



Cat and Dog Welfare China Review, 2012

Cats and dogs in China are often abandoned and left to subsist on the streets, with many dying due to illness or accidents. Government authorities organise brutal dog-killing campaigns to try to reduce stray dog populations. Stray dogs and cats are also snatched from the streets and taken to horrific meat markets, where they are sold for human consumption and often suffer a slow, violent death.

Animals Asia is giving local groups and officials around the country the skills and motivation to bring about long-term change.

Empowering local groups

Shelter dogs

Our China team acted quickly in August when a report began circulating on the internet that dogs in Shanxi Taiyuan Stray Dogs' Love Home were living in very bad conditions and a number had starved to death. Animals Asia contacted the Taiyuan Public Security Bureau's Dog Ownership Management Office and the shelter with advice for emergency action. We sent them our manuals on shelter management as well as the proceedings of our China Dog Ownership Management Symposiums. We also secured a donation of dog food worth over 10,000 RMB from Mars Food.

Inspiring images

Animals Asia's annual World Animal Day (WAD) online photo contest attracted more than 28,800 participants and collected 2,448 photos in 2012. The contest, organised to coincide with WAD, which falls on October 4, attracted over 135,000 posts and shares on Weibo (China's version of Twitter).

Five photos were named Overall Winners in the categories: "We are Happy Together", "We are Family", "Most Touching Eyes", "Most Creative Photo" and "Lost Angels" and 49 other images won Best Photo awards. The message of the contest, "Sharing Love", was spread far and wide through 36 exhibitions of the winning works in 17 Chinese cities.





Changing hearts and minds

We provided over 90,000 free promotional packs to 54 animal protection groups and individual applicants from 32 cities throughout China in 2012, assisting them in more than 70 local promotional and educational activities. A total of over 100,000 people joined in all events countrywide.

Humane population management

Dog ownership management

Invited by Chengdu government officials, Animals Asia joined in the city's "Dog Ownership Management Regulations" conference in February as a member of the research team. We congratulated the officials on their progress and made recommendations on the current regulations, suggesting better ways to solve the problems of implementing them. Our position, that dog owners not dogs should be the target of regulation, was widely recognised.



TNR for cats

We teamed up with Beijing Lucky Cats in November and December to provide in-depth training on stray cat TNR (trap, neuter, release) for the Zhangzhou Small Animal Conservation and Rescue Centre and Tianjin Cats' Hope respectively. We also donated tools and materials needed by the two groups to launch their own TNR programmes. The training included lectures, discussions and practical demonstrations.

Helping Pingyao's dogs

Animals Asia donated 1,000 Intervet vaccines and dog responsible dog-ownership kits for the "Pink Collar Programme" run by Swiss Animal Protection in Pingyao. The project helps Pingyao officials with their rabies vaccination programme and community awareness of humane dog care. Vaccinated dogs receive a pink collar.

Providing advice

We sent letters of advice to dog management departments in response to unreasonable rules on keeping dogs, killing of stray dogs and poor management of shelters. We also held discussions with the relevant departments to call for the humane management of city dogs. We responded quickly to public events such as abuse of dogs and cats, dog fighting, cruel treatment of stray cats and dog-eating festivals. We sent a total of 19 letters of advice to the authorities in 2012.



The meat trade

Festival protest

In May, Animals Asia contacted the Yulin Municipal Government asking them to cancel the Dog Litchi Festival in Yulin, Guangxi. We explained the cruel industry behind dog meat consumption and raised issues of food safety and also changing expectations and attitudes in the community.



Help for 'meat dogs'

Animals Asia continues to provide support for more than 300 dogs saved from a "meat truck" in Zigong City, Sichuan province and sent to the Sichuan Qi Ming Small Animal Protection Centre in October 2011. In 2012, we provided all dog food and paid the salaries of three dog keepers; we provided veterinary support, assisted in medical treatment of the ill and injured dogs; vaccinated the dogs against rabies; provided management support, and helped the centre in partition management, establishing dog files, etc.

Public awareness

Spreading love

Dr Dogs in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu paid 82 visits to over 5,000 senior citizens and special-needs children in 57 social welfare organisations in 2012. Nearly 6,000 students benefited from our Professor Paws lessons, learning how to care for, and interact with dogs. In addition, a total of 39 public education activities were held in various communities, spreading animal welfare knowledge to around 40,000 people.



Dr Dogs a hit in school

Children at Tianhe District Huajing Primary School in Guangzhou were thrilled to get a visit from our Dr Dogs at an education activity jointly sponsored by the Guangzhou Public Security Bureau (police) and Animals Asia. This was the first time we had combined our Professor Paws life education course with our Responsible Dog Ownership course and it was a great success.

Star power

Xiao Wei, lead singer of Chinese rock band "Catcher in the Rye", and drummer Su Yang joined our Dr Dogs on a visit to a nursing home in Chengdu in June. Lovely Xiao Wei served as a Dr Dog volunteer and chatted with senior citizens while continuing to hold a dog he'd befriended.



New recruits

Twenty-two dogs joined our Dr Dog teams in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu in 2012 after passing the strict animal-therapy examination held over March-April. Along with their owners, these dogs are now ready to take up the mission of visiting senior citizens and special-needs children, delivering joy and warmth to those in need. Gentle golden retriever Xiao Q is one of Shenzhen's new recruits.



