

Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China and all countries to end the slaughter of dogs and other animals.

IN THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 21, 2016

RESOLUTION

Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China and all countries to end the slaughter of dogs and other animals.

- Whereas the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, was launched by dog meat traders during the period of 2009 to 2010 as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat;
- Whereas a reported 10,000 dogs are captured and slaughtered each year for the Dog Meat Festival, and more than 10,000,000 dogs are killed in China each year for the dog meat trade;
- Whereas recent reports have exposed the extreme suffering of dogs at the Dog Meat Festival, including dogs being urinated on, beaten, stabbed, and boiled alive;
- Whereas slaughtering dogs for meat is a very small and very unpopular cause among Chinese people, and 100,000 Chinese activists recently marched to end the dog meat trade
- Whereas millions of Chinese citizens recently voted in support of a legislative proposal by Zhen Xiaohu, a deputy to the National People's Congress of China, to ban the dog meat trade;
- Whereas tens of millions of people around the world have called upon the Government of China, the Governor of the Guangxi Autonomous Region, and the Mayor of Yulin to

officially end the Dog Meat Festival and stop the mass slaughter of dogs all year round in Yulin

- Whereas many of these dogs are stolen from their family's homes, still wearing collars when they reach the slaughterhouses;
- Whereas many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones;
- Whereas these dogs also suffer mentally from watching other dogs being killed, then disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them;
- Whereas slaughtering dogs is an inherently violent practice;
- Whereas dog slaughter in Yulin happens in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization;
- Whereas the dog meat trade—the capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat—poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera;
- Whereas dog meat traders sell meat from dogs who have died of poisoning by dog thieves or unknown causes or who have been slaughtered without the required vaccination and health records;
- Whereas the dog meat trade breaches China's food safety laws and regulations that ban processing and selling meat from livestock who have died of illnesses or unknown causes;
- Whereas, although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Berkeley City Council

(1) condemns the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin because it

(A) is a spectacle of extreme animal cruelty;

(B) is not actually grounded in Chinese history or popular support; and

(C) threatens global public health;

(2) encourages the Government of China and the Yulin authorities to enforce China's food safety laws regulating the processing and sale of animal products;

(3) urges the Government of China and the Yulin authorities to impose a ban on the killing and eating of dogs as part of Yulin's festival;

(4) urges the National People's Congress of China to enact an animal anti-cruelty law with provisions banning the dog meat trade; and

(5) affirms the commitment of the Berkeley City Council to the protection from all suffering and harm of dogs and all animals both within Berkeley and around the world.