perceive it is a foreign import dating back to the period when there was as significant Vietnamese population in Cambodia.

Vietnam – dog and cat meat trade market research

From July to September 2019, FOUR PAWS commissioned a similar market research study in Vietnam, pertaining to both dog and cat meat. The study focused on the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh

City, to assess regional differences in consumption. The research began with a quantitative incidence check survey, followed by a usage and attitude survey, ending with a qualitative phase consisting of focus group discussions with consumers.

The study found that 14% of those living in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) have at some point in their lives eaten dog meat, compared to 60% of those in Hanoi. With cat meat, 3% have tried it in HCMC compared to 8% in Hanoi. There is also a marked difference between male and female consumers, with males being approximately twice as likely to have tried dog and cat meat – 78% of males across both cities have eaten dog and 22% cat, compared to 37% of females having eaten dog and 10% cat. In the randomly selected sample there were no regular cat meat consumers in either city (regular being defined as having consumed within the past month and more than 10 times before), but for dog meat 10% of males and 2% of females were regular consumers, with higher percentages in Hanoi than in HCMC for both genders.

Apart from the clear gender divide, dog meat consumption is similar across many demographics. However, somewhat at odds with Vietnam’s young population the typical dog meat consumer is:

- Male
- Living in (or from) northern Vietnam
- An adult older than 25 years of age
- Earning a personal income of 4,500,000 – 6,499,999 VND and has a household income of 9,500,000 – 10,499,999 VND per month
- Married with children
- Educated to at least high school level
- A white-collar worker.

Cat meat consumers, in most respects, appear to match the profile of a dog meat consumer; however, with scant data no exact definition can be formulated.

The age people start eating dog and cat meat is, on average, around 18-19 years old; however, many will pick up the habit as a child in a dog meat-eating family, or conversely not try it until an older age as peer pressure to join colleagues after work kicks in. Furthermore, among dog and cat-eating families, there appears to be a common practice of parents ‘tricking’ their children into eating dog or cat meat the first time.

Although continued consumption is still an issue, it is important to note that there is strong opposition to the consumption of dog and cat meat amongst many in Vietnam. In particular in HCMC 88% of respondents said they would refuse to eat dog and 89% would refuse cat (almost entirely the same people that would refuse dog meat). In Hanoi, refusal is lower, with 44% potentially refusing dog meat and 50% who would refuse cat meat.

11.2 Coalition investigations

Dog Meat Free Indonesia – North Sulawesi live animal markets

In North Sulawesi, Indonesia, there are an estimated 200 'traditional markets' throughout the province, many of them going by the name 'pasar extreme' ('extreme market'). At these markets, the cruelty endured by the animals slaughtered onsite is unimaginable.

After customers select dogs and cats for slaughter, the animals are hit over the head once or twice with a wooden bat by the traders and then blowtorched whilst still clearly alive to remove their hair. This all happens in full view of locals and tourists, as well as other terrified caged animals that huddle in cages, trembling, and awaiting their turn.

The markets are popular amongst locals and it is routine for children to spend time in the market where not only dogs and cats, but chickens, ducks and other live animals await their death, alongside many species of protected wildlife, fish, bats and rats. It is estimated that at the extreme Tomohon market alone, 40 – 60 dogs are slaughtered each week, but that number goes up to approximately 200 dogs per week during certain festivities (Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.). An estimated 50 cats are slaughtered each week at Tomohon market, going up to 150 per week during the same festivals.

Dog Meat Free Indonesia – Surakarta dog meat trade investigation

In January 2019, the Dog Meat Free Indonesia (DMFI) team conducted in-depth investigations into the dog meat trade in Surakarta, commonly referred to as "Solo", a city in Indonesia's populous island of Java. These inquiries followed earlier investigations by DMFI and DMFI member Jakarta Animal Aid Network into the city's dog meat trade in 2016 – 2017, in which Surakarta was identified as a key "hot spot" for the demand for dog meat on Java.

The 2019 investigation corroborated the previous findings that the dog meat trade in Solo operates on

a huge scale, with an estimated 14,000 dogs being slaughtered each month; and that the city serves as an epicentre for much of the trade throughout the island, driving the live – and illegal – trade in dogs from surrounding provinces, notably West Java. This mass and unregulated trade encourages dog theft and large-scale movement of dogs of unknown disease and vaccination status from and into densely populated areas. This is of particularly grave concern given that rabies remains endemic throughout the provinces on the island with the exception of the cities of Jakarta and Yogyakarta that have committed extensive resources and efforts into securing and maintaining this status. The situation in Central Java is also of concern given that the demand for dog meat is encouraging a trade in dogs throughout the island.



© FOUR PAWS | Animal Rescue Cambodia

11.3 FOUR PAWS Southeast Asia alliances and local activities

Southeast Asia Partnership Programme

The FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care Southeast Asia Partnership Programme was launched in 2018, and features the following projects:

Saving Pagoda Animals – Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, the suffering of dogs and cats is immense. There is little veterinary capacity, a rampant dog meat trade, and unwanted animals are often dumped at Buddhist pagodas due to the misconception that monks will take care of them. FOUR PAWS has teamed up with local charity Animal Rescue Cambodia to supply much-needed veterinary services to local communities, with a focus on working at Buddhist pagodas to improve animal welfare, education, and awareness. The project also aims to train young Khmer veterinarians in spaying/neutering and in stray animal care, and to dispel the myths associated with dog meat.



Cats Matter Too – Da Nang and Hoi An, VIETNAM

While most people have heard about the dog meat trade, few are aware of the rampant theft and trade of cats for meat. Known as 'little tiger', the dish is increasing in popularity in restaurants throughout Vietnam. FOUR PAWS and local groups PAWS for Compassion and Vietnam Cat Welfare have launched the "Cats Matter Too" project in Central Vietnam, focusing on raising local awareness of the issue, keeping cats safe from the trade, rescuing cats in need, offering free spay/neuter services to pet owners as well as the neutering of stray cats. The project also includes workshops at local schools to impart a message of compassion towards all animals.

In Indonesia there is a sizable dog meat trade, and suffering of both pets and strays due to lapses in responsible pet ownership and a lack of understanding of the basic needs of animals

Stray Animal Care Borneo, INDONESIA

Deep in the heart of the rainforest, FOUR PAWS runs the first and only project of its kind in Kalimantan, Borneo, focusing on improving stray animal welfare while also protecting endangered wildlife from diseases that can be transmitted by domestic animals. In conjunction with our local partner Pro Natura, our team conducts mobile sterilisation clinics, primarily for cats; treats sick and injured animals; and educates the community on responsible pet ownership.

Program Dharma – Bali, INDONESIA

Program Dharma promotes One Health principles to improve the welfare of dogs in Balinese communities throughout East Bali. The regency of Karangasem is one of Bali's poorest areas and also home to the highest recorded number of human rabies cases in 2018 – alongside a flourishing dog meat trade. The aim of the project is to establish a sustained community-supported effort that mitigates the ongoing threat of rabies in humans and dogs in Bali, through the establishment of an Animal Health Clinic and Outreach project in Karangasem. The project also sponsors monthly community animal health days, where community members can have their dogs sterilised and vaccinated for free and educates the local community on the inherent risks associated with the dog and cat meat trade.

Compassion Through Education – Jakarta, INDONESIA

In Indonesia there is widespread suffering of both companion and wild animals. There is a sizeable dog meat trade, and suffering of both pets and strays due to lapses in responsible pet ownership and a lack of understanding of the basic needs of animals. To address this, FOUR PAWS has teamed up with charity Jakarta Animal Aid Network to create an engaging online educational platform with a variety of toolkits, handouts, and lessons on animal welfare to help spread awareness and provide training materials for teachers, students and public alike. The project also supports educational seminars and presentations to schools, embassies, organisations, and at events throughout the capital city of Jakarta.

Thailand's Forgotten Dogs – Bang Saphan, THAILAND

While Thailand may be best known for its beautiful temples, beaches, and delicious cuisine, few stop to think about the suffering of stray dogs and cats which is rife throughout the country. FOUR PAWS has teamed up with local charity, Headrock Dogs Rescue, to staff an outreach team and deliver veterinary services to a huge, underserved area in Central Thailand. In the province of Prachuap Khiri Khan, the project provides desperately needed veterinary and feeding services for over 2,000 dogs, many living in the grounds of temples, as well as responding to emergencies, offering free spay/neuter services, and helping to educate monks, nuns, and local caregivers on stray animal care.

11.4 FOUR PAWS alliances

Asia Canine Protection Alliance (ACPA)

Founded in May 2013, the Asia Canine Protection Alliance (ACPA) is an international alliance of animal protection organisations including Animals Asia, Change for Animals Foundation, Humane Society International, and FOUR PAWS. ACPA is committed to realising the dual aims of eliminating rabies and ending the trade in and demand for dogs for human consumption in Vietnam.

Given the pledge made by countries throughout the region to eliminate rabies – a disease which has substantial economic, human health and animal welfare impacts – by the year 2020, ACPA is working to build collaborative relationships with governments throughout Southeast Asia where the dog meat trade is prevalent, to strengthen and enforce existing regulations which can serve to prohibit the trade.

By working with governments and human and animal health experts, ACPA has already secured a moratorium on the trade in dogs between Thailand and Vietnam

By working with governments and human and animal health experts, ACPA has already secured a moratorium on the trade in dogs between Thailand and Vietnam. Vietnam's Department of Animal Health also issued a directive to stop the illegal import of dogs. With government support, ACPA campaigns in key border areas to target illegal traders and will continue to work in close collaboration with regional governments and local law enforcers to ensure an end to this brutal trade.

ACPA is committed to ending the dog meat trade and focuses on:

- Working with and supporting governments and local authorities throughout Southeast Asia to enforce existing regulations so as to help ensure these countries fulfil their pledge to eliminate rabies by 2020

- Highlighting the human health risks associated with the dog meat trade and the slaughter, butchery and consumption of dogs
- Providing humane and sustainable dog population management solutions
- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Encouraging a compassionate attitude towards dogs by highlighting the positive impacts they have on society.

Dog Meat Free Indonesia (DMFI)

The Dog Meat Free Indonesia Coalition (DMFI) was founded in November 2017 by Humane Society International, Change for Animals Foundation, Jakarta Animal Aid Network, and Animal Friends Jogja, to call for an end to Indonesia's cruel and dangerous dog meat trade. FOUR PAWS officially joined in May 2018.

DMFI is committed to working with local communities, celebrities and the authorities to raise awareness of the illegal dog meat trade and the risks it poses to both human and animal health, as well as the enormous amount of suffering the trade causes to millions of dogs every year.

DMFI is committed to:

- Highlighting the human health risks associated with the trade in, and consumption of, dogs
- Encouraging a more compassionate attitude towards all dogs
- Promoting responsible pet ownership
- Providing humane and sustainable dog population management and rabies elimination solutions
- Supporting the Government to ensure Indonesia fulfils its pledge to eliminate rabies by 2020
- Equipping local law enforcers with the skills, resources and knowledge to ensure adequate enforcement of existing laws and regulations.



© FOUR PAWS



© Animal Rescue Cambodia

12. References

- ABTA – The Travel Association. (2019). **Animals in Tourism**. <https://www.abta.com/industry-zone/raising-standards-in-the-industry/animals-in-tourism>
- Asia Canine Protection Alliance. (2015). **Vietnamese authorities clamp down on illegal importation of dogs and dog meat**. <http://www.acpagroup.org/acpa-s-work/acpa-news/item/35-vietnamese-authorities-clamp-down-on-illegal-importation-of-dogs-and-dog-meat.html>.
- Asia Canine Protection Alliance. (2013). **Risk Assessment - The Risk the Dog Meat Trade Poses to Rabies Transmission and the ASEAN Plus 3 Countries' Pledge to Eliminate Rabies by 2020**. http://acpagroup.org/images/resources/Risk%20Assessment_TheIllegalTradeinDogsandRabiesTransmission_ACPA.pdf
- Adiani, S. & Tangkere, E. (2007). **Rabies Case Study On Dog's Head (Canis Familiaris) in Manado, Airmadidi & Langowan Wet Markets**. In B.P. Priosoeryanto & R. Tiuria (Eds.), *Proceeding of the Mini Workshop*, Southeast Asia Germany Alumni Network (SEAG), Manado, Indonesia. Kassel University Press.
- Agence France-Presse (AFP). (2015, January 29). **3 Tons Of Live Cats Destined To Be Eaten Have Been Seized In Vietnam**. <https://www.businessinsider.com/afp-thousands-of-live-cats-from-china-seized-in-vietnam-2015-1>
- Anh, D.D., Lopez, A.L., Thiem, V.D., Grahek, S.L., Duong, T.N., Park, J.K., Kwon, H.J., Favorov, M., Hien, N.T. & Clemens, J.D. (2011). **Use of Oral Cholera Vaccines in an Outbreak in Vietnam: A Case Control Study**. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 5(1): e1006, doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0001006. Vietnam's Capital Urges Residents to Stop Eating Dog Meat. (2018, September 11) <https://apnews.com/f39266416eb34ad6b41fdfe9efee1899>
- Arkow, P. (2014). **Form of emotional blackmail: Animal abuse as a risk factor for domestic violence**. *Domestic Violence Report*, 19(4), 49-60.
- American Veterinary Medical Association (2013). **Guideline for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition**. <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>
- Belotto, A., Leanes, L.F., Schneider, M.C., Tamayo, H. & Correa, E. (2005). **Overview of Rabies in the Americas**. *Virus Research*, 111(1): 5-12.
- Bendixsen, T. (2014). **There Is Hope for the Victims of the Vietnam Dog Meat Trade**. <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/there-is-hope-for-the-victims-of-the-vietnam-dog-meat-trade>
- Bhikkhu, Thanissaro. (1993). **The Buddhist Monastic Code I**. <https://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/thanissaro/bmc1.pdf>
- Bloomberg. (2008). **Dog Meat May Be Spreading Vietnam's Cholera Outbreak in Hanoi**. <https://www.amchamvietnam.com/dog-meat-may-be-spreading-vietnam-s-cholera-outbreak-in-hanoi/>
- Australian Associated Press. (2019, September 16). **Ho Chi Minh City tries to deter dog eating**. *Canberra Times*. <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6388949/ho-chi-minh-city-tries-to-deter-dog-eating/>
- Chalermchaikit T., Navarat A., Muangyai M., Bhahmsa R. & Churnkasian P. (1982). **Epidemiological surveillance of trichinosis outbreak in Petchaboon Province**. *The Thai Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, 12(1), 22.
- Cochrane, J. (2017, March 25). **Indonesians' Taste for Dog Meat Is Growing, Even as Others Shun It**. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/25/world/asia/indonesia-dog-meat.html>
- Coconuts Bali. (2019, July 4). **Nearly 80 Stalls Closed since Dog Meat Trade Ban, Officials Say Recent Inspection Found Some Still Selling RW**. *Coconuts Bali*. <https://coconuts.co/bali/news/nearly-80-stalls-closed-since-dog-meat-trade-ban-officials-say-recent-inspection-found-some-still-selling-rw/>
- Cui, J. & Wang, Z.Q. (2001). **Outbreaks of Human Trichinellosis Caused by Consumption of Dog Meat in China**. *Parasite*, 8(2 - supply), S74-S77. doi:10.1051/parasite/200108s2074.
- Currie, C. L. (2006). **Animal cruelty by children exposed to domestic violence**. *Child abuse & neglect*. 30(4), 425-435.
- Daly, Beth, and L. L. Morton. (2009). **Empathic Differences in Adults as a Function of Childhood and Adult Pet Ownership and Pet Type**. *Anthrozoos: A Multidisciplinary Journal of The Interactions of People & Animals*. 22, 371–82. doi:10.2752/089279309X12538695316383.
- Das, K. (2019, January 18). **Vietnam's Tourism Industry Continues Its Growth in 2018**. *Vietnam Briefing News*. <https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnams-tourism-industry-continues-growth-2018.html/>
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2018a). **TripAdvisor Removes Promotion of North Sulawesi's Brutal Live Animal Markets Following DMFI's Investigations**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/tripadvisor-removes-promotion-of-north-sulawesi-s-brutal-live-animal-markets-following-dmfi-s-investigations>.
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia (2018b). **Campaigners Rejoice as Indonesian Government Pledges to Ban Dog and Cat Meat Trade**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/campaigners-rejoice-as-indonesian-government-pledges-to-ban-dog-and-cat-meat-trade>
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2018c). **North Sulawesi Governor accused of hypocrisy as Manado set to host World Rabies Day events whilst brutal dog meat trade allowed to thrive**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/north-sulawesi-governor-accused-of-hypocrisy-as-manado-set-to-host-world-rabies-day-events-whilst-brutal-dog-meat-trade-allowed-to-thrive-2>
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (n.d.), **Dogs Deserve Better**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/issues/dog-meat-trade>. Accessed 19 Sept. 2019.
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2019a). **Horrific footage reveals large-scale trade in dogs for human consumption in Indonesia, defying the government's pledge to end the trade**, 25 April 2019, <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/horrific-footage-reveals-large-scale-trade-in-dogs-for-human-consumption-in-indonesia-defying-the-government-s-pledge-to-end-the-trade>
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2019b). **Central Java's Karanganyar Regency Announces Action Plan to End the Dog Meat Trade after Campaigners Expose Brutal Trade in Dogs for Human Consumption**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/central-java-s-karanganyar-regency-announces-action-plan-to-end-the-dog-meat-trade-after-campaigners-expose-brutal-trade-in-dogs-for-human-consumption>
- Dog Meat Free Indonesia. (2019c). **250,000 petition signatures are presented to Indonesia's North Sulawesi Governor defying Government's call to end the dog and cat meat trade**. <https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/our-work/news/item/central-java-s-karanganyar-regency-announces-action-plan-to-end-the-dog-meat-trade-after-campaigners-expose-brutal-trade-in-dogs-for-human-consumption>
- Fahrion, A. S. Taylor, L. H., Torres, G., Muller, T., Durr, S., Knopf, L., de Balogh, K., Gordoncillo, M. J. & Abela-Ridder, B. (2017). **The Road to Dog Rabies Control and Elimination - What Keeps Us from Moving Faster?** *Frontiers in Public Health*. vol. 5, 103, doi:10.3389/fpubh.2017.00103.
- Fankhauser, P. (2018), **The Next Step in Our Animal Welfare Policy**. <https://www.thomascookgroup.com/blog/details/the-next-step-in-our-animal-welfare-policy>
- Fazira, E. (2018). **Asian Trends in Pet Food and Pet Health**. <https://vivasia.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Euromonitor-International.pdf>
- Hampson, K., Dushoff, J., Cleaveland, S., Haydon, D. T., Kaare, M., Packer C. & Dobson A. (2009). **Transmission Dynamics and Prospects for the Elimination of Canine Rabies**. *PLoS Biology* 7(3): e1000053. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000053>
- Hampson, K., Coudeville, L., Lembo, T., Sambo, M., Kieffer, A., Attlan, M., Barrat, J., Blanton, J. D., Briggs, D. J., Cleaveland, S., Costa, P., Freuling, C. M., Hiby, E., Knopf, L., Leanes, F., Meslin, F. X., Metlin, A., Miranda M.E., Müller, T., Nel, L. H., Recuenco, S., Rupprecht, C. E., Schumacher, C., Taylor, L., Vigilato, M. A., Zinsstag, J.,

- Dushoff J. & Global Alliance for Rabies Control Partners for Rabies Prevention. (2015). Estimating the Global Burden of Endemic Canine Rabies. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003709.
- Thanh Hien News. (2016, January 13). **1 Ton of Dogs, Cats Seized before Reaching Northern Vietnam Restaurants**. <http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/1-ton-of-dogs-cats-seized-before-reaching-northern-vietnam-restaurants-58045.html>
- Hodal, K. (2013). **How Eating Dog Became Big Business in Vietnam**. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/27/eating-dog-vietnam-thailand-kate-hodal>
 - Hu, R. L., Fooks, A. R., Zhang, S. F., Liu, Y. & Zhang, F. (2008). **Inferior Rabies Vaccine Quality and Low Immunization Coverage in Dogs (Canis Familiaris) in China**. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 136(11), 1556–63. doi:10.1017/S0950268807000131.
 - Jacobs, S. (2018, January 25). **Sickening Footage of Dog Slaughter at Indonesian Markets Released**. *Sydney Morning Herald*., <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/sickening-footage-of-dog-slaughter-at-indonesian-markets-released-20180124-h0nke9.html>
 - Kantar Research on behalf of World Animal Protection. (2017). **Wild Animals in Entertainment**. s.l.: s.n
 - K9 Magazine. (2016). **Changing the Outlook for Dogs in the Philippines: The Next Generation Has Its Say on Dog Meat Trade**. <http://www.k9magazine.com/changing-the-outlook-for-dogs-in-the-philippines-the-next-generation-has-its-say/>
 - Khamboonruang, C.. (1991) **The Present Status of Trichinellosis in Thailand**. *Southeast Asia Journal of Tropical Medicine and Health*. 22(suppl), 312-315.
 - Kidd, A. H., & Kidd, R. M. (1989). **Factors in Adults' Attitudes toward Pets**. *Psychological Reports*. 65, 903-910.
 - Kureishi, A., Xu, L. Z., Wu, H. & Stiver, H. G. (1992). **Rabies in China: Recommendations for Control**. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. 70(4), 443–50.
 - Lee, D. (2018, January 30). **Dogs, Cats Slaughtered: "Extreme" Markets Horrify Activists**. <https://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/indonesia/bahasa/englishedition/194790-dog-cat-markets-animal-cruelty>.
 - Llewellyn, A. & Nasution, A. R. (2017, November 23). **The Uncomfortable Truth Behind Indonesia's Dog Meat Trade**. https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/8x5jqp/the-uncomfortable-truth-behind-indonesias-dog-meat-trade
 - McPhedran, S. (2009). **Animal Abuse, Family Violence, and Child Wellbeing: A Review**. *Journal of Family Violence*. 24 (1), 41–52. doi:10.1007/s10896-008-9206-3.
 - Ministry of Tourism Cambodia (2019). **Tourism Statistics Report – Year 2018**. https://www.tourismcambodia.com/img/resources/cambodia_tourism_statistics_2018.pdf
 - Murray, B.. (2018, September 14). **Vietnam Dog Meat Diners Are out of Fashion – Meet the Vendors Keeping the Tradition Alive**. *Inews*. <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/vietnam-dog-meat-restaurants-vendors-hanoi-protests/>
 - Nam, L. (2019, September 12). **Saigon urges residents to stop eating dog meat**. *VN Express International*. <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/life/trend/saigon-urges-residents-to-stop-eating-dog-meat-3982376.html>
 - Ngo, T. C., Nguyen, D. T., Tran, H. H., Le, T. H., Nguyen, H. T., Diep, T. T., Lan Nguyen, T. P., Nguyen, B. M., Tran, N. D., Yamashiro, T., Morita, K., Nguyen, T. H. & Ehara, M. (2011). **Imported Dogs as Possible Vehicles of Vibrio Cholerae O1 Causing Cholera Outbreaks in Northern Vietnam**. *The Open Infectious Diseases Journal*, 5(1), 127–34. doi: 10.2174/1874279301105010127
 - Nguyen, K. A. T., Ngo, G. C., Nguyen, D. V., Nguyen, T. Q., Phan, T. T. et al. (2008). **Quick detection of genomic rabies virus by direct RT PCR**. [Article in Vietnamese] *Vietnam J Mil Pharm Med*, 33, 114–118.
 - Nguyen, A. K., Nguyen, D. V., Ngo, G. C., Nguyen, T. T., Inoue, S., Yamada, A., Dinh, X. K., Nguyen, D. V., Phan, T. X., Pham, B. Q., Nguyen, H. T. & Nguyen, H.T. (2011). **Molecular Epidemiology of Rabies Virus in Vietnam (2006-2009)**. *Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 64(5), 391–96.
 - Nibert, D. (2017). **Animal Oppression and Capitalism**. ABC-CLIO. 978-1-4408-5074-5.
 - Association of South-East Asian Nations. (2015). **ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy**. <https://asean.org/storage/2017/02/ASEAN-Rabies-Elimination-Strategy.pdf>
 - **Hanoi's plan to ban dog meat puts pressure on hundreds of vendors**. (2018, October 1). 2018. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Business-trends/Hanoi-s-plan-to-ban-dog-meat-puts-pressure-on-hundreds-of-vendors>
 - OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). (2014). **Benchmark Document: Rabies and Rabies-Related Initiatives in ASEAN Member States (2014)**. http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/fileadmin/SRR_Activities/STANDZ/Benchmark_Document_Final_V7.pdf
 - OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). (2017). **The Global Animal Welfare Strategy**. https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Welfare/docs/pdf/Others/EN_OIE_AW_Strategy.pdf
 - Penman, A. (2019, 25 April). **Dog Campaigners Demand Action Not Words over Horror Meat Markets**. *The Mirror*. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/indonesia-vowed-stop-dog-meat-14579168>.
 - Perry, S. (2014, 22 November). **For the Love of Dog**. *South China Morning Post*. <https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1644440/love-dog>.
 - Pew Research Center. (2015). **The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050**. <https://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2015>
 - Phillips, A. (2014). **Understanding the Link between Violence to Animals and People**. <https://aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/Understanding%20the%20Link%20between%20Violence%20to%20Animals%20and%20People.pdf>
 - Polak, K. (2018). **Going Dog Meat-Free in Indonesia to Help End Rabies**. <https://endrabiesnow.org/stories/view/going-dog-meat-free-in-indonesia-to-help-end-rabies>.
 - Quimpo, G. S.. (2015, November 24). **End the Dog Meat Trade**. *Animal Blawg*. <https://animalblawg.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/end-the-dog-meat-trade/>.
 - Republic of the Philippines Metropolitan Manila Commission Quezon City – Office of the Vice-Governor. (1982). Ordinance No. 82-02. https://paws.org.ph/downloads/mmc_ord_8202.pdf
 - Sack, D. A., Sac, B. S., Nair, G. B. & Siddique, A. K. (2004). **Cholera**. *The Lancet*, 363(9404), 223–33. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(03)15328-7.
 - Sarahtika, D. (2017, November 9). **Advocacy Groups, Celebrities Call for End to Barbaric Dog Meat Trade in Indonesia**. *Jakarta Globe*. <https://jakartaglobe.id/culture/advocacy-groups-celebrities-call-end-indonesias-barbaric-dog-meat-trade>.
 - SBWire. (2018, May 8). **Southeast Asia Pet Care Market to Grow at a CAGR of 6.8% from 2014 to 2020**. *Digital Journal*. <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/3766186#ixzz5kUap3D4N>
 - Smith, K. (2018). **Hanoi Becomes Vietnam's First City to Ban Dog Meat Trade**. <https://www.livekindly.co/hanoi-becomes-vietnams-first-city-ban-dog-meat-trade/>
 - Tam, L. (2018, June 24). **Asia's booming dog meat business and the activists seeking to end a cruel trade**. *South China Morning Post*. <https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/health-wellness/article/2151975/asias-booming-dog-meat-business-and-activists-seeking-end>
 - Taylor, L. H., Wallace, R. M., Balaram, D., Lindemayer, J. M., Ecekery, D. C., Mutonono-Watkiss, B., Parravani, E. & Nel, L. H. (2017). **The Role of Dog Population Management in Rabies Elimination - A Review of Current Approaches and Future Opportunities**. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*. 4, 109. doi:10.3389/fvets.2017.00109.

