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Report: Dog Meat Trafficking and Consumption Is Still Popular in Cambodia

Wednesday, 10 August 2022

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A report by [Animal Rescue Cambodia](#) shows that every year, between two and three million dogs are brutally kidnapped and killed for their meat to be sold and consumed. Even though trafficking and killing of dogs is unlicensed and illegal, it remains a problem in the country that is difficult to solve.

Most people who consume dog meat, find that it tastes good, and wrongfully think that it can be used as a medicine and a tonic, which is contrary to scientific findings. Findings by Animal Rescue Cambodia, instead show that the consumption of dog meat can infect people with rabies, parasites, and other diseases, and thus, causing health problems and even fatality.

The organization's report also reveals that the dogs that are caught and brutally killed are mostly stray dogs or owned dogs that are sold by their owners to traders. Also, roaming dogs can be illegally caught on the street or even in front of their houses. The traders transport them by motorbike, while others transport them by truck to the slaughterhouse and then distribute them to the vendors. The dogs are often killed by having their heads hit, strangling, or mass drowning.

Animal Rescue Cambodia, in collaboration with partner organizations and relevant authorities, conducted the first study on dog meat in Siem Reap in 2019. As a result, in July 2020, the trafficking and consumption of dog meat was banned in Siem Reap province. In early 2021, the first-ever confiscation of dogs destined for slaughter was conducted by Siem Reap authorities. Following the confiscation, Animal Rescue Cambodia provided first aid medical treatments to those 61 dogs.

To help eradicate the trafficking and consumption of dog meat, Animal Rescue Cambodia has tried to publicize the health hazards of consuming dog meat, as well as urging the public to stop eating dog or cat meat for the wellness of their health and for the lives of the animals. The organization has encouraged its partners as well as other NGOs to continue to work to stop the brutal killings of such innocent animals.

It should be noted that dogs are a species that is thought to be human companions to the point that they are considered to be members of a family. Because of this, some countries have issued a law banning the trade and consumption of dog meat. Nevertheless, in Cambodia as a whole, there has yet to be such law, only in some areas, there may be a law on this problem issued by the district governor, such as in Siem Reap.

According to the Cambodian Law on Animal Health and Animal Production, Article 113 stipulates that any person who has established an animal business and a slaughterhouse business without a license or does not comply with veterinary technical standards shall be fined 10 - 15 Million Riels.