



**AnimalsAsia**  
Kindness in action

# CAT AND DOG WELFARE

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## The issue

Cats and dogs are often abandoned and left to subsist on the streets, with many dying due to illness or accidents. Stray dogs and cats are also snatched from the streets and taken to horrific meat markets, where they're bludgeoned to death and sold for human consumption.

## Focus areas

### Animals Asia's work to improve cat and dog welfare focuses on four key areas:

#### 1. Empowering local groups

In 2021, we provided funding and training to 92 dog and cat welfare groups in China. We also run conferences for them, allowing problems and solutions to be debated and discussed.

Our support enables these groups to introduce TNR (trap, neuter, return) programs for street cats into their communities and to produce publicity and information materials for promotional events. We also give workshops and veterinary training to groups where appropriate. And since the outbreak of Covid 19, this has included online training. Over 3,000 people from groups across China have benefited from the training.

We sponsor officials and animal welfare groups from around China to attend our Dog Ownership Management and Humane Stray Cat Management symposiums and learn effective and humane methods to control stray populations.

We work with individual cities to offer advice on issues such as responsible ownership, de-sexing, rabies vaccinations and registration of dogs, as well as to help introduce and implement TNR for cats.

#### 2. The meat trade

We conduct investigations into live animal markets, dog slaughterhouses and restaurants across China to catalogue abuse and inform the government and public of the cruelty, illegality and human health concerns surrounding the industry. With the help of a network of volunteers, we report to the authorities restaurants selling dog or cat meat.

In China, our field officers visit and document the horrific facilities that drive the cruel,





and illegal, trade in cats and dogs for their meat.

We gather key information and, where possible, photographs and film, to help us highlight our concerns to the authorities and encourage their support for change.

We use this information to bring the cruelty of the meat trade to the attention of the public through social media, community awareness campaigns, photo displays and banners, and media interviews.

### 3. Public awareness

We promote messages of animal welfare and companionship, through awareness-raising initiatives including animated videos, cartoons, petitions, workshops, animal photography

competitions, and countrywide events like cyclists displaying vivid poster boards.

We use animal ambassadors to create empathy for all animals through our pioneering animal therapy programs, Dr Dog and Professor Paws, which are now thriving in four mainland Chinese cities and Hong Kong.

Since 1991, our registered therapy dogs have made thousands of visits to hospitals, disabled institutions, schools and elderly homes, bringing comfort and love to those who need it most.

When our founder, Jill Robinson MBE, launched Dr Dog, it was the first animal-assisted therapy program in Asia. Over the past 30 years, more than 680,000 people have felt the dogs' love.



## 4. Government and policy

We engage with government authorities and policy-makers to lobby for an end to dog and cat eating and for laws to protect companion animals from cruelty.

In 2020, dogs were removed from the official livestock list in China, making it illegal to sell dogs for consumption. This came after two decades of lobbying.

We work with local authorities to provide advice on humane population management for both strays and family companions. We run symposiums and workshops to share best practice, and work with individual city authorities to offer advice on issues such as de-sexing, rabies vaccination and registration, as well as to help introduce and implement TNR schemes for cats. We also run responsible dog ownership courses using animal ambassadors from our Dr Dog and Professor Paws programs.

Animals Asia Foundation, Office 17, Mary Seacole Road,  
The Millfields, Plymouth, PL1 3JY, United Kingdom  
**TEL:** +44 (0)1752 224424 **EMAIL:** [info@animalsasia.org](mailto:info@animalsasia.org)  
Registered charity number 1086903

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