

Care for Dogs Foundation  
12 Moo 11  
Wiang Dong  
Nam Phrae / Hang Dong  
Chiang Mai 50230

Registered Charity CM 251  
Email: [contact@carefordogs.org](mailto:contact@carefordogs.org)  
Website: [www.carefordogs.org](http://www.carefordogs.org)  
Phone: 08 9559 83 83 (English) /  
08 6913 8701 (Thai)



Chiang Mai, August 25, 2011

**Att. to Khun Somsak Kiatsuranont, House Speaker, Parliament, Bangkok**

Dear Khun Somsak

With this letter we would like to express our full support for the Animal Welfare Draft jointly initiated and submitted by the Department of Livestock Development and the TSPCA.

So far there is no clear animal welfare legislation in Thailand. Only one clause in the Criminal Laws (Art. 381) states: "A person committing an act of cruelty or killing an animal by mean which induces unnecessary torment shall be sentenced to one month in jail or fined 1.000 Bath or both." The law fails to define the term "cruelty" and to our knowledge no convictions have ever been made.

In order to protect animals from suffering incurred by human cruelty, a specific animal welfare law is urgently needed which makes it possible to effectively enforce animal welfare standards in the community.

This law is needed for all species, but we are especially concerned about the situation of the dog meat trade with neighboring countries. According to intelligence gathered by police, traffickers, and local politicians, a minimum of 360.000 (!) dogs per year are smuggled through illegal river crossings (source: Huffington Post). Dogs also get slaughtered directly in Thailand for local dog meat markets, especially in the North East parts of the country.

The dogs that have been stolen or caught are crammed in tiny cages during their long transport to neighboring countries without food and water. The lucky ones suffocate during the transport. The ones that finally arrive at their destination in Vietnam await shocking and cruel slaughtering methods: the dogs get often tortured for hours before being skinned alive as people think that the pain leads to the tenderizing of the meat.

With an effective animal welfare legislation in place, this type of large scale animal abuse can be stopped. From our experience, it seems that the majority of Thai people are in active support of ending the cruel and inhumane dog meat trade which is against the Buddhist precept that all life should be respected.

We ask that you please ensure that the Animal Welfare Draft be discussed as Urgent Agenda by the Parliament and push legislation that protects dogs from being slaughtered or transported across the border for the intent to slaughter immediately.

Animals don't have a voice of their own – it is our responsibility to stop their suffering and we can only do so through your support for improved and practical animal welfare law in Thailand.

Yours Sincerely,

Care for Dogs Foundation



Karin Hawelka  
President