



DOG MEAT TRADE DEBATE MOVES TO THE U.S.

Following the success of the MPs' Briefing and subsequent parliamentary debate, last year, serious attempts are being made to replicate the process in Washington, so that the Americans can learn about the terrible cruelty involved in the dog meat trade in Southeast Asia. A US Senator has been identified to fulfil the role so successfully carried out by John McDonnell MP, in Westminster, in 2015, but we desperately need to find a celebrity to add glamour to the process in the way that our patrons Dame Judi Dench and Peter Egan did over here. If any of you can suggest anyone we could approach in the United States to be present at the Washington briefing, please do let us know, as we are keen to move things

forward. Obviously we need someone who impresses the politicians and has a real passion for the dogs.



Dame Judi Dench, IWCT patron, has the following message:
"A great deal was achieved, last year by the End Dog Meat Trade Campaign in Britain but it is only a start as this is a worldwide campaign.

Everyone must try and spread the word that this trade has to be stopped."

RESCUE CENTRE NEWS

With so few dog traders now operating there have been just two rescues since Christmas. Both operations were in the province of Laguna, south of Manila and a total of six live dogs were rescued.

In one of the raids five dogs were found in an abandoned house with their paws and legs tied behind their backs, in tiny cages with no light or ventilation, unable to bark, as their muzzles

were tied with string. The premises was a makeshift slaughterhouse and tools were discovered along with the dogs. One of the rescued dogs, who has been named January, had been beaten so badly that one of her eyes was almost completely out of its socket. She was urgently taken back to the Rescue Centre, where they operated on her eye and we are pleased to report that she is recovering well. All six rescued dogs will now spend a period of rehabilitation and socialisation at the Centre in preparation for rehoming.

January is recovering well after having her eye successfully operated on



DOGS ON DEATH ROW!

2016 is set to be the year that we hope to see a complete end to the barbaric dog meat trade in the Philippines.

Thanks to our DNA Analyser prosecution has been made far easier, making it very difficult for the illegal traders. This is fantastic news, but we now face a major new problem in trying to control the enormous dog population and more importantly the way in which the Philippine government is currently implementing policies to regulate "stray dogs", under the excuse of eradicating Rabies.

The Philippine government require the local authorities to employ dog catchers to regularly round up any apparently stray dogs, on the basis that they present a danger to the public. This danger is considered to be either biting or spreading disease, most notably Rabies. However, as Rabies is now limited to only two Philippine provinces, it makes the rounding up of most dogs outside these areas totally unnecessary.

The captured dogs are taken to the dog pounds and thrown into cages only built for two or three, often with 20 dogs in each cage, creating a very stressed and frightening environment, which unsurprisingly leads to dog fights. The dogs are imprisoned in these dreadful conditions for up to seven days. If after that time they remain unclaimed, they will usually be destroyed without a second thought.

Owners wishing to claim their dog within the seven days have to pay a fine, which discourages the poorer dog owners. There is also the issue of 'Community' dogs, who live in townships and are fed and cared for by a number of families, rather than one specific owner; these dogs are much less likely to be claimed from the pound. They are very rarely of any danger to the public, the basis on which they are taken in the first place, which makes the whole process so



utterly pointless. To make things worse they are usually the friendliest dogs, being the easiest to catch.

Thousands of dogs are being rounded up every week and currently 90% never make it out alive. We have an enormous challenge on our hands, not only to improve conditions within the pounds, but to convince the government to change their policies on capture and stray dog control.

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DOGS ON DEATH ROW!

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HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- Improving Conditions: work with the pounds, providing better quality food, reduce overcrowding and make available basic veterinary treatment to any injured or sick dogs. Show staff how to feed and care for the dogs and initiate a formal rehoming programme within the pounds.
- Education: teach people the value of neutering their dogs, the importance of giving a dog a collar and identity tag and keeping them on a leash and securing their gardens and yards to prevent escape.
- Lobbying Central Government: challenge the need for the unnecessary capture of dogs, when they present no danger to the public and demand the withdrawal of the penalty required to claim a dog from the pound.

Together we can give these dogs the second chance that they so desperately deserve, PLEASE PLEASE help us to stop these poor dogs being put on Death Row!



