



## Cat and Dog Welfare

Key dates 1991-2015

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Millions of cats and dogs are slaughtered each year in China for their meat. Millions more live in misery and fear on the streets, dying from disease, thirst and starvation. Left to breed on the streets, cats and dogs are susceptible to hunger, thirst and disease. Growing populations cause problems for humans too, with hygiene and noise the biggest issues.

These are the issues we are addressing through our Cat and Dog Welfare programme. We develop practical, community-based projects with individuals, local animal welfare groups and governments to benefit animals and people alike.

We provide assistance to over 150 local Chinese animal welfare groups, giving practical advice, funding small projects, and nurturing a network of support through community workshops and forums for city officials and local groups.

Our pioneering animal therapy work is also changing attitudes, with our Dr Dogs and their guardians now volunteering in Hong Kong and three mainland Chinese cities. Our other dog programme, Professor Paws, teaches schoolchildren to lose their fear of dogs and to understand that animals have feelings and emotions just like us. These dogs are touching the lives of thousands of people each year.

### 1991

**Animals Asia launches Dr Dog in Hong Kong.** Jill Robinson, founder and CEO of Animals Asia, pioneered the concept of animal therapy in Asia, when Hong Kong's Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital in Hong Kong agreed to allow "one dog, to spend one hour, in the garden". That dog was Jill's golden retriever Max and when he lit up the face of a paraplegic boy with a radiant smile, Dr Dog was born.



### 1998

**Jill Robinson founds Animals Asia.** Jill and a small team of dedicated people in Hong Kong set up Animals Asia Foundation primarily to end bear bile farming and the consumption of cats and dogs.

### 2000

**Animals Asia begins investigations into China's live-animal markets.** For 15 years, our Cat and Dog Welfare team, often accompanied by our founder Jill and local volunteers, has witnessed and reported on atrocities committed against companion animals at hundreds of markets, slaughterhouses and restaurants throughout China.





## 2001

**Jill rescues “Eddie” from a meat market in southern China.** Eddie, a scruffy little dog, was brought back to Hong Kong and soon became a much loved ambassador for Animals Asia’s Dr Dog animal therapy programme, which now operates in four Chinese cities. Eddie passed away in 2014.



## 2004

**Animals Asia launches Professor Paws in Hong Kong.** This innovative programme, founded by our Board Member Anneleise Smillie, sees our therapy dogs take on the role of teachers, inspiring school children to love and respect animals.



**Dr Dog starts in Chengdu, China.** As the first animal therapy programme in mainland China, Dr Dog caught the attention of the media in Chengdu and across the country. Later expanding to Guangzhou and Shenzhen, the programme is hugely popular and is having a major impact on many people’s attitudes to dogs and animals generally. At end 2015, our Dr Dogs had touched the lives of over 510,000 people at 5,700 events and activities in Hong Kong, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

## 2005

**Animals Asia releases a 16-minute film, “Dr. Eddie: Friend or Food?”** in which Chinese singer and movie star Richie Jen, narrates Dr. Eddie’s voice. The video uses Eddie’s experiences to show why cats and dogs are our friends not food, appealing to the public to care for animals and say no to cat and dog meat.



## 2006

**We hold our first China Companion Animal Symposium**, bringing together animal protection groups from around the country. Since then, Animals Asia has hosted four more symposiums, with a total of 580 representatives of groups from all over China taking part. The symposiums provide a much-needed platform for these groups, many of whom work in isolation and under great pressure. The gatherings allow them to build supportive networks, learn from experts and share experiences with fellow activists.



**Animals Asia joins World Animal Day campaign.** Starting in 2006, our annual activities – including a national online photo competition and touring exhibition to raise public awareness about cat and dog welfare – have impacted more than 10 million people in China. Our annual “Sharing Love with Them” online photo competition to promote love and respect for companion animals has attracted participation and support from over 40,000 netizens since its launch in 2011; over that time, we have held exhibitions of the winning entries in nearly 300 universities and community centres around China.



## 2007

**Animals Asia begins a programme of ongoing cooperation with government departments** in many cities throughout China, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Nanjing. After years of building relationships, we now provide officials with advice on all aspects of urban dog and cat population and disease management and we collaborate on many large-scale public education events. This cooperation has led to many benefits for animals, officials and the community.





**Animals Asia starts supplying free educational materials to NGOs, universities and individuals across China** to help them run their own public awareness and education activities to promote cat and dog welfare. By the end of 2015, we had distributed over 800,000 leaflets, 40,000 posters and 20,000 DVDs. More than 10 million people have been influenced by these materials.



