

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dawn Peacock  
**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 05:21 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-0425  
**Comments for Public Posting:** ACTAsia in support of PawPAC, do hereby urgently call on you, council members, to take swift action to permanently prohibit the sale of living animals for human consumption in the City of Los Angeles.



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The Honorable Nury Martinez, President  
Los Angeles City Council

The Honorable David Ryu, Chair of  
Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts and River Committee

Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

cc. René Rowland, Chair  
PawPAC  
PO Box 4635  
Downey,  
CA 90241

**RE: Motion 20-0425**

**Ordinance to prohibit the sale of living animals for human consumption in the City**

Dear Ms. Martinez and Mr. Ryu,

ACTAsia are delighted to hear that Los Angeles is considering banning markets that sell live animals for food. ACTAsia believes that respect for animals, people and the environment is the most valuable human quality that will lead to a compassionate world. As a result, our three programme areas are focused on Consumer Education, Student Education and Professional Education. The projects are run by staff, volunteers and advisers with years of experience in the field and who are stationed internationally in China, Australia, Europe and the USA.

In China, we have seen several updates within legislation for both provinces and cities, with over 20 pieces of legislation to ban the eating of wildlife in different cities and provinces. In addition, two cities have openly declared that they will enforce legislation which prohibits the eating of companion animals; Shenzhen forbids dogs to be eaten and Zhuhai has made it illegal to eat dogs and cats. In a statement, China said: "With the progress of human civilisation and the public's concern and preference for animal protection, dogs have changed from traditional domestic

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animals to companion animals. Dogs are generally not regarded as livestock and poultry around the world, and China should also not manage them as livestock and poultry.”

The longer term revision of the Wildlife Protection law is expected by the end of the year and the updated livestock list has already been published with little change and no additional animals joining the list of animals that can be farmed for commercial purposes. There is certainly a long way to go but with consumer surveys showing that 87% of people are in favour of supporting a ban on eating wildlife, this demonstrates the support of the public is also rising to the changes.

There is some discussion about culture and traditions and that some reserve should be made to preserve these. At ACTAsia we recognise there is no room for using culture as an excuse for cruelty or human health risks. Culture is a fluid term and changes as society progresses adapting to new information and factors. The issue of eating wildlife in China is not for subsistence in an indigenous group of people, but a luxury item in a society of excess, one which has pushed our planet to the brink in front of our eyes.

ACTAsia are continuing to offer proposals to consider banning the commercial use of wildlife in all categories to further protect human health across the country, and indeed the world.

The live animal markets that keep animals, crowded in containers, where they are stressed along the supply chain and then mix with other species (both wild and domestic) are the deadly combination that lead to viruses leaping from animals to humans. The markets are leaving the opportunity for new COVID-19 diseases to emerge in the future, adding to the list of diseases that have already made the leap from animals to humans to name only two; SARS with masked civet cats as the intermediary host and Swine Flu with pigs as the intermediary host.

The risks are simply too high for humans to consider keeping live food markets open. PawPAC had the foresight to lobby for change in 1993, and presented justification for ending the live animal markets based on diseases found in necropsies performed on the animal subjects, which revealed: salmonella Pasteurella, E. coli, giardia, blood parasites, roundworms, pinworms and malaria. The diseases found are already risk enough to human health but as we are now seeing the consequences of COVID-19 are brutal and so we urge your swift action.

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Closing food markets that sell live food and wildlife reduces the risks of infectious diseases emerging and also protects wild animals in their natural habitats from being exploited for consumption and abuse.

We believe the Los Angeles City Council is forward thinking and demonstrates a timely response to the pandemic by future proofing human health and safety by taking this step to ban Live Food Markets and is leading the way through positive examples for other cities and countries to follow.

ACTAsia in support of PawPAC, do hereby urgently call on you, council members, to take swift action to permanently prohibit the sale of living animals for human consumption in the City of Los Angeles.

Yours truly,

Dawn Peacock

Director of Programmes  
ACTAsia

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dean Hartwell  
**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 06:50 AM  
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**Comments for Public Posting:** Save the dogs!