- Thomas, J. & Robinson, L.. (2017, June 19). **Evidence Shows Dogs in Bali Are Being Brutally Killed and the Meat Sold to Unsuspecting Tourists.** *Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News.* <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-19/evidence-shows-dogs-in-bali-brutally-killed-meat-sold-tourists/8620128>
- VIER PFOTEN. (2018). **The Cruel Dog and Cat Meat Trade in South-East Asia.** <https://www.four-paws.org/campaigns-topics/topics/companion-animals/ending-the-dog-and-cat-meat-trade-in-southeast-asia>
- VIER PFOTEN and MSD. (2019). **Dog Meat Consumption in Cambodia.** Manuscript in preparation.
- VIER PFOTEN and MSD. (2019). **Dog and Cat Meat Consumption in Vietnam.** Manuscript in Preparation.
- VIER PFOTEN and Change for Animals Foundation. (2019). **Investigation of Cat Meat Industry in Vietnam.** Manuscript in Preparation.
- **Vietnam Jails Six Dog Thieves for Combined 30 Years.** (2017, May 28). <https://tuoitrenews.vn/society/41175/vietnam-jails-six-dog-thieves-for-combined-30-years>
- Government of Vietnam. (2008). Decree No. 119/2008/ND-CP amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 33/2005/ND-CP of 15 March 2005 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Ordinance on Animal Health. (2008). <https://www.ecolex.org/details/legislation/decreo-no-1192008nd-cp-amending-and-supplementing-a-number-of-articles-of-the-governments-decreo-no-332005nd-cp-of-15-march-2005-detailing-the-implementation-of-a-number-of-articles-of-the-ordinance-on-animal-health-lex-faoc085713/>
- Walden, M. & Nur Arifah, I. 2019, June 26. **Dogs Killed and Eaten by the Thousands Every Month in Indonesian City of Solo.** *Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News.* <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-26/dog-meat-consumption-in-indonesia-cruel-and-a-health-risk/11243670>
- Wertheim, H. F. L., Nguyen, T. Q., Nguyen, K. A. T., de Jong, M. D., Taylor, W. R. J., Le, T. V., Nguyen, H. H., Nguyen, H. T. H., Farrar, J., Horby, P & Nguyen, H. D. (2009). **Furious Rabies after an Atypical Exposure.** *PLOS Medicine.* 6(3), e1000044. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000044.
- Windiyansih, C., Wilde, H., Meslin, F. X., Suroso, T. & Widarso, H. S. (2004). **The Rabies Epidemic on Flores Island, Indonesia (1998-2003).** *Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand (Chotmaihet Thangphaet).* 87, 1389-93.
- Winn, P. (2015, April 2). **Dog Thief Down: Pet Lovers Turned Vigilantes in Vietnam.** *Public Radio International.* <https://www.pri.org/stories/dog-thief-down-pet-lovers-turned-vigilantes-vietnam-video>.
- Worlddata. (2019). **Average income around the world (2018).** <https://www.worlddata.info/average-income.php>.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2018a). **WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies – Third Report.** <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272364/9789241210218-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- World Health Organisation (WHO). (2018b). **Frequently asked questions about rabies for the General Public.** https://www.who.int/rabies/Rabies_General_Public_FAQs_21Sep2018.pdf?ua=1
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2019). **Rabies.** <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>
- World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). (2017). **WSAVA Expresses Opposition to Dog and Cat Meat Trade in New Position Statement.** <https://www.wsava.org/WSAVA/media/Documents/Press%20Releases/Dog-and-cat-meat-trade-press-release.pdf>
- World Travel and Tourism Council. (2019). **Cambodia 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights.** <https://www.wttc.org/economic-impact/country-analysis/country-data/>
- World Travel and Tourism Council. (2019). **Indonesia 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights.** <https://www.wttc.org/economic-impact/country-analysis/country-data/>
- World Travel and Tourism Council. (2019). **Vietnam 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights.** <https://www.wttc.org/economic-impact/country-analysis/country-data/>




At FOUR PAWS we care about the welfare of all sentient beings and work tirelessly to make the world a better place for them all



VIER PFOTEN International

Linke Wienzeile 236
1150 Vienna, Austria
phone: +43-1-545 50 20-0
office@four-paws.org

-  [four-paws.org](https://www.four-paws.org)
-  facebook.com/fourpaws.org
-  twitter.com/fourpawsint
-  youtube.com/fourpawsinternational
-  instagram.com/four_paws_international