## 2008

**Animals Asia helps pioneer TNR in China.** We collaborated with animal welfare group Guangzhou Cats to implement the first trap, neuter, release (TNR) programme for cats in Guangzhou. Over the following three years, the project was rolled out in various locations around the city, including Guangzhou Yicai Garden, Xiaogang Park and Guangzhou College of Fine Arts. A total of 130 cats were neutered and vaccinated, stabilising the numbers and improving the lives of the cats involved. The TNR scheme has also reduced conflict between residents over the stray cats.



**Animals Asia establishes a temporary shelter for dogs** left homeless by the Sichuan earthquake in May 2008. Dogs in the stricken Dujiangyan area were sheltered free of charge for up to a year to give earthquake victims time to resettle and start to rebuild their lives. Over 100 dogs were taken in and eventually reunited with their owners or adopted by local people.



**Animals Asia helps 149 “meat dogs” rescued by activists in Sichuan.** We provided funding and support for Qiming dog shelter in Chengdu, which took in the dogs that were rescued from an illegal trader by local welfare groups and volunteers who want a ban on the cruel dog meat trade. We funded the construction of a new quarantine area at the shelter and our vet team made regular visits to treat and vaccinate the dogs. Many were later adopted by caring people.



**Professor Paws launches in Guangzhou.** Dogs in Guangzhou classrooms attracted much media attention and all of it was positive. The programme soon expanded to Shenzhen and Chengdu. At the end of 2015, more than 85,000 students in 800 schools in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu had graduated as “care cadets” with our volunteer “canine professors” as their teachers.



## 2009

**Guangzhou implements new dog management rules** – among the most advanced in China. The new regulations were introduced after the local police invited Animals Asia to provide advice and make recommendations on better practices. Guangzhou, a city notorious for its cat and dog meat markets and restaurants, now allocates areas for dog walking, offers reduced dog licence fees and two-year free registration for neutered dogs. The city also provides 130 dog-registration centres.

**Animals Asia steps up fight against dog culls.** Many cities throughout China carried out brutal dog culls in reaction to cases of rabies or because of hygiene and public safety concerns, so our Cat and Dog Welfare team worked overtime to contact the relevant government departments to express opposition to the dog culling and give our suggestions. Some of these cities are now working with Animals Asia towards introducing better dog management regulations.

**We host China’s first large-scale forum to promote better dog management in cities.** Our China Dog Ownership Management Symposium encourages local governments to work with animal welfare groups to develop advanced, humane, science-based policies governing dog owners and departments in charge of stray populations. In 2014, we held our sixth annual symposium and the annual gathering is now China’s leading forum on dog management issues. To date, a total of 320 governmental officials from 46 cities around China have participated in our symposiums.





## 2011

**Animals Asia launches Cyclists Love Animals.** Our annual nationwide campaign, Cyclists Love Animals, has become a phenomenal success around China, growing from year to year and introducing concepts of animal welfare to many people for the very first time. In 2011, our campaign involved 87 cyclist groups from 20 cities across China. Animal lovers, animal protection groups, university associations and social groups also joined in, using low-carbon methods like bicycles and social media to promote animal welfare. Over 1,800 cyclists rode through their home cities with animal welfare posters on their backs, stopping to collect signatures for a petition from 77,000 people along the way. We reached a further 100,000 people through China's popular social media platform Weibo.



**We help hundreds of dogs rescued from the meat trade.** In 2011, Chengdu animal protection groups rescued 800 dogs that were crammed in cages on a truck and headed for meat markets in Guanxi province. More than 300 of these dogs were transported to the Qiming shelter in Chengdu. Animals Asia provided emergency support and funding for these dogs, including veterinary care and medicine. We also employed workers to care for the dogs and provided food for one year. Muppet, one of the lucky dogs rescued, is now an ambassador for our work and living happily with our staff at our China Bear Rescue Centre in Chengdu.



2012

**Animals Asia holds China's first large-scale forum on stray cat management.** Co-hosted with Beijing Lucky Cats, our first China Cat Management Symposium was held in Beijing and attended by 70 people from international and domestic NGOs and veterinarians from over 20 cities. Now held annually, the symposiums focus on the problems relating to stray cats, and finding solutions that benefit both the cats and residents. Participants get valuable information on practical ways to help strays, such as TNR and methods of de-sexing.



**We launch TNR training around China.** Animals Asia has teamed up with Beijing Lucky Cats to compile a comprehensive manual and start in-depth training for animal protection groups across the country so that they can implement their own TNR schemes. At the end of 2015, 115 volunteers and staff from 13 grassroots NGOs had participated in our workshops and were qualified to start their own TNR projects. Many already have. We also provide NGOs with the basic equipment needed to implement TNR – this includes 140 cat traps and 300kg of cat food since starting the training. We also offer long-term support with de-sexing, vaccination and de-worming. The programme helps control stray cat numbers and lessens conflicts between residents over the cats, minimising the possibility of cat culling or abuse.





2013

**Animals Asia provides emergency relief after Ya'an earthquake.** In April 2013, we co-operated with several animal protection groups and organizations to carry out rescue work in Ya'an city after another terrible earthquake hit Sichuan province. We provided goods including 4,000kg of dog food, 2,500 doses of vaccine, various medical supplies, bottled water and daily-use items for people. We rescued over 40 stray dogs and provided free dog food and vaccinations for over 2,200 owned dogs. At the same time, we supported 300 dogs in Ya'an Small Animal Rescue Centre, providing dog food, vaccinations and medicine.



**Our new ad campaign targets health risks of eating dog and cat meat.** To inform the public of the potential health hazards of consuming the meat of animals exploited by this illegal industry, Animals Asia created a series of three advertising posters with the theme, "Be healthy. Say NO to cat and dog meat". Over 300 posters were displayed in metro and bus stations as well as elevators in 16 cities, including Nanning, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing, Shenzhen and Nanjing. The ads also ran on public welfare websites and in leading newspapers such as Taobao (from Alibaba group), Yibo and Nanfang Media. Over 20,000 users of popular social media platform Weibo reposted or left comments about the posters, including celebrities Karen Mok, Hu Ge, Qi Qin and Lu Xu.



2014

**Animals Asia's animated children's video wins national welfare award.** Our short film, "Cat and Dog Welfare around Us" was named one of China's "Top 10 Public Welfare Videos" at Vcare China Public Welfare Film Festival. Aimed at teaching children to care for animals, the video is now being distributed to schools around the country. By the end of 2015, the video has been played in 115 schools across China. It is estimated that over 100,000 people have watched the video through LED screens at various public occasions and video websites.



**We worked with 11 Chinese cities to improve dog management.** As well as maintaining an open communication with dog ownership management departments in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu where we have dedicated staff, we visited Nanning, Qingdao, Yantai, Shanghai, Macau, Zhuhai, Nanchang and Changsha, giving advice and practical guidance to the cities' dog managers and local NGOs.



## 2015

**In June 2015, Animals Asia released a series of in-depth research reports on China's dog meat industry.** It took four years to complete the reports that reveal the fact that there are no large scale meat dog farms in China at all. The reports also answer the questions from the media and animal protection groups: the so called, large quantity of meat dogs, are in fact pet dogs that are stolen or snatched from households, or stray animals that are poisoned from the streets. Our reports also reveal that the consumption of dogs and cats is not popular in China; over 80% of the population in most of the researched areas do not eat such meat. We sent open letters to the relevant government departments such as the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (where people still retain the habit of eating dogs) and Yulin City, Guangxi Province (where the Yulin Dog Meat Festival is held every year), in the hope that the authorities will move to smash the illegal dog meat industry chain.



**ToLi Media, an advertisement company based in East China's Nan Jing City has given Animals Asia 20 light box advertising boards for free in Nan Jing city centre.** These boards are a part of the city's public bicycle stops. It is estimated that a single board is exposed to over 30,000 people a day. We would like to thank ToLi Media for their wonderful support!





**Adi was presented international award.** Adi, a Dr Dog in Guangzhou, used to have a difficult life. After he was adopted by his current owner, he participated in Animals Asia's Dr Dog programme and visited many homes for the old and centres for special children. His story touched the PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) and subsequently he was awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award by this world-renowned animal charity organisation.



Professor Adi visits a school with his owner.



Adi's award.

**In 2015, in order to enhance animal welfare and improve living conditions, we funded local animal shelters in the following cities: Chengdu, Wuhan, Yantai, Nanchang, Baoji, Xuzhou, Chongqing, Taiyuan, Jinan, Xi'an, and Lanzhou.**

The funded items included: renovation of shelters, clippers, beds, toys, dog food, vaccination, deworming tablets, anti-pest sprays and collars. Over 7,300 animals benefited.



Funded Wuhan Small Animal Rescue Center with dog beds



Funded toys for animals in Nanchang Small Animals Protection Association



Damaged fencing in Nanchang Small Animals Association, before and after renovation.





**In 2015, Animals Asia has given hand to various animal emergency rescues:** We funded renovation of Fuzhou Small Animal Protection Centre after a serious typhoon destroyed their shelters. We offered guidelines and cages for two animal rescue teams to help the homeless animals reunion with their families after a series of chemical explosions in Tianjin. Animals Asia funded coal, cotton pads, dog houses, fences, and heated houses, in order to ensure a warm winter for the cats and dogs living in Lanzhou and Taishan shelters.



Fuzhou Small Animal Reseuce center, before renovation and after



Local volunteers are searching through the affected area after the explosion inTianjin



Heated houses are built for the animals in Taishan Small Animal Protection Center.