**China should introduce a law to protect domestic animals**

Animal protection is a hot social topic. However, cruelty to domestic animals sometimes happens, Some irresponsible pet owners abandon their pets carelessly, some even mistreat their pets. China has a wildlife protection law, but there’s no document that can protect normal domestic animals.

Government should introduce a law to protect domestic animals for the following reasons. First, the law can reduce cruelty to domestic animals. Second, domestic animal protection is consistent with most people’s viewpoint. Third, it can create a healthier social atmosphere and reduce violence in society. Fourth, abandoned animals may destroy the ecological balance.

Cruelty to animals sometimes appears in the news. Some domestic animals are abandoned or not taken care of by owners, some are tortured on purpose. Without the law that protect domestic animals, people who harm them won’t be punished. They may harm the animals with little scruple. In this case, a law that prevent these appalling behaviors is necessary. In contrast, if the government introduce the law to protect domestic animals, the abusers will be disciplined by law. Cruelty to animals will decrease. Furthermore, the publication of the law can make more people aware of the importance to protect domestic animals. People who unintentionally harm their pets can realize their mistakes and correct them. From the two aspects, the law can reduce cruelty to domestic animals.

Some people may say that as soon as they buy the domestic animals, the animals are their personal belongs, so they can do anything to them. They make light of cruelty to animals. However, just as Richard L. Cupp,Jr(2016) wrote, "Animals are property, but they are not mere things." There are differences between domestic animals and common possessions. Domestic animals are creatures, they also have lives. Respect for life is common sense, it’s immoral to abuse domestic animals. If the animals are not protected , they may get sick or die. The value of economic animals such as pigs and cattle will fail. From the view of benefit, people’s property suffers loss. Overall, people can’t treat domestic animals arbitrarily. We need laws to protect them.

Domestic animal protection law can make the social conduct better, and even reduce the crime rate.

Generally speaking, a sane person don’t abuse domestic animals. Research shows that people who abuse animals are more likely to be violent..According to Louise Petersen, M., & Farrington, D. P. (2007), "Existing research suggests that there are links between animal cruelty and human violence; children who are cruel to animals are at higher risk of growing up into violent adults, and adults who are cruel to animals are at higher risk of committing domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse." As is mentioned above, the law against cruelty to domestic animals can reduce animal abuse. Moreover, the less people that abuse animals, the fewer human violence will happen.

If cruelty to animals is legal, the negative energy spreads. Some videos of animal abuse has already spread over the internet. There are even teenagers imitating this behavior.Innocent children may try to learn from the violence, the ethos of the whole society will be affected.

Animal protection represents love, mercy and respect for nature.With the development of times, in modern society, people attach more importance on civilization than before. The protection of domestic animals is a sign of advanced human society.

Some people may say that it doesn’t matter how the animals feel, there’s no need to create laws to defend the rights of domestic animals.For example, Australian philopsopher Peter Singer claimed:"There can be no moral justification for regarding the pain that animals feel as less important than the same amount of pain felt by humans. "

But the laws that forbid domestic animals cruelty is not emphasizing the animal welfare. It is only for the basic health of the domestic animals. According to Sainsbury D(1986), "Good health is the birthright of every animal that we rear, whether intensively or otherwise. If it becomes diseased we have failed in our duty to the animal and subjected it to a degree of suffering that cannot be readily estimated." Thus, the law is a reflection of human’s civilization in modern society.

The law can force people not to abandon their domestic animals, reduce the incidence of invasive alien species. 283 invasive alien species were recorded in China, only one species of invasive alien animal invaded through natural dispersion.Introduced for breeding, ornamental and biological control invasive alien species which were introduced for breeding and ornamental purposes, and formed wild population because of release into the nature or abandonment, which resulted in threats to native fauna and local agriculture. With through laws about domestic animals, the breeding animals can get good control, invasion of alien species will reduce a lot. Species diversity and ecological balance can be ensured, so the environment will become better.

If pet owners are responsible for their domestic animals according to the law, there will be fewer sick and stray cats and dogs on the street. The pets don’t lose their home; wild dog attacks will reduce. The city will be safer and better.

Some people may say that the range of domestic animals is too large, it’s difficult for the government to legislate. However, the problem can be solved by professionals. The domestic animals can be sorted by pets and economic animals. We need rules to regulate the animal breeders’ behavior. Not only the animal right can be protected. When people have dispute about purchasing domestic animals, they can base on the domestic animal protection law to judge.

Others may say that the judicial resources are limited, it’s not the turn to set laws to domestic animals. But the law can not only protect animals. The animal breeders, the animal market and the whole society can be benefited from it.

Animal protection is mature. Many countries already have animal protection laws, such as New Zealand, Holland, Russia and so on. The first animal welfare law was passed in 1822 with a long history. They can offer useful experience for us to build our law.

China is drafting an anti-animal cruelty law.More and more people are conscious of protecting domestic animals.Based on the reasons above, the government should announce a law to protect domestic animals.

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