



An Animals Asia investigation Report No.1,
**Lies, illegality and stolen lives:
a true crime story**

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Lies, illegality and stolen lives: a true crime story

An Animals Asia investigation into China's dog meat industry (2011-2014)

About the investigation

According to various media reports, more than 10 million dogs and 4 million cats end up on the dining table every year across China. Since Animals Asia was established in 1998, China's dog meat industry has been a major focus of our work. Over the years, our investigators have made numerous field visits throughout the country to discover the true nature of the trade.*

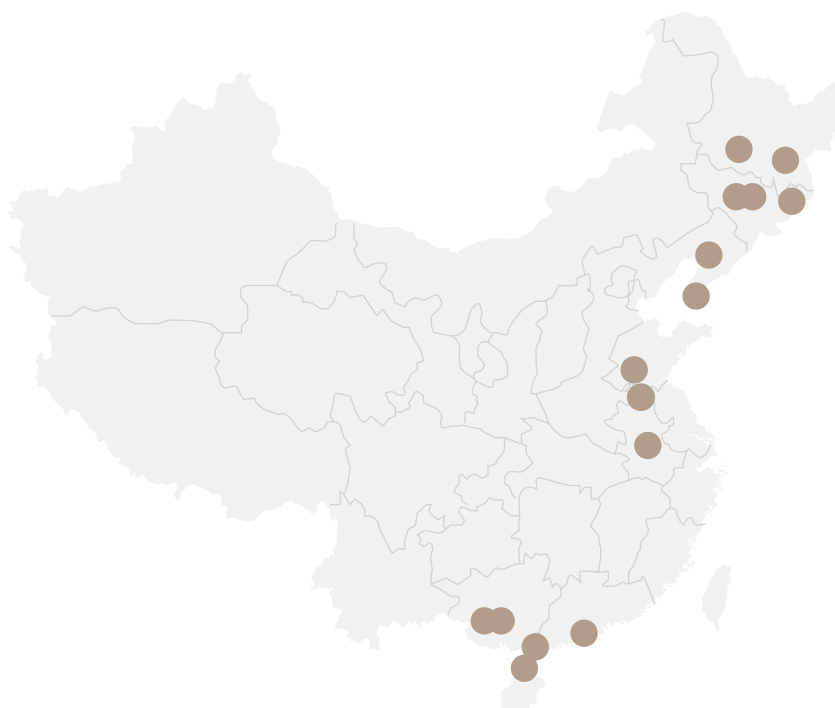
In China, eating dog meat is not mainstream, and has an obvious regional feature – dog meat consumption is more prevalent in cities in northeast, central and southern China. However, in such places, the dog meat on the dinner table is not homegrown, with many dogs transported from other provinces such as Sichuan, Hunan and Henan to centralised areas for slaughter and consumption.

In recent years, with the government and public paying increasing attention to food safety, the true horror of the dog meat trade is gradually being exposed by the media. But a thorough investigation of the industry was needed to understand the problems associated with each link of the black market chain. In 2011, Animals Asia launched a full-scale, four-year study into all aspects of the cat and dog meat trade. Our research included multiple secret investigations, market surveys and interviews with local NGOs, community groups, the authorities and people in the trade. Compiling and analysing this information has taken much time and many resources, and we are now in a position to release the reports.

This is report No. 1, which covers multiple visits by our investigators, from 2011 to 2014, to provinces and cities in northeast, southern and central China, where dog eating is more prevalent.

All our visits to dog meat facilities were undercover: sometimes we posed as tourists and other times as business people in the industry.

The investigation covered 15 cities in eight provinces and autonomous prefectures: Guangdong (Jiangmen City, Leizhou City, Zhanjiang City), Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (Nanning City, Yulin City), Shandong (Jining City), Jiangsu (Xuzhou City), Anhui (Hefei City), Heilongjiang (Harbin City, Mudanjiang City), Jilin (Jilin City, Changchun City, Yanji City), and Liaoning (Dalian City, Shenyang City), and lasted four years. During the investigation, we visited more than 110 dog meat retailers (live dog/dog meat shops), 66 restaurants and food stalls, 21 farmers' markets (meat and vegetable markets), 12 dog slaughterhouses, eight dog farms/breeding bases, eight dog meat food companies, four dog collection/transit points, and three large live-animal wholesale markets.



*Animals Asia is also working on the issue of cat meat consumption. For information about our work in China for cats, including our programme to promote trap, neuter, release (TNR) projects throughout the country, please go to our website: www.animalsasia.org

FIG 1: Millions of dogs are slaughtered for their meat in China each year.



Main findings:

I Where are the dogs coming from?

1. Possible sources of dog meat

In the maze of this hidden and illegal trade, finding the real source of dog meat has been the biggest challenge. The possible sources of dog meat include dog farms, stolen domestic dogs (snatched or poisoned), captured stray dogs, domestic dogs sold by households (when there are too many dogs or they are ill or old), and surplus dogs from pet-dog breeders and retailers. There are even reports of unscrupulous dog shelter owners selling their dogs.

Many dog meat traders claim that the dogs they slaughter and process are from meat-dog farms, but our own research and investigations point to a very different story. The media is saturated with stories of dog snatching and poisoning, with criminals using all kinds of weapons and tools, such as infrared crossbows, poison darts, machetes, and fake plates on their vehicles. Several cases saw the dog owner or police wounded or even killed in the process. (Related media reports: Meishan Dog-thief Pursuer Shot with Anaesthetic Needle from Crossbow, Died 36 Years Old¹, Found Red-handed, Two Crazy Dog Thieves in Suizhou Shoot Dead the Owner with Poison Dart², and Dash Through Police Blockade, Crash Police Car to Escape: Men Risk Lives for 4 Dogs³).

Historically, dogs have never been raised as meat animals on a large scale, but instead have served as man's helper and companion. There are a number of reasons for this: the high cost of feeding dogs a meat-rich diet, the fact that dogs are highly territorial so inclined to fight if confined in groups, and the risk of disease spreading to all the dogs.

“Our technology now can realise dog farming, but it entails considerably high technology, and it's considerably difficult, and once something goes wrong, it will cause a large number of deaths. Meat from dogs raised on a farm would be expensive at around 100 RMB per jin (1 jin =0.5kg) if everything goes well, not as cheap as Yulin's only ten more yuan”

Xia Zhaofei, head of Clinical Medicine,
China Agricultural University, Beijing

¹ <http://scnews.newssc.org/system/20150108/000526959.html>

² <http://news.cnhubei.com/xw/hb/sz/201307/t2624740.shtml>

³ <http://www.tjcaw.org.cn/qx/system/2014/09/15/010028016.shtml>

⁴ <http://qd.jiaju.sina.com.cn/news/20140617/365712.shtml>

2. No evidence of large-scale meat-dog breeding centres

During our four-year investigation, we collected information about “meat-dog breeding farms” from a variety of channels, such as the internet, and personally visited several so-called “large meat-dog breeding bases” that were advertised online and relatively well-known. We also asked others in the industry about “meat dog farms”. But during the entire investigation, we found no evidence of any large-scale breeding facilities, where 100-plus dogs were bred and raised. And The “dog farms” we investigated were, in fact, “puppy mills” claiming to sell pups to scattered households (who raise them to six months of age as meat dogs). In 2011, when the Animals Asia team first visited Nanning, we met with an elderly veterinarian there with many years’ experience. Dr Huang told us: “In Nanning there once were five to six meat-dog farms run by individuals, but because of high operating costs (buying pups, vaccines and food, and hiring workers), these operators all gave up in the end, and now not a single meat-dog farm exists in Nanning.”

Dog breeding farms in Jiexiang County, Jining City, Shandong, 2011 and 2014

From the information we collected online about meat dog farms, we targeted Jiexiang County, Shandong, which was advertised as the most concentrated dog-raising area and also “the core of Shandong’s livestock raising area”⁵. When we searched “meat dog breeding in Jiexiang County” on Baidu there were 1,690,000 results, but fewer than 50 meat-dog farms provided any searchable information.



FIG 2: Pup house at a breeding farm in Jiexiang County.



FIG 3: We saw only a few pups at a farm claiming to be large-scale.

Among these, the Wanda Dog Breeding Farm was relatively large, and its business mode was described as such: the breeding farm supplies “pups” and the mother dogs are from nearby peasant households, not from the farm. The farm has only a few stud dogs on display. The rest are transferred to the peasant households to be raised free-range until they are big enough to sell for meat. At this stage, the household can choose to let the dog farm buy back the adult dogs or sell them directly themselves. Here we saw only 20-30 adult dogs and hundreds of pups.

