



**DOG MEAT FREE INDONESIA**

## **The Dog Meat-Free Indonesia Coalition's Position Statement on the Dog Meat Trade**

Throughout Asia, tens of millions of dogs are slaughtered for human consumption each year. Whilst the trades vary to some degree between different countries and provinces, the concerns surrounding its reliance on criminality, inherent animal cruelty and risks to human and animal health, are consistent.

In Indonesia, every year, millions of dogs are captured and stolen to be transported throughout the nation to supply the demand for dog meat. Many are stolen family pets and illegally trafficked dogs snatched from the streets and rural communities.

Whilst only a minority of Indonesians consumes dog meat, the dog meat trade poses a grave health risk to all sectors of society, notably in the form of rabies transmission. The dog meat trade is the only known mass and unregulated movement of dogs from different cities, provinces and islands and is in breach of rabies control recommendations from leading human and animal health experts, including the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The WHO has explicitly highlighted the dog meat trade as a contributing factor to the spread of rabies in Indonesia – a deadly disease that has a devastating impact on human and animal health. Rabies-positive dogs are being moved to supply highly-populated cities that are often dog meat eating “hot spots” throughout the nation.

The unsanitary conditions of slaughterhouses and the unknown health status of dogs slaughtered for consumption, are of added and equal concern, with those involved in the dog meat trade such as traders, slaughterers, vendors and consumers, at further risk of being exposed to rabies and other zoonotic diseases.



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In addition to posing a grave threat to human and animal health, nationwide investigations have revealed the criminality associated with the trade, and the immense and wholly unacceptable suffering caused to millions of dogs each year: crude and brutal methods of capture, transport and slaughter.

To date, no country in the world has ever devised a humane way of slaughtering dogs destined for human consumption; and there is no substantiated evidence to suggest that regulation of dog meat production would resolve the systematic cruelty involved, or alleviate all the risks posed to human health.

**The Dog Meat-Free Indonesia Coalition is therefore resolute in our position that the production and slaughtering of dogs for human consumption must end, and strict enforcement of regulations prohibiting the production of, trade in, slaughtering and consumption of dogs is required with urgency to safeguard the health and welfare of Indonesia's communities and dogs.**