40 ads in prime spots

In March, 40 large advertisements promoting animal protection were exhibited in 20 bus stations around Changsha in a campaign jointly launched by Changsha Small Animal Protection Association and Animals Asia. Grateful thanks to the Changsha Small Animal Protection Association and to all those who gave their support.



Awards days

During October and November, we held special award ceremonies for winners of our “Dr Dog Fun Day/Walking Day” and “Sharing Love with Them” Online Photo Contest in Guangzhou, Chengdu and Shenzhen respectively. Many special-needs children were invited along to play games and enjoy some close contact with the Dr Dogs. Many Dr Dogs and volunteers were recognised for their efforts and given awards for their long-term volunteer services.



Cyclists show they care

Animals Asia’s annual “Cyclists Love Animals” event saw 55 cycling teams from 21 Chinese cities take part, proudly riding around their respective cities with posters on their backs promoting animal welfare. A total of 1,431 participants were involved in the event, which coincided with our online photo contest displays around the country. Volunteers collected 40,000 signatures, reaching more than 60,000 people.

Summer camp

We held our first China Cat and Dog Welfare volunteers’ summer camp at our China Bear Rescue Centre from June 9-10 to increase volunteers’ understanding of animal welfare and to show appreciation of the volunteers’ support and contributions. The two-day camp was held simultaneously in Chengdu, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, and included lectures on animal welfare and visits to our bear rescue centre and SPCA Hong Kong.



Farewell Niuniu

Niuniu, one of the first Dr Dogs in our China programme, died from an illness in Chengdu in December. Niuniu has been visiting senior citizens and special-needs children since 2004. Here she is visiting one of the children of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. Rest in Peace Niuniu.



2013 calendar

Animals Asia's China Cat and Dog Welfare team has released a fabulous desk calendar for 2013. The calendar highlights major events in our Cat and Dog Welfare programme, and includes photos of our volunteer dogs and tips for cat and dog care.

Government and policy



Dog symposium

The 4th China Dog Ownership Management Symposium was held jointly by Animals Asia, Dalian Pet 100, Humane Society International and Dalian Dog Ownership Management Office in August 2012. The symposium in Dalian brought together 120 people, including 75 officials from public security and urban dog management departments of over 30 cities as well as members of local and international non-governmental animal protection organisations to discuss and exchange ideas on humane dog management.

Cat symposium

Animals Asia joined Beijing Lucky Cats to hold the first China Cat Management Symposium in Beijing from March 24-25. The symposium attracted over 30 international and non-governmental animal protection organisations and veterinary professionals from more than 20 cities across China. More than 70 people gathered in Beijing to exchange ideas on stray cat trap, neuter, release (TNR) projects. Two manuals, "Stray Cats TNR Program Guide and China Veterinary TNR Guide for Dogs & Cats" prepared by Beijing Lucky Cats and Animals Asia were also launched, providing strong support for the implementation of TNR programmes.



Responsible dog care

In February, Animals Asia welcomed local Chengdu officials to our Moon Bear Rescue Centre to join in a promotional activity aimed at encouraging responsible dog ownership. We provided the local government with around 1,500 leaflets and other materials, including our Care for Cats and Dogs Handbook, leaflets on anti-cat-and-dog eating and on how to care for small animals.



Help for dogs

In March, we donated five humane dog capturing tools imported from Hong Kong to the Chengdu Public Security Bureau Dog Ownership Management Team.



Promoting our work

Animals Asia's China Cat and Dog Welfare team was represented at the conference, "Taking Action for Animals" sponsored by HSUS and held in Washington DC in July. We took the opportunity to introduce delegates to our work to improve the welfare of cats and dogs in China.



Award for Dr Dog

Our Dr Dog programme won the "Nomination Award" at the "For a Better China 2012" Annual Awards out of a field of 144 nominees. The awards were sponsored by "China Business News" and "China Philanthropy Times".

Aviation safety

In September, when the media reported that a dog had died in the luggage compartment during a China Southern Airlines flight, we wrote to the Civil Aviation Administration of China requesting that it look into improving management of live animal consignments in China to ensure the safety and basic welfare of the transported animals.

Dog fighting

Around the same time, cruel and bloody photos taken at dog fighting events in Bozhou spread on the internet. We called Bozhou Cultural Tourism Bureau and Bozhou Public Security Bureau and sent letters to request a ban on dog fighting to avoid further injury or death of innocent dogs.

Dr Dog equals fun



From April 29-30 Animals Asia's Guangzhou Dr Dog team joined in the Guangzhou Baiyun Fashion Festival and Qingqinghui Charity Carnival jointly held by the Communist Youth League Committee of Guangdong province, the Guangdong Youth Federation and "South Metropolis Daily". Through interaction with the Dr Dogs and by playing quizzes and colouring and face-painting games, families had a fun day out while learning about the needs of animals.

Teaming up with the police

Following our cooperation with Chengdu PSB (police) last year on community promotion activities in Chengdu, we joined up with them again to hold eight events this year. The public events encourage responsible dog ownership.

Community involvement

In December, we teamed up with Shenzhen Wenjin community workstation and three National People's Congress members to hold an event to promote responsible dog ownership in the community. We distributed promotional materials and dog-keeping manuals, and answered questions from the public.