Other breeding farms were also like this – just 10-20 adult dogs and some pups on site, and the operators claiming they adopted a similar cooperative scattered household breeding mode. But when we asked where the cooperative breeding households were, we received no response from any farm.

After leaving Wanda, we phoned another facility, which claimed on its website to be a “large-scale farm” (Shandong Haosheng Dogs), but this took us back to the gate of Wanda, and when we told them we had been there, they told us there was “only one dog farm here”. Later, we visited another farm called “Shandong Large Meat Dog Breeding Base”, where we were told there were only three or four meat dog farms in Jiexiang County. So, the more than 100 dog farms so easily found online give the impression of a thriving industry here, but in fact many alleged dog farms are actually the same entity.

⁵http://baike.baidu.com/link?url=_2kWWdsfMzoT95Khe4n116lQu45wRxKUHmWgWGk5KFAPij-WVbl1HDI6xmZR1JS5gZWGMcqVy9kPUkwhJksFqhZ36bEh98UGBb0PtvsJYAM3EzsjAQZy4qitFQxX2q_h3O7ny6ot2OtGmAc_DcX7-QFG2JnG6ugvhtRN8uTdBG

Pei county Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co, Pei county, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, 2011 and 2014

Apart from specialised dog breeding farms/bases, there were also some dog meat food companies that claimed to have their own breeding farms as the source of their products. So, we visited the most well-known dog meat company in Pei county – Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co, Ltd. This company had been claiming to the public and the media that all its meat came from its own farms, and that Fankuai was “a leading enterprise that specialises in meat dog breeding, dog meat processing, and dog meat catering”⁶. We visited this company twice, in 2011 and 2014.



FIG 4: According to its brochure, Fankuai offers 24 dog-meat products.

Does Fankuai have its own breeding farm?

In 2011, when we asked to visit the breeding farm, Fan Xiantao (General Manager of Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co), declined our request, saying the enterprise was in cooperation with the government, and the government had told them not to open to visitors. In 2014, we visited the facility undercover and we explicitly asked twice whether the dogs were raised by Fankuai. The first time, Fan Xiantao’s son said some of the dogs were raised and some were bought; but the second time, he clearly told us: “In fact, few dogs are raised by us. Most are bought from the peasant households.” Our visit confirmed this with fewer than 10 shabby dog houses and just a scattering of dogs on site.

Does a “scattered household breeding” mode really exist?

During our undercover visit in 2014, a Fankuai employee explained that the scattered household breeding mode was low cost. First, the dogs eat what people eat, saving on feed costs; second, it saves labour and site costs; and third, household-bred dogs are few in number and don’t need injections, which saves on immunisation costs. But when we asked for information about the cooperative breeding households in the area, he was vague. Afterwards, we visited about 10 peasant households in different villages around Pei county to check on Fankuai’s claim, but the villagers all denied raising dogs to sell as meat. “We keep a dog to look after the house, and we won’t sell it”.

Whether scattered household breeding exists or not, without immunisation and proper nutrition and feeding protocols, the dogs’ health – and therefore the consumer’s health – cannot be guaranteed.

Do large breeding farms really exist? Does a specialised meat-dog breed exist?

According to the Fankuai worker, there is no such thing as a “meat dog” only “rural dogs”.

“There were large breeding farms, but not any more, they couldn’t hold on. We also had one of our own before, but we found that the bigger it grew, the more diseases the dogs had, plus the cost was very high. The price of raising the dogs is higher than the market price of dog meat.”

Worker at Pei county Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co

⁶ <http://www.fankuai.com/gsjj.asp?articleid=466>

Scattered household breeding

The manager of Wanda Dog Breeding Farm told us that a pup's feeding cost is only 1 RMB per day, plus there is vaccination, de-worming and so on. According to the company profile, the dogs are ready for sale at 6-8 months, and their pups are all heavier hybrids from large dogs. Using their data and taking a 30kg dog as an example, we made a simple analysis of the cost:

Meat Dog Farm			
	Vaccine	Domestic dewormer	Food
Price	Domestic DHPPi general vaccine on average: 10 RMB/shot; domestic rabies vaccine: 2 RMB/shot	Each tablet costs 2 RMB on average, 1 tablet is used per 10kg of body weight.	1 RMB/day
Dosage	A pup in the first year needs to be injected with 4 doses of DHPPi and 1 dose of rabies vaccine, to complete the whole vaccination process.	Each dog needs 4 tablets on average (when 3 months old, 1 tablet per 10kg of body weight; when 6 months old, 3 tablets per 30kg of body weight)	6-8 months (ie, 182-243 days)
Cost	42 RMB	8 RMB	182-243 RMB
Total cost for one dog is 232-293 RMB (when dogs sold after 6-8 months)			

The direct cost of feeding a dog to 6 months of age is 232 RMB, and to 8 months is 293 RMB. Assuming that the dog's slaughter weight is around 30kg and the average market price for live dogs is 20 RMB/kg, the selling price will be about 600 RMB. Deducting the farm's labour, site, water and electricity, and other operating costs, such as pup purchase costs, as well as veterinary costs, the profit from one dog should be at least 100 RMB. If 100 pups are raised at the same time, the earnings for 6-8 months will be more than 10,000 RMB. Indeed, as their advertisement claims, this is a low-cost, high-return industry.

Here, we compare it with a non-government animal shelter's operating cost, which is analysed below:

Non-government animal shelter			
	Vaccine	Domestic dewormer	Food
Price	Domestic DHPPi on average: 10 RMB/shot; domestic rabies vaccine: 2 RMB /shot	Each tablet costs 2 RMB on average, 1 tablet is used per 10kg of body weight.	Dog food and cooked rice: 10 RMB /1kg
Dosage/ length of time	A pup in the first year needs to be injected with 4 doses of DHPPi and 1 dose of rabies vaccine, to complete the whole vaccination process.	Each dog uses 4 tablets on average (when 3 months old, 1 tablet per 10kg of body weight; when 6 months old, 3 tablets per 30kg)	1-3 months: 100g, 1 RMB /day 4-6 months: 250g, 2.5 RMB /day 7-9 months: 500g, 5 RMB /day 6-8 months (ie, 182-243 days)
Cost	42 RMB	8 RMB	320-620 RMB (6-8 months old)
Total cost for one dog (6-8 months old) is 370-670 RMB (Note: In fact, in order to better guarantee the health of their dogs, some animal shelters use imported vaccines and vermifuge, whose cost is even higher. But here, to make it easy to compare, we use domestic drug prices.)			

As a non-government facility, the animal shelter's operating costs are kept to a minimum, but compared with the above cost analysis of a meat dog farm, it's not hard to see there is still a huge gap. Given the farmers' low-cost, high-profit claims, we could reasonably have expected to find that many of the surrounding households were involved in scattered breeding. But after leaving Wanda, we visited about 20 nearby villages where residents assured us that no such scattered household breeding existed. "Villagers keep dogs to guard the house not to sell for money," they said.

Regardless of the feasibility of cooperative scattered household breeding mode, one thing is certain – that the health, vaccination and feeding of dogs in this mode are all hard to regulate. Fankuai also mentioned to us that this mode is cheaper: no need for vaccination, dogs eat what people eat. It is hard to guarantee the health of these dogs and almost impossible to trace their breeding records, meaning that human health is put at risk too.

3. Investigation results and analysis

Online searches indicate that in northern China, meat dogs are raised in concentrated numbers in some areas, but our field visit and investigations showed a very different picture:

- According to our investigations, the number of meat dog farms is not large, and many of the meat dog breeding companies we found online are in fact the same company.
- The farms we did visit were not large-scale and we saw no evidence that they had the capacity to supply hundreds of dogs for consumption.
- These companies that claim to breed and raise their own dogs, are seen as a source of “trustworthy” dog meat by the public, but the result of our visits is astonishing: not a single dog meat company’s dogs are from their own breeding farms. The dogs are all acquired rural dogs.

In January 2015, Youth.cn’s reporter also conducted a survey of meat dog farms, and obtained a result similar to ours. The reporter interviewed the manager of a dog farm, and as to the definition of “meat dog”, he confessed to the reporter: “Meat dog is actually a hyped concept. What is a meat dog? A fattened dog is a meat dog, and a thin one is a skinny dog.”

Youth.cn’s reporter had similar findings in Pei county of Jiangsu, the “major dog-raising county”: “The reporter visited dozens of villages and towns in Pei county, including Yangtun Town and Datun Town by the side of Peilong Road and found, apart from a few scattered peasant households that were raising certain breeds of dogs and selling pups, there was surprisingly not a single meat dog farm. One senior dog-raising householder Ding Hanghu drew up an account for the reporter: A grown-up dog weighs about 40 jin (1 jin = 0.5kg) , and it needs to be fed for 6-8 months; calculated as per the lowest feeding cost (2 yuan a day), plus the pups’ costs and vaccine costs, the total will be more than 400 RMB while the price of live dogs is generally 6-RMB per jin, and in the off-season it’s only 4-5 RMB per jin, so there is no way one can make money raising so-called meat dogs. ‘No meat dogs are raised in Pei County, and there is no such thing as meat dogs’he said.”

The report went on to say that the villagers had never heard of dogs being farmed for meat.

“It’s all a lie. The so-called meat dog breeding is to trick outsiders like you.”
Driver Zhai who once made a living by transporting pups⁷

The difficulty of large-scale breeding of dogs for food and the greed for profit give rise to stealing, snatching from the streets and even poisoning of dogs. Because dogs are usually kept to look after the house, they are common in rural households, and are generally free to roam rather than raised indoors (at the end of 2012, Animals Asia, together with Horizon Research Consultancy Group, conducted a survey of dogs in rural areas, and free-range dogs accounted for 72.5%). The dogs are already used to living with human beings, so they are easy targets for thieves.

And the cost of stealing dogs is very low – the penalties are small, and what’s more, the collection of evidence is difficult which, to some extent, gives a free rein to dog thieves. Such a low-cost, low-risk “business” means the number of thefts is increasing. A large number of media reports suggest that the problem of dogs being stolen is very serious, and even rampant. The media has more than once reported that dog thieves have wounded or even killed the villager or owner. Our survey of dogs in rural areas found that nearly 70% of villages have lost dogs, and 75.9% of interviewees believed their dogs were stolen and slaughtered for food.

⁷ <http://stock.chinadaily.com.cn/zixun/2015/0115/3842.shtml> / <http://news.xinmin.cn/shehui/2015/01/15/26502661.html>

To sum up, we can infer that in China there is no large-scale, intensive “meat dog” breeding. Most dogs that end up on the dining table are in fact much-loved domestic dogs stolen from their owners (especially free-roaming dogs in rural areas), or captured stray dogs.

II Transportation and transit

1. National laws and regulations on the transportation of dogs

According to the Canine Origin Quarantine Regulations⁸ issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2011, breeders should declare dogs for quarantine 21 days after they have been given rabies immunity. The Animal Epidemic Prevention Certificate and the breeding records of the dog farm should be examined to ensure there is no risk of disease. Breeders should understand production, immunization, supervision, disinfection, diagnosis and treatment, bio-safety treatment and other procedures and be sure of the rabies immune is within its validity. At the same time, according to the regulations, “transport vehicles and cages should meet the requirements of animal epidemic prevention and consider the welfare of animals. Before shipment, the breeder or the carrier should disinfect the vehicles and cages effectively”.

In April 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture issued the “Notice on Further Strengthening the Supervision of Quarantine of Canine and Feline Origin”⁹, which stated that “local animal hygiene supervision institutions must strictly comply with the Animal Epidemic Prevention Law.... Origin quarantine must be implemented and the dogs ... transported one by one according to regulations, with quarantine certificates given one by one.”

2. What we found

During our four-year investigation, we visited numerous dog transit points and live-animal wholesale markets, and saw many dog transport vehicles, and in these transit links, many problems prevail – poor environmental sanitation, overcrowding, serious epidemic disease, dogs from unidentified sources, and poor animal welfare. Ill and injured dogs are quite a common phenomenon. They are put in crowded cages in large batches, and many have obvious and even serious symptoms of disease. Almost none of the transport vehicles conform to the regulations, and even if some could provide relevant certificates, the certificates are mostly fakes or obtained by devious means. (Related media reports: The Dog-dealing Black Chain is Fishy, People Responsible for the August 3rd (2014) Illegal Transportation of Dogs Punished¹⁰, and Dog Lovers Intercept Dog Transport Vehicle in Luan County, Hebei, Transporter Taken Away by Police¹¹)

We have also seen changes in the dog meat industry over our four-year investigation. More problems were exposed, animal lovers became more active in trying to stop the trade and rescue dogs, and the government’s investigations were gradually strengthened, leading to the industry’s gradual decline. Below are some key points from our investigation:

(2a) Collection/transfer points

Pei county Deppon Express, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, 2014

The images below are from a video shot by local volunteers at a transfer point in Pei county in 2013. They show a freezer used to store dead dogs. In the busy season, trucks come to the freezer to deliver goods every day, and without exception the dogs are dead and still bearing fur.

In transit, the dead dogs on the truck are covered with thick canvas – very likely a way for the dog dealers to elude the regulations.

⁸ http://www.moa.gov.cn/govpublic/SYJ/201110/t20111021_2380474.htm

⁹ http://www.moa.gov.cn/zwl/m/tzgg/tz/201304/t20130428_3448436.htm

¹⁰ http://fo.ifeng.com/news/detail_2014_08/08/37951753_0.shtml

¹¹ <http://news.163.com/14/0805/01/A2RLV9C100014AED.html>

In 2014, when we came to this transit point, we were told that the man who operated the freezer hadn't been around for a long time, because he was in prison for poisoning and illegally slaughtering dogs. (Related media reports: Haining Police: Poisonous Dog Meat Reaches Xuzhou Market for 3-4 Years¹², Video: Xuzhou Police Seized 1-ton Dead Dogs¹³, and 11-ton Poisonous Dead Dogs Sold to Xuzhou in 20 Days, How Many Dogs Have These People Killed On Earth?!¹⁴)



FIG 5: Dead dogs being unloaded at the door of the freezer in Pei county Deppon Express Station.
 FIG 6: Delivery truck loaded with dead dogs that will be covered with canvas during transit.

Chuji Village Dog Collection Point, Shanghe County, Jinan City, Shandong, 2014

In 2012, a village in Shanghe County, Jinan City, was exposed by the media for passing frozen dog meat off as fresh (related media report: Secret inquiry of Shanghe dog meat processing village, workshop is dirty, messy and stinky¹⁵). In 2014, we visited this place, and spoke with a dog dealer specialising in dog collection and transport. He said that previously he transported thousands of dogs a day, but now only a dozen. He no longer dared to slaughter and skin the dogs. He said he now concentrated on the live-dog business and focused on small-sized dogs. The dog dealer also said that because of the increasing number of dog rescues – when activists blocked the trucks – supply was tight, and if a large batch of dogs were needed, he would have to order in advance. He said things had started to go wrong in recent years, and he was nervous about continuing in the business.

Jiayang City, Sichuan, 2011

Jiayang is a concentrated transfer point in Sichuan where dogs are brought, and then transported outside the province. When investigating in 2012, we entered a dog collection and slaughter facility. Here, a large number of dogs were kept, and like other collection points, dogs were of different breeds and sizes, some were wearing collars, all were sick and listless, and some were close to death. The environment was gloomy, smelly and dirty.

¹² <http://www.cnxz.com.cn/newscenter/2013/2013083085357.shtml>

¹³ http://tv.sohu.com/20140804/n403088800.shtml?lcode=AAAASTkmnVEtTIQ7vM06mKU-H-ufrd6-lyD43q7zUd_Jgpb_bvlY0fYZebRD5oXDspGb1N6z8LUvaYm-P0619O0oBiNRFYImx3K7rDkgOmpZ_akcf6&lqd=11544

¹⁴ http://www.cnjxol.com/xwzx/jxxw/qxxw/content/2014-06/12/content_3087357.htm

¹⁵ <http://v.ku6.com/show/NmKluHEyXh8VAuSWwaSlcw...html>

Searches Chengdu Inside out Before Finally Finding Congcong in Jianyang¹⁶

In 2012, Mr Yang of Jianyangcity, Sichuan, was walking his pet dog Congcong in broad daylight when the dog was snatched and taken away in a van. Later, after much searching, he found Congcong at a dog slaughterhouse in Jianyang. When the slaughterhouse door was opened his daughter, Ms Yang, almost slumped to the ground: “It was hell.Dogs were confined in metal cages, cage upon cage.It’s smelly and dirty, and there was someone beating the dogs. No dog dared to make a sound. Some of them gave a low moan.I saw that many of the dogs were wearing a dog tag, and I sincerely appeal to those who illegally snatch and trade dogs to stop such behaviour, because to you these dogs are just goods worth 224 RMB, but to us they are priceless family members.”



©news.huaxi100.com



©news.huaxi100.com



©news.huaxi100.com

FIG 7: Mr Yang holds his retrieved pet dog Congcong tightly in his arms.

FIG 8: Dog cage and iron tongs on the backseat of a dog dealer's motorcycle.

FIG 9: A dog house in Dongxi Town, Jianyang, Sichuan.

(2b) Dog transport vehicles



FIG 10: A rusty transport vehicle covered in dog fur and blood loaded with a mass of cages.

FIG 11: Dogs are transported like this for days without food or even water.

When the dogs at the collection point reach a certain number, a truck will be arranged to transport the dogs to other places. Already terrified and often injured, the dogs resist being put in the cages and inevitably suffer much violence in the process, as well as the torture of transportation and slaughter. During our investigation, we saw dogs violently captured and crammed into narrow cages, their tails and legs broken, wounds on their faces and bodies, with no food or drink, and pregnant dogs giving birth during the long-distance transport. The transported dogs were seriously crushed, and no consideration to animal welfare was given at all. Many dogs had obvious symptoms of disease, and on every transport vehicle there were dogs dying of illness or from being crushed. We also saw many dogs that had been injured fighting each other in the cramped cages, and such an environment undoubtedly fuelled the spread of disease. Almost all the trucks were fully loaded with narrow metal cages, more often than not, each vehicle carrying hundreds of dogs, and at the destination, the cages were dumped directly from the truck.

¹⁶ <http://news.huaxi100.com/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=18&id=77729>

Media reports of animal lovers blocking trucks taking dogs for slaughter are too frequent to count. Below is a typical case from 2011, which was reported in Legal Evening News¹⁷:

“The reporter saw in Beijing-Harbin Expressway Hebei Luan County Service Area a Hebei license plate truck being encircled by more than 10 private cars. The truck was loaded with 5 layers of cages, packed with all breeds of dogs inside, including pet dogs such as golden retrievers, Labradors and huskies. The reporter noticed that some of the dogs were wearing a collar. Tianjin Animal Quarantine Department staff said: If a truck carries more dogs than the number indicated in the quarantine certificate, i.e., 110 dogs, it will be detained by Hebei Animal Quarantine Department, pending further investigation... The reporter saw that there were about 70-80 dogs in each layer of cages, and the truck was loaded with about 400 dogs. These dogs in cages kept moaning in a low voice, they bit the cages with their teeth, and bit each other to fight for the already very confined space. Some of the dogs were lying motionless in the cages, as if there were no signs of life.”

Leinan Avenue Transit Point, Leizhou City, Guangdong, 2011



FIG 12: The truck was carrying hundreds of dogs crammed together into cages.

FIG 13: The dogs were dropped from the top of the truck still in their cages.

We secretly filmed and photographed the complete process of a dog transport vehicle’s arrival and unloading at a slaughterhouse at Leinan Avenue. A very large truck was densely packed with cages, with hundreds of dogs inside. The cages were dropped directly from the roof of the truck, which was a few metres high, with only an old car tyre below as a buffer, and the dogs’ screams were constantly heard on the scene. Afterwards, most of these dogs were sent to a slaughterhouse nearby, and a few were collected by motorcycle-riding dealers. The whole process was without quarantine requirements and hygiene considerations were non-existent.

(2c) Live animal markets

Dogs are collected from around China and transported in large numbers, sometimes thousands of kilometres, to be sold in live animal markets, some of which are large-scale animal wholesale markets, some are spontaneously formed fairs, and some are small-scale farmers’ markets.

¹⁷ <http://www.fawan.com/Article/rx/2014/08/04/121340253834.html>

Pachong market, Jiangmen City, Guangdong, 2011



FIG 14: Many of the dogs at Pachong market were wearing pet collars.



FIG 15: At Pachong market, dogs are slaughtered on site and the corpses and entrails piled on the floor.



FIG 16: The depilator is filthy, covered with blood and animal hair.

Many of the animals had obvious symptoms of disease, and they were kept in a narrow and filthy room together with seemingly healthy animals. Some of these dogs were also wearing pet collars, and when we asked the dealers about the dogs' origin, they gave no information. This made us more suspicious that these animals had been stolen.



At the end of the investigation, we returned to Pachong market and bought a black dog, who was to be slaughtered, and named her "To Zhai" (meaning Rabbit, for 2011 was the Chinese Year of the Rabbit). After more than 20 days' isolation back at our bear sanctuary in Chengdu, she developed symptoms of canine distemper, that weren't obvious before, and thus had been incubating the disease, which is strong evidence of serious health problems for the dogs at the market.

FIG 17: To Zhai was rescued from Pachong market by Jill Robinson, founder and CEO of Animals Asia.

Zhuanpandao Live Animal Market, Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang, 2014

This is not a formal animal market, but a citizens' spontaneously formed trading place, which mostly trades companion animals, including cats, dogs and rabbits. During our inquiry, we met a dog dealer, and we secretly tracked and filmed his movements from dog collection to slaughter to restaurant.

A pick-up truck in the following picture bought dogs from roadside dog dealers (and even civilians); these dogs were of different breeds, and some were very weak and showed obvious signs of disease. After some bargaining, the dog collector bought a number of dogs including an ill rural dog (600 RMB), a German shepherd (700 RMB) and a golden retriever (860 RMB). Having acquired more than 10 dogs, he sent them to a local slaughterhouse (Yongxiang Slaughterhouse), and then the slaughtered dogs to a restaurant (Fresh Dog Meat Casserole). We later paid a visit to this restaurant and the waitress and owner telling us a whole different story from what we saw here.



FIG 18: The red circle marks the tail of the pick-up truck that collects the dogs; the vehicle on the left belongs to the seller, and the vehicle on the right belongs to a dealer who sells pet dogs.



FIG 19: A dog with obvious symptoms of disease is sold for meat.



FIG 20: A dog dealer in Mudanjiang City weighs a dog.



FIG 21: A German shepherd sold for the dinner table.



FIG 22: The dog collector in Mudanjiang City.

¹⁸ http://www.gov.cn/zwgc/2010-01/28/content_1521668.htm

During the whole process, we found:

- The dogs the trader collected and sold to dog meat restaurants were not from “breeding farms”, but were from unidentified sources, and whether they had been immunised was unknown.
- The dog collector didn’t care about the dogs’ health. He bought dogs with obvious symptoms of disease along with seemingly healthy dogs, and there was no quarantine at all in the whole process.

3. Investigation results and analysis

In recent years, the public has become increasingly aware of this vital link in the dog meat trade – transportation and transit – with incidents of animal lovers blocking trucks and whistle-blowing against the transit points’ and markets’ violation of laws increasing each year. In this link there are many violations of the Ministry of Agriculture’s rules on quarantine and transportation; there is no quarantine of dogs, no animal breeding records, and no dog transport vehicle at present is up to standard to ensure the dogs’ basic animal welfare, so long-distance transport and crowded cages mean a lot of dogs fall ill, become injured and even die. As it is difficult to regulate and supervise, trans-regional long-distance transport further increases the risk of rabies transmission to other areas.

III Slaughter

1. National laws and regulations on slaughter

At present, no government in the world has formulated a clear method to slaughter dogs humanely for food. The Chinese government has issued no relevant standards and regulations on dog slaughter. A veterinary representative from the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department once said that it was impossible for dogs to be mass reared and humanely slaughtered for meat.

However, in recent years the authorities have been paying more attention to food safety. The Ministry of Agriculture’s 2010 regulations on animal slaughter established clear guidelines on quarantine procedures¹⁸:

Article 10: The slaughter of animals should be declared to the local animal hygiene supervision institution for quarantine six hours in advance. Emergency/Urgent/Immediate slaughter can be declared anytime.

Article 21: The county-level animal hygiene supervision institutions must assign official veterinarians to slaughterhouses’ quarantine sections. Slaughterhouses should provide quarantine offices and facilities.

The animal products delivered from slaughterhouses should be quarantined by official veterinarians, quarantine marked and attached with animal quarantine certification.

Article 22: Animals entering a slaughterhouse should have animal quarantine certification, and wear livestock identification tags. Official veterinarians should examine the certification and the animal identification tags of the entering animals, inspect the health condition of the animals to be slaughtered, and isolate and observe any suspected infected animals. Official veterinarians should follow the regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to perform quarantine and laboratory tests for disease during the slaughter process.

Article 23: Those quarantined and corresponding with the following conditions can be issued an Animal Quarantine Certificate by the official veterinarians, and inspection seals or other quarantine marks can be put on the carcass and packed animal products:

1. With no specified infectious and parasitic diseases;
2. Meeting the requirements of related slaughter quarantine regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture;
3. For those needing laboratory analysis, the test results meet the requirements.

Article 24: The animals and animal products that failed to pass quarantine would be issued a quarantine treatment sheet by the official veterinarian, under whose supervision the slaughterhouse or the owner would deal with the problem according to the technical specifications required by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 25: The official veterinarian should collect the quarantine certificates attached to the animals entering the slaughterhouse and fill in the slaughter and quarantine records. The certificates should be kept for 12 months.

2. What we found

Through our entire four-year investigation, we found dog slaughterhouses to be consistently filthy, lacking in food safety standards, and barbarically cruel to the animals. We have also seen that slaughterhouses are shutting down, or cutting back on work because of the government's strengthened supervision, animal protection organisations, public tip-offs, etc, in recent years.

Most of the slaughter was done in private facilities – markets, restaurants and transit points. Very few dogs were killed in slaughterhouses approved by the local government. Below are descriptions of five of the slaughterhouses we visited.

Junlai Slaughterhouse, Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang, 2012 and 2014



FIG 23: Newly arrived dog at Junlai Slaughterhouse was wearing collar.

We visited this dog slaughterhouse twice and found the slaughter methods and conditions in which the dogs were kept appalling. The stench was overwhelming, faeces lay all over the floor, dogs were in shockingly poor health, and the slaughter method was cruel, with other animals pending slaughter often watching their cage mates die. These dogs were clearly distressed, whining and trembling. The slaughterhouse was equipped with cameras at the door and indoors, which showed the industry's increasing caution.

The second time of our visit in 2014, we found that the slaughterhouse was in obvious decline – work was far less frequent and the scale of the operation had shrunk. They told us that a shortage of supply and a decrease in demand made the future of the industry uncertain.

“This is a wicked business. It's against our conscience, and like we are serving the devil. And these dogs are like people in prison – they know they are going to be slaughtered, so they are all well-behaved.”

Worker at Junlai Slaughterhouse



FIG 24: Dog fur and faeces were all over the floor and walls.



FIG 25: There is no quarantine at all before slaughter. This worker is even operating while smoking.



FIG 26: An employee works on the corpse of a dog on the grimy, blood-covered floor.

The manager of the slaughterhouse assured us that quarantine certificates were obtained for all dogs, adding that “if it’s not quarantined, we will be fined”. However, in our two visits, we saw no evidence of this. We also learned that the operators injected water into the dogs to boost the weight of the meat as required by customers.

Red Star Dog Slaughterhouse, Harbin City, Heilongjiang, 2012

Red Star Slaughterhouse is one of four formal dog slaughterhouses approved by Harbin Municipal Government (Harbin Government initiated fixed-point dog slaughtering in 2004, and designated Red Star, Daokou, Junhui, and Daowai as fixed-point slaughterhouses). Mr Zhao, the person in charge said: “Only about 10 per cent of dog meat on the market comes from formal slaughterhouses. Most is privately slaughtered. This issue was also reported by the media: Fixed-point Slaughtering Plants are Little-visited, Harbin Dog Meat Consumption Has Potential Safety Hazard¹⁹. Mr Zhao added that they also injected water into the dogs according to the customers’ requirements, and the price of water-injected dogs was lower. Because this is a formal slaughtering enterprise, it can issue quarantine certificates for the slaughtered dogs. When asked about the quarantine inspection process, Mr Zhao said it was by visual observation. As for the source of the dogs, he was adamant that any breeding farms in the area had closed and the dogs were now collected “here and there”.

¹⁹ <http://heilongjiang.dbw.cn/system/2004/08/16/016890680.shtml>

Huimin Slaughterhouse, Chunxing Village, Yilan Town, Yanji City, Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, in 2014



FIG 27-28: Most of the doghouses were empty, with fewer than 10 dogs left.



FIG 29: The slaughter room was empty, and seemed to have been closed for some time.

FIG 30: The slaughterhouse is provided with a government animal quarantine reporting point, but no worker was on duty.

According to 2012 media reports²⁰, Huimin Slaughterhouse was the largest slaughterhouse in Yanji City, buying dogs in large quantities from Henan, Hubei and Hunan, and selling the meat to dog meat food companies, local markets and supermarkets. The boss of this slaughterhouse was a butcher for more than 20 years, and after accumulating a lot of capital in this line of business, he put his money into opening the slaughterhouse.

Going by the 2012 media reports, we had been expecting a scene of hundreds of dogs ready for slaughter, but when we visited in 2014, the signboard had been removed, and a desolate scene greeted us in the slaughterhouse. There were only a few dogs inside the doghouse, and during our stay we saw no sign of employees working at all. The slaughter room was relatively clean and there was no strong smell. It seemed to have been idle for a long time. We had no chance to ask questions as we were asked to leave as soon as we were discovered.

²⁰ http://www.juxia.com/news/2012-5-7/40880_2.html ; http://bbs.tiexue.net/post2_5820820_1.html

Chunbao Dogs Co Jilin City, Jilin, 2012 and 2014

Chunbao is a large-scale slaughterhouse, and the designated slaughterhouse of a local commerce department. Its business scope included slaughter, live dog transport, live dog retail, processing and production, and it has its own dog meat products. In 2012, we made an undercover visit to the doghouses and the dogs were in very bad condition, including a few famous-breed dogs wearing collars. The decaying remains of dead dogs littered the doghouse floor. It was a shocking scene.



FIG 31: This Labrador had obvious eye secretions, likely from canine distemper.
FIG 32: There were dead dogs in many of the doghouses, and the bodies had decayed.

When we visited again in 2014, a worker said “Business this year is not as good as last year. Now we kill more than 100 dogs a day, but last year we could kill more than 200.” He said the actions of animal protection groups in blocking transport vehicles had made it harder to source dogs and meant that the traders needed to employ escort vehicles to accompany them. Also, the price of dog meat had risen 2 RMB per jin. Now they had monthly sales of about 10,000 tons, and they focused on fresh meat. This factory had more than 30 employees, and generally they began to slaughter at 5am. They had another slaughterhouse in Henan. When we were here in 2012 to investigate at 3pm, they were still slaughtering dogs, but in 2014, it was still morning, and there was no sign of work in the slaughterhouse.

A customer happened to visit and buy dogs, and we followed him into the doghouse. There were 20 doghouses in two rows, some with seven to eight dogs, and some empty. There were different breeds, including golden retrievers, German shepherds, Tibetan mastiffs, and old English sheepdogs. There was also a slaughterhouse, a fur removal room, and a room where dogs were stunned. The customer chose a golden retriever, and the butcher entered the doghouse and forcibly dragged the golden retriever out with iron tongs. The other dogs shrank away from him in terror. The golden retriever was beaten to death by the butcher with a wooden stick, bled out, thrown into boiling water to scald the fur, and then thrown into the depilator before finally being hung on an iron hook. The butcher removed the rest of the fine hairs with a welding torch, and cut the meat into pieces. In the process, one of the workers said northerners liked to eat big dogs, while southerners liked small dogs.



FIG 33: The chosen golden retriever is forcibly dragged by the butcher out of the doghouse.
FIG 34: The slaughter room is very dirty, with blood and filth all over the floor.

Wangwei Slaughterhouse, Hefei City, Anhui, 2011 and 2014

In 2011, when we visited this slaughterhouse for the first time, it was Anhui Hefei Municipal Government's designated slaughterhouse. At that time, we were told that the cost of slaughtering dogs here was very expensive, about 200 RMB, and since government regulations were issued in 2006, only one dog had been sent here for slaughter, and the others were all privately slaughtered.

In 2014, when we came here again, we were told the slaughterhouse had closed. The Hefei Animal Quarantine Bureau later confirmed that the slaughterhouse had merged with Shuangfeng Industrial Park²¹, and Hefei now no longer has a designated slaughterhouse.

3. Investigation results and analysis

Over the four years of our investigation, we visited 13 slaughterhouses. Some had closed over the course of our investigation because of slower business, and some were still-running so-called legal slaughterhouses, but in none of these facilities did we see any animal quarantine or animal quarantine staff. These slaughterhouses, without exception, are filthy – the stench assaults the nostrils, faeces is all over the floor – dogs are in poor health, and the slaughter method is cruel. Many of the dogs in the slaughterhouses were wearing collars. They came in a wide range of breeds, including pedigrees, and these dogs were probably snatched owned dogs.

A small number of dog dealers rent freezers to store the dead dogs and sell them in winter, and these dead dogs are highly likely to have been poisoned. According to China's Supreme People's Court's and Supreme People's Procuratorate's Interpretation of a Number of Questions of the Law Applicable to the Handling of Criminal Cases of Food Safety Hazards implemented on May 4, 2013²², in food processing, sale, transportation and storage processes, the addition or use of poisons will be punished under Article 144 of the Criminal Law. And Article 28 of Food Safety Law²³ also stipulates that poisoned animal meat and its products must not exceed the human health food safety standard limits.

The reality at present is that a large number of dogs eaten are animals from unidentified sources, animals without traceable, credible breeding and immunisation records, or animals with obvious symptoms of disease. Eating the meat from these dogs poses great risk to human health. In China, and even throughout the world, there are no standard procedures for the humane slaughter of dogs for food.

Unfortunately, some local governments' efforts to control the industry by carrying out fixed-point slaughtering or "regulating" dog slaughter are virtually legalising the black industry chain of dog-stealing, indirectly encouraging crime and covering up food hygiene problems.

IV Point of sale (POS) terminals

1. National laws and regulations on food processing and retail

Enforcement Regulations on Food Safety²⁴

Article 31

Catering service providers should ensure that purchased raw materials meet food safety standards. Catering service providers should check unprocessed food during production and processing and any material found to be decomposing should be discarded.

²¹ <http://news.house365.com/gbk/hfestate/system/2012/09/20/020763712.html>

²² <http://www.chinacourt.org/law/detail/2013/05/id/146172.shtml>

²³ http://www.gov.cn/zwgk/2009-07/24/content_1373609.htm

²⁴ http://www.gov.cn/zwgk/2009-07/24/content_1373609.htm

Regulations on Food Safety²⁵

Article 27

Food production should meet food safety standards, and meet the following requirements:

- Facilities for food processing, packing and storage should be kept clean and tidy and a specified distance should be maintained from poisonous and harmful sites and pollution sources.
- Facilities should have equipment for disinfection, prevention of dust and pests. They should have toilets, natural and artificial lighting, ventilation, waste-water treatment, areas for storage of garbage and waste materials.
- Food production and management personnel should maintain personal hygiene, keep their hands washed and wear clean work clothes and hat in the operation of food production and management. In selling immediate ready-to-eat foods without packing, non-toxic, clean sales tools should be used.

Article 36

- Food producers should examine the supplier's licence and product inspection certificates when buying raw food, food additives and food related products. Those that do not conform to food safety standards must not be sold or used.
- Food production enterprises should establish a system to check all raw materials, food additives and food related products and record the names, specifications, quantity, supplier names and contacts, purchase date, etc. These records should be authentic and kept for two years.

Handling of Criminal Cases involving Food Safety²⁶

Article 1

It is illegal for:

- The content of pathogenic microorganisms, pesticide remains, veterinary drug remains, heavy metals, pollutants and other substances harmful to human health to seriously exceed the standard limit;
- Traders to sell for consumption livestock, poultry, and fish that have died from disease or unknown causes or to sell meat or meat products not subject to quarantine or inspected by an unqualified person.

Article 9

In food processing, sale, transportation and storage, adding poisonous and harmful non-food raw materials is illegal.

2. What we found

In most of the dog meat restaurants we visited, we found a number of live dogs in cages in the kitchen or backyard to be slaughtered on demand. When asked how they ensured hygiene and health, most shopkeepers said they could tell whether a dog was healthy or not merely through visual observation.

(2a) Restaurants/Food Stalls

Fresh Dog Meat Casserole, Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang, 2014

In Zhuanpandao Live Animal Market in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang, as mentioned in Part II "Transportation and Transit", we filmed a pick-up truck collecting a batch of dogs on the roadside, then our investigation team followed the truck and saw all dogs were delivered to "Yongxiang Dog Slaughterhouse". The dogs were pulled off the truck, stunned with a stun gun and sent into the slaughter room, where they were later all packed into sacks. In the process, we saw no quarantine authority, and the whole slaughter process was very quick.

²⁵ http://www.gov.cn/jfjfg/2009-02/28/content_1246367.htm

²⁶ http://www.gov.cn/jfjfg/2009-02/28/content_1246367.htm



FIG 35: Workers in this slaughterhouse were on high alert, and there was a camera at the door, but an outsider could enter without going through any disinfection procedure.

FIG 36: This mixed-breed German shepherd has eye secretions and is likely infected with canine distemper.

Yongxiang Slaughterhouse had cameras in every corner. In the doghouse at the back were over 20 dogs, mostly with obvious symptoms of disease. Many were wearing a collar, many were sick and inactive, and we saw a mixed-breed German shepherd and a black dog resembling a Labrador. Around the doghouse, there were a lot of dog hairs and some entrails; it was extremely dirty.



FIG 37: Dogs are dragged out of the cage with iron tongs one by one.

FIG 38: The worker stuns the dog by smashing its head with a metal bar, and then sends it into the slaughter room inside.

After slaughter, the dog meat was transported by a utility vehicle to the “Fresh Dog Meat Casserole” restaurant, where we continued to track the meat. After unloading the vehicle, the owner left right away. Then our investigators walked into the restaurant in the disguise of customers, and ordered some non-dog-meat dishes, hoping to have a chance to chat with the restaurant owner.

Our investigators asked about the source of the dogs, and the waitress told us that they were bought from ordinary villagers and then kept by the restaurant, and later slaughtered when needed, guaranteeing food health and safety. This statement obviously did not tally with what we saw. The waitress said the restaurant served mainly dog meat – about 10 dogs a day – and business was very good with a full-house at mealtimes usually. She said she had been eating there since she was a child, and the eatery had been running for more than 20 years. When paying the bill, we called the boss over and again asked about the source of the dogs. The restaurant owner insisted the dogs were bought from the villagers and then slaughtered at the restaurant.



FIG 39: Fresh Dog Meat Casserole restaurant has been running for more than 20 years.



FIG 40: The utility vehicle unloads the dog meat at the restaurant.

We witnessed the complete black market chain: the dog collector buys dogs of unidentified origin and poor health from unofficial live animal markets, and sends them to a slaughterhouse for slaughter and processing. He then delivers the dog meat directly to restaurants for consumption. In the whole process, there was no quarantine authority involved in the supervision of any link.

Original Dog Meat Restaurant, Jining City, Shandong, 2014



FIG 41: The restaurant owner slaughters a mixed-breed Tibetan mastiff on the street right in front of other terrified dogs. The dog was stunned and then its throat was cut, immediately attracting a large number of flies.



FIG 42: The dog was still twitching and shaking as it was being skinned.

Dogs in the cage to be slaughtered on demand included pedigrees such as greyhounds, mixed-breed Tibetan mastiffs, and rural dogs. The widely different breeds indicated that the dogs were not intensively raised as “meat dogs”. The arbitrary slaughter of dogs on the street also shocked passersby. It was not hard for us to find that:

- The dogs slaughtered and sent to the dining table were not the so-called specially, intensively raised “meat dogs”. Even though this restaurant was located in an alleged “major meat dog-raising county” – Jiexiang County – the dogs it slaughtered were different breeds, such as pedigrees, Chinese rural dogs, and mixed-breed dogs.
- The dog slaughtering method was extremely cruel, and dogs suffered great pain and terror in the process of slaughter. Just like the dog we filmed, they were skinned before they were completely dead.
- Other dogs witnessed the whole slaughter process, and they were terrified.
- The whole process was without inspection and quarantine, and slaughter was performed by the restaurant without authorisation. It was carried out on the stinking roadside, with no hygiene protocols, with flies all around, and with the slaughtered dogs’ health in question.

(2b) Farmers’ markets/meat wholesale markets/dog meat retailers Dongkou Market, Yulin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 2011

Yulin, Guangxi is known for its annual Yulin Dog Meat Festival, held at the Summer Solstice. Over the past two years, the festival has been targeted by protestors as well as our own campaign. As a region where dog meat dishes are popular, Yulin is of particular concern to Animals Asia.

In 2011, we visited two farmers’ markets and several dog meat restaurants in Yulin City, and as to the source of the dogs, most operators were vague, saying that the dogs were from places far away.



FIG 43-44: The dogs on sale were smaller than we would expect if they were bred on a farm for their meat.

In Dongkou Market, not surprisingly, we saw row upon row of dog meat stalls, while a large number of dogs displayed on the counters were small-sized dogs, so again we couldn’t help but doubt the source of the dogs. If these dogs were really farm-raised, then we would expect them to be far bigger. We presumed such small-sized dogs were probably domestic dogs from ordinary households.



FIG 45-46: The owner's pet dog was forced to witness a dead dog having its fur removed.

In another shop in the market, we found a dog on a metal shelf being depilated, and the boss's pet dog was tied up at the other side of the shop, watching the scene. At first the boss claimed the animal was a fox, but later he admitted that it was actually a dog. When we took a closer look at the dog, we found no bruise or cuts on its head, neck or body, leading us to suspect that it had been poisoned or died from disease.

In recent years, Yulin has held its high-profile dog meat festival on the Summer Solstice, and around 10,000 dogs were killed in a day. In 2014, the festival was greatly reduced after widespread protests and the number of dogs killed dropped to around 2,000.

In June 2014, "Workers' Daily"²⁷ reported that the Yulin Municipal Government had issued a statement distancing itself from the festival, saying it was not the organiser and that the event was organised by the dog merchants themselves. But the newspaper said the local authorities still had a responsibility to supervise and regulate the industry.

For three consecutive years, we have kept in communication with the Yulin Food and Drug Administration and other departments, in the hope that the government could intervene to stop the festival, and in the meantime, strengthen management and supervision. In May 2014, amid growing protests, the Yulin Municipal Government finally began to supervise and regulate the source of dog meat, and issued a document expressly prohibiting the slaughter of dogs on the street and cracking down on theft.

Nanji Market, Harbin City, Heilongjiang, 2012



FIG 47-48: The meat was found to be labelled illegally.

²⁷ http://media.worker.cn/sites/media/grrb/2014_06/21/GR0501.htm

In Nanji Market, we found that some of the slaughtered dogs had “Animal Products Quarantine Conformity Certificate” labels. But as we probed further, some shopkeepers disclosed that some of the labelled meat was water-injected. This meat was cheaper. Meanwhile, when asked about the source of the dogs, most shopkeepers said their dogs had been bought from traders. The “Quarantine Conformity Certificate” is a standard for citizens to identify quality food.

Zhougudui Market, Hefei City, Anhui, 2011 and 2014



FIG 49-50: In 2011, business was booming in every dog meat shop at Zhougudui Market, Hefei City.



FIG 51-52: When we revisited in 2014, all dog meat shops inside the market had closed. There was just one left outside the market.

We learned that at the end of 2013 the Hefei Municipal Health Supervision Institute cracked down on the dog slaughterhouses and dog meat stalls in Hefei market, and many shops were closed. Meanwhile, the media also issued calls for the public to help inform on illegal dog slaughter workshops. (Related media reports: Illegal Dog Meat Workshop Opens “Chain Stores” in Zhougudui, Hefei²⁸). This shows that the government’s strengthened supervision and the media’s active appeals have brought real change.

West Tower Hunchun Street, Heping District, Shenyang City, Liaoning, 2014

West Tower is where the Korean minority congregates, so eating dog meat is prevalent in this area. Hunchun Street is an alley at West Tower, with dog meat shops on both sides, and cages at the door of each shop, where live dogs are held to be slaughtered on demand on the street. The phenomenon of publicly killing dogs in the downtown area is very rare throughout the country, especially in big cities like Shenyang.

²⁸ http://epaper.anhuinews.com/html/ahsb/20131010/article_3001354.shtml



FIG 53: Crammed into tiny cages, these dogs will be slaughtered on demand.

FIG 54: A row of slaughtered dogs.

FIG 55: Above the dogs to be slaughtered on demand, hang other dogs' bodies.

We learnt from residents nearby that vehicles deliver frozen dogs or live dogs every morning. The residents said they greatly disliked these shops. The daily unloading and slaughter were very noisy, and the stench was disgusting. There were schools nearby, and elementary school students or kindergarten children passed by the bloody scene regularly.



FIG 56-57: It was not yet 5am, and the peace of the street had been broken by dogs' terrible screams.

We wanted to follow the complete process from transport to slaughter to sale but after tracking the traders for three days they became suspicious and we were forced to stop.

Some stall owners told us they bought the dogs mainly from Henan and Hebei. The dogs we saw were different sizes and different breeds, and some were pure bred dogs wearing collars. Shortly after our undercover investigation, a Shenyang newspaper ran the report, “Ill Dogs Slaughtered on Shenyang West Tower Dog Meat Street”²⁹: A dog dealer spoke bluntly to the reporter “I tell you, the pet dogs in this street are almost all stolen.” Ms Cui, an animal activist who went along with the reporter bought a golden retriever at 900 RMB, and found the dog's owner in less than 10 hours. Later, Ms Cui raised 20,000 RMB and saved 20 dogs, but unfortunately, none of them was healthy: upon a vet's examination, all dogs were found to be suffering from serious infectious diseases, such as canine distemper and parvovirus.

(2c) Malls and supermarkets

At the end of 2013, Animals Asia together with several animal welfare groups and individual volunteers carried out a field visit to and investigation into over 180 large supermarkets and malls in 15 cities in nine provinces and autonomous prefectures (Beijing, Hohhot, Dalian, Xuzhou, Changsha, Nanning, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenyang, Jinan, Jining, Hefei), to find out whether each mall and supermarket was selling dog meat and related products.

The supermarkets included both well-known chains and local malls.

We found that dog meat products were sold in just five large supermarkets in Xuzhou City. This points to the fact that dog meat is not a mainstream consumer food, and people eating dog meat or dog meat products are few in number.

If the source of dog meat cannot be guaranteed, the dog meat products' hygiene and safety cannot be guaranteed either. Following our investigation, we promptly contacted the five supermarkets and informed them of the illegal activity in the dog meat industry chain and the food safety risks, hoping they would remove the existing dog meat products from the shelves and no longer sell such food.

***In March 2015, we again checked on the malls and supermarkets selling dog meat products. Two were still selling dog meat products, while one had changed to sell dog meat products only during New Year's Day and other festivals. Two chains had stopped selling dog meat products.**

3. Investigation results and analysis

In the dog meat industry chain, POS terminals are large in number and widely distributed throughout various regions, so they are difficult for government departments to supervise and regulate. Because a large number of dogs are from unknown sources and because there is a lack of proper supervision and management in the transportation, slaughter and processing, then whether it is the dog meat sold in restaurants, the killed-on-demand dog meat in farmers' markets, or even the gift-packaged dog meat available in some malls and supermarkets, the food safety and hygiene will not be effectively guaranteed.

V Dog meat companies

1. National laws and regulations on food processing

Dog meat processing enterprises actually are comprehensive enterprises that engage in multiple links of the industry chain, such as breeding, transportation, slaughter and sale, so the above-mentioned laws and regulations also apply to dog meat processing enterprises. In addition, China also has strict regulations on animal products' traceability, which require any animal product to have relevant certificates or licences and meet the traceability requirements.

²⁹ <http://liaoning.nen.com.cn/system/2014/11/07/013310888.shtml>

2. What we found

Compared with scattered farmers' markets, restaurants, etc, which sell privately slaughtered raw dog meat or cooked dog meat, formal large dog meat processing enterprises ought to, theoretically, implement more standardised management and be able to guarantee their food's safety. But is this the case?

China's dog meat food processing enterprises were most concentrated in Pei county, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, so we visited here twice.

During our latest visit in 2014, we saw that the dog meat industry was in obvious decline. Some well-known local dog meat companies had been shut down because of food safety problems (related media reports: Haining Police: Poisonous Dog Meat Reaching Xuzhou Market for Past 3-4 Years³⁰, Video: Xuzhou Police Seize 1Ton Dead Dogs³¹, 11tons of Poisonous Dead Dogs Sold to Xuzhou in 20 Days, How Many Dogs Have These People Killed?!³²). Many of the people in charge had been arrested and even the famous "Fankuai dog meat" was in decline.

Xuzhou Hanliubang Food Co, Pei county, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, 2011 and 2014



FIG 58: The big factory was empty in 2014.

According to Hanliubang's website, the company was founded in 1995 and specialises in the development and production of meat products. Its main products include soft-packaged dog meat, donkey meat, frozen skinned dogs, skinned chicken, ducks, beef, etc. The company covers an area of 8,000sqm, has over 120 employees, and its annual value of production is 20 million RMB.

In 2011, when we were here for the first time, business was booming, the workshop floor was piled with slaughtered dogs, and slaughtering, cutting, marinating, etc, were in full swing. At this time, we noticed that the slaughtered dogs were thrown onto the filthy floor, which was covered in dog hair and entrails, and the stench was terrible. In the whole process, we saw no quarantine officer or related quarantine work.

³⁰ <http://www.cnxz.com.cn/newscenter/2013/2013083085357.shtml>

³¹ http://tv.sohu.com/20140804/n403088800.shtml?lcode=AAAASTkmnVEtTiIQ7vM06mKU-H-ufrd6-lyD43q7zUd_Jgpb_bvIY0fYZebRD5oXDspGb1N6z8LUvaYm-P0619O0oBiNRFYImx3K7rDkgOmpZ_akcf6&lqd=11544

³² http://www.cnjxol.com/xwzx/jxxw/qxxw/content/2014-06/12/content_3087357.htm



FIG 59: Slaughtered dogs were piled on the filthy floor.

FIG 60: The slaughter room can be accessed freely with no health protection or disinfection measures.

FIG 61: Dog entrails, blood and gore were all over the floor.

When we came here again in 2014, we saw the workshop was empty. There was no smell, only thick dust. The man in charge surnamed Zhang told us the factory had been shut down for a long time because of a “frozen dog meat” case, and now Pei county was very strict, and no enterprise was allowed to go into production.

Later, from some other people in the industry, including Fankuai Dog Meat employees, we learned that the major poisoned dog meat case in Pei county in 2014 occurred at Hanliubang Company, and the person in charge was convicted and sentenced. At the same time, because of this case, Pei county government also strengthened regulations for the industry, and ordered a ban on the production of frozen dog meat, fearing the source of the dogs. Just as Mr Zhang, the man in charge of Hanliubang said, we saw almost all the dog meat products factories had been shut down.

In a similar investigation by Youth.cn³³, this case was also mentioned: “As a matter of fact, the dog meat business seems all alike, but there is ‘much behind it’. Dog meat restaurant owner Zhang Jin said that in Pei county, there were “two lines” of dog meat: live dogs and dead dogs. Surprisingly, a famous local dog meat manufacturer which often advertised itself online was exposed to having been mainly processing dead dog meat. “We do live dogs, they do dead dogs, and they also do some live dogs, but only symbolically,” Zhang Jin said. “Frozen dog meat does not taste so good and is generally made into packaged dog meat. Regarding frozen dog meat, I dare not say 100% is bad dog meat, but at least 95% is bad dog meat.” And Mr Zhang told the reporter that he knew at least four operators in Pei county specialising in frozen dog meat. “Zhang Jin’s words are true. “According to a written judgement of the People’s Court of Pei County,³⁴ Zhu [the defendant] knowingly bought dogs from Lv [now sentenced] who had poisoned them to death, Zhu still processed them into dog meat, and sold it to people for consumption, which constitutes the crime of producing and selling toxic and hazardous food.”

‘At present, the packaged dog meat sold in supermarkets of Pei county is almost all made of dead dog meat, and rarely from live dogs’. Zhang Baolian also told the reporter, Zhang Baolian is the son of Zhang Jiwei, boss of ‘Zhang Jiwei Fresh Dog Meat Shop’, and he helps his father take care of the shop.”

³³ http://finance.youth.cn/finance_gdxw/201501/t20150114_6406468.htm

³⁴ http://www.court.gov.cn/zgcpwsw/jiangsu/jssxzszyjrmfy/pxrmfy/xs/201412/t20141222_5428353.htm

Xuzhou Hanxutang Food Co, Pei county, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, 2011 and 2014



FIG 62-63: The workshop is empty and covered with thick dust, obviously shut down for some time.

When we first visited Hanxutang in 2011, we found that this enterprise was the largest among the dog meat product enterprises we had investigated. But when we visited again in 2014, we found that the factory was empty, and the situation in the workshop was almost the same as Hanliubang: clean, no obvious bad smell, and covered with dust. The next day, when we came here again, we found some administrative staff in the office building, and a male worker told us the industry was now strictly monitored, even the freezer car would be checked. He said there was no supply of goods and a lot of other companies here had also shut down. During the conversation, he mentioned that there was no meat dog farm, and the dogs had been collected from households.

Peixian Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co, Pei county, Xuzhou City, Jiangsu, 2011 and 2014



FIG 64: The front gate of Fankuai

FIG 65: Two Fankuai specialty supermarkets are closed

In Part I, “Where are the dogs coming from?” of this report, we introduced Fankuai Dog Meat Products Co. When we visited the company again in 2014, we found that, in the large factory, there were only General Manager Fan Xiantao’s son and an old woman. Like other enterprises, it had been shut down for a long time, and the two formerly impressive supermarkets at the gate (specialising in selling Fankuai’s dog meat products) were also closed. In addition to personally denying the existence of “meat dog farms” and the concept of “meat dogs”, the Fankuai worker also candidly introduced us to some of the dirty tricks used to bypass “dog meat quarantine”.

When asked whether the dog meat went through health quarantine, the worker replied: “Transporting raw products is more troublesome. While cooked meat products have no restrictions, raw products must have a quarantine certificate. Our factory can issue such quarantine reports, and the quality is safer.” We further asked about the price of such a “quarantine certificate”, and he said: “Some quarantine certificates cost hundreds, some more than 1,000 [RMB]. It used to be cheap, only dozens of yuan, even dead (dog) meat could be issued certificates, but now the regulations are strict. ”

3. Investigation results and analysis

As the source of “trustworthy” dog meat, the public put their trust in the products produced by the seemingly official dog meat companies, but the result of our investigations is astonishing: Not a single dog meat food company’s dogs are from breeding farms. The people in charge of several dog meat enterprises have denied the existence of breeding farms and “meat dogs”, and the dogs eaten are all acquired rural dogs. Using such dogs with no breeding records or immunisation certificates to make food has violated the relevant national laws and regulations, and it is also disregarding the consumers’ health and safety.

On the other hand, these large dog meat companies’ decline is very obvious. Well-known enterprises in Pei county were shut down due to major food safety incidents and the men in charge were arrested. Surviving companies are managing to stay afloat by painstaking effort under the impact of the increasingly strict government regulation and reduced market supply and demand. As the government strengthened management and supervision of the relevant links in the industry chain, the large dog meat enterprises have shut down one after another, suggesting these enterprises that had always been considered legal and standardised were in fact also operating in violation of rules and regulations.

VI Price of dog meat

In the table below are the approximate prices of dog meat that we recorded during repeated field visits and investigations:

	Live Dog (RMB/0.5kg)	Raw Dog Meat (RMB/0.5kg)	Cooked Dog Meat (RMB/0.5kg)
Beginning of 2011	9-13	12-19	25-40
End of 2011	6.5-10	6.5- 19	30-45
Middle of 2012	Not recorded	9-15	30
Middle of 2014	8-18	13-23	20-40

Based on our visits and insiders’ information, the price of dog meat rose slightly over the four years, especially in 2014. According to insiders’ and our own analysis, this is mainly because of increased public attention on dog meat problems in recent years, animal activists’ dog rescues, the public’s tip-offs of illegal activities in the dog meat industry chain, and more and more dog-stealing and poisoning cases being exposed. At the government level, national departments have strengthened supervision over food safety in recent years, which has increased the cost.

VII Sensitivity to outsiders

During some earlier investigation visits in 2000, we had no trouble visiting facilities, and even our foreign colleagues could enter dog markets and slaughterhouses. Dog dealers talked with us without holding back, and wouldn’t intervene in our photo-taking and filming.

In recent years, however, each link of the industry chain has become more covert. The practitioners are more cautious, and more facilities are located away from densely populated areas. Throughout our recent secret investigations, a foreigner would surely have aroused their suspicions, and even our Chinese investigators could not openly film or take photos. We needed to disguise our identity, and talk very cautiously with them. We also found that many in the industry would counter our questions with some of their own. They would ask for confirmation of our identity and when it came to a very sensitive question, they would not directly answer it, and even would send someone to track our vehicle.

A legal industry with proper business practices should have no problem with public and media scrutiny. However, the sensitivity and caution shown in each link of the dog meat industry chain points to unlawful acts being the root cause of their fear. Once the public knows the truth behind dog meat, this industry will be doomed to an inevitable decline.

Summary

Through years of in-depth investigations into this dog meat industry, including face-to-face communication with insiders, we in this report have recorded the various shocking problems behind the controversial topic of eating dogs, the changes in the industry over the years, and the causes of these problems and changes.

The dog meat industry is filled with illegality, and strengthening supervision over it will reduce crime and ensure food safety. Animals Asia strongly recommends:

1. China implements animal protection laws and bans the sale, transportation and slaughter of dogs for their meat as soon as possible.

Note: Many governments in Asia have recognised that more and more people are against eating dogs, and are making efforts to ban their slaughter and consumption. In Hong Kong, slaughtering dogs for food has been unlawful since 1950. The Philippines made the slaughter of dogs for food illegal in 1998, and Taiwan outlawed the consumption of dog meat in 2003 and Thailand in 2014. These countries have realised that dogs are an important part of an advanced, civilized society, and have ordered a ban on their consumption, winning widespread praise in the international community.

2. The government strengthens its supervision and law enforcement in each link of the industry chain, including stronger penalties for stealing and poisoning dogs, banning the existing illegal slaughter and trade of dogs, and intensified supervision over illicit trafficking of dogs.
3. The public recognise that by consuming dogs they are encouraging theft and other crimes and also risking their own health.

PLEASE SAY NO TO DOG MEAT.