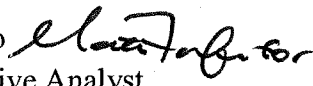


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 17, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 19-0002-S101
Assignment No: 19-06-0595

SUBJECT: Resolution requesting legislation or administrative action to ban the sale of dog meat in a number of countries.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Blumenfield – Ryu) to include in the City’s 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would request the governments of China, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce their animal cruelty laws.

SUMMARY

Dog meat is consumed in a number of countries worldwide, particularly in Southeast and East Asia. It is estimated that between 10 and 20 million dogs in China, five million dogs in Vietnam, and one million dogs in each of South Korea, Indonesia, and Cambodia are killed for consumption each year. Dogs in these countries are kept in cramped, rusty cages that are stacked on top of each other. These animals are often slaughtered in brutal ways such as hanging or electrocution. These slaughtering methods are primarily attributed to an erroneous belief that high adrenaline levels will produce tender meat and increase the supposed health benefits of consuming dog meat.

The Resolution (Blumenfield – Ryu) recommends support for legislation or administrative action that would request a number of governments to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce animal cruelty laws.

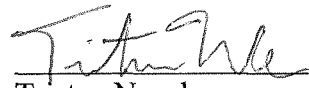
BACKGROUND

The Chinese and South Korean governments have already passed laws regarding dog meat and animal cruelty, but these laws are poorly enforced. In China, the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China created regulations regarding livestock farms, slaughterhouses, and meat preparation, none of which are observed by the dog meat industry. Under this law, livestock farms and slaughterhouses must be licensed by food safety authorities, but there are no licensed facilities for dog meat.

South Korea’s Animal Protection Act, which was passed in 1991 and amended in 2006, established provisions regarding animal cruelty, humane slaughter, and basic welfare requirements for animals, many of which carry small fines below US \$1,000 or have been deemed unenforceable by legal

scholars. Despite neglecting national laws, the dog meat industry continues to operate undisturbed in these countries, leading to the consumption of between 10 and 20 million dogs each year in China, and one million dogs each year in South Korea.

In 2018, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 401 (Hastings), which urged all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and enforce existing laws against such trade on cruelty and public health grounds. H.R. 401 did not require Senate or presidential approval because it was a non-binding House resolution. The House also passed H.R. 6720 (Buchanan), the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018, which amended the federal Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the slaughter of dogs and cats for the purpose of human consumption in the United States. This amendment was ultimately incorporated into H.R. 2 (Conaway), the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which was enacted on December 20, 2018.



Tristan Noack
Analyst

SMT:tcjn

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the City of Los Angeles has been one of California's leaders in pursuing progressive animal welfare policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 10 to 20 million dogs in China, 5 million dogs in Vietnam, and one million dogs each in South Korea, Indonesia, and Cambodia are killed for food each year; and

WHEREAS, dogs in these countries are kept in cramped, rusty cages stacked on top of each other, and slaughtered in brutal ways such as hanging or electrocution, due to an erroneous belief that high adrenaline levels will produce tender meat and increase the supposed health benefits of consuming dog; and

WHEREAS, the governments of some of these countries have passed laws regarding dog meat and animal cruelty: in China, the Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China, and in South Korea, the Animal Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, despite laws regulating the sale of dog meat in these countries, dog farms continue to operate in brazen disregard of any established standards of animal cruelty, and continue to raise and slaughter dogs in inhumane ways;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes into its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would request the governments of China, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce their animal cruelty laws.

PRESENTED BY:

Bob Blumenfeld

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

Debra

ORIGINAL

[Signature]
JUN 5 2019