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Chinese Embassy
H.E. mr. WU Ken, Ambassador
Lodewijklaan 10
2517 JT 's Gravenhage
chinaemb_nl@mfa.gov.cn

Amsterdam, June 9th 2017

Subject: Yulin Dog Meat Festival

Dear H.E. mr. WU Ken, Ambassador,

We kindly ask your attention for the following.

Within the association Raad van Beheer op Kynologisch Gebied in Nederland (Dutch Kennel Club), everything is about loving and keeping dogs. In the Netherlands, the approximately 1.8 million dogs have become a part of the family. We do almost anything for our faithful roommate. We give him good food and adequate preventive and veterinary care, we do lots of activities together with our dog and often he joins us on vacations. In the Netherlands, we feel this is logical since the dog is not only a cosy roommate, but has several social functions as well. Think of the reduction of feelings of loneliness since the dog gets you in touch with other dog owners when walking the dog and of the freedom and independence they bring to people that are disabled. With that, the dog has an obvious role in Dutch society and owners wanting the best for their dog.

We understand that in other countries with other cultures this might be different. The Dutch proverb states " 's lands wijs, 's lands eer" - meaning "when in Rome, do as the Romans do" - applies of course to loving and keeping dogs as well. We respect those differences, provided that the welfare and health are not being at stake. As soon as that is the case, we feel the responsibility to ask for attention and if possible to apply means to carry our concerns out broader or to make available that what is needed to counteract those things that harm animal welfare in other countries or regions.

Because of this, we now contact you. As you might know, the Yulin festival starts at June 21st. During this festival not only the meat of dogs is eaten, but before that the dogs are kept in a way that doesn't respect the five freedoms of Brambell at all. The five freedoms outline five aspects of animal welfare under human control, e.g. freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain and freedom from fear and distress. Furthermore, the dogs die in a horrible way during which they suffer unnecessary and during which freedom from pain and freedom from fear and distress are disrespected completely. Lots of dogs are consumed during this festival; amounts of 10.000 till 15.000 dogs each year are mentioned. It is especially the way in which dogs are kept and killed that we disapprove. The Dutch Kennel Club feels that, if dogs are consumed, they should be killed in a by the government regulated way during which the animal is killed immediately without any suffering. This is by no means at all the case with the dogs that are eaten during the Yulin festival.



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We kindly but urgently ask you to discuss the way dogs are treated and killed during the Yulin festival with the Chinese government and see to it that regulation is made that no longer enables these kinds of practices, so that - if they are consumed - dogs are killed in a proper, animal friendly way.

We thank you in advance for your effort and like to be informed about the process.

Yours sincerely,

mr. H.J. Alberts
President