ON THE TRAIL OF THE AFRICAN WILD DOG

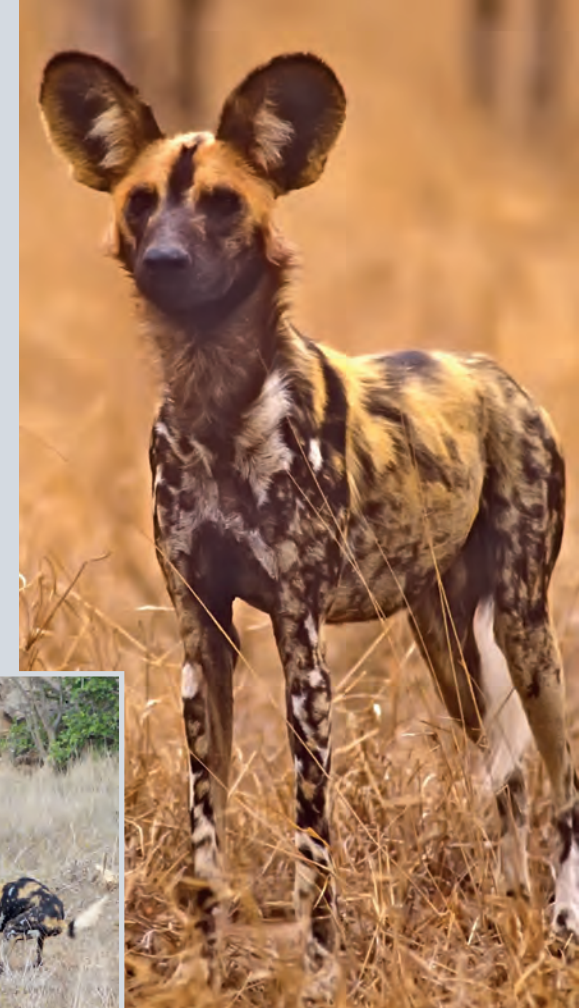
Last summer we held an event to raise funds for the critically endangered African Wild Dog.

Our donation went specifically towards the tracking collars for Tony Fitzjohn's captive breeding programme, aimed at reintroducing dogs back into the wild in the hope of increasing their numbers.

We are very excited at the success of the programme. In January Tony and his team took a small family of Wild Dogs to the reintroduction compound on the border of Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania and Tsavo West National Park in Kenya. Before release one of the dogs was fitted with a telemetry collar, allowing the whereabouts of the pack to be known once they left the compound. Upon release the main aim was to ensure that the dogs were fed and watered as much as possible until their natural instincts and inherited knowledge kicked in. During the first week food was supplied and then the pack took off to the central plains of Mkomazi; thanks to the tracking collar the team were able to follow the dogs

over the subsequent weeks as they hunted successfully between the border of Tsavo and the plains of Mkomazi.

It's early days, but so far so good for this family of Wild Dogs and the next slightly larger pack is scheduled for release in May, for which two tracking collars will be used. An endangered species programme such as this can only be successful if there is continuity and perseverance over many years and we are proud to have contributed in this small way.



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Newly released pack of dogs beginning to fend for themselves
Photo credit: GAWPT



Jerry happy at the shelter



Inset: Bongbong & Jojo

THESE DOGS NEED A BRIGHTER FUTURE...

We'd like to introduce you to Jerry, Jojo and Bongbong, three rescued Askal dogs who up until now have been living with Anna-Marie Wharton at her dog shelter in Iloilo City in Central Philippines.

Anna-Marie is an animal lover who in 2012 started taking in dogs who were about to be seized by evil dog meat traders or rounded up by dog catchers and destroyed.

Apart from her small shelter Anna-Marie has also been working with the locals in Iloilo to help educate them on the importance of neutering and animal welfare; in her words Anna-Marie is working to make Iloilo an animal-friendly city but she needs our help.

Due to high rent and a shortage of funds Anna-Marie has to move her

shelter with its limited capacity of 20 dogs. Thankfully an English couple living nearby have offered the perfect site on which to build a new, larger and much improved shelter. The land will provide accommodation for not only the 10 dogs that Anna-Marie currently has, but up to an additional 90 dogs.

The plans for the new shelter have been drawn up and we are working with Anna-Marie to ensure that all the appropriate facilities are provided, including isolation, segregated dog pens, stimulating play areas and a

veterinary clinic. We are also working with Anna-Marie to establish an adoption programme to ensure that as many dogs as possible find loving new homes.

We want to give the strays like Jerry, Jojo and Bongbong the chance of a new life, one that doesn't mean scavenging the streets for food, sleeping in doorways and fearing that at any time they could be impounded and ultimately put to sleep. With your help we can support Anna-Marie with her wonderful new shelter and change the fate of so many of these stray dogs.

THEY'RE BACK! IWCT are thrilled to announce two new appointments in the Philippines.

Suzanne Llanera was executive director of the AKF from 2001-2010, she was with us from the launch our campaign to end the dog meat trade, spearheading all the work to initiate the first raids and rescues and ultimately the opening of our wonderful Rescue Centre in 2006. In addition we welcome back Luis Buenaflor, who also first worked with us in 2001, working on our initial operations with the Philippine police, tracking down dog meat traders. He went on to run our educational programme, working with schools to help develop a respect and love of dogs as pets, as well as running the Rescue Centre operations until 2013, when he left for serious heart surgery which thankfully was very successful.

Great to have you back Luis



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