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Dogs, Celebrities & Activists Issue Open Letter to President Moon Jae-in Demanding End to Brutal & Dangerous South Korean Dog Meat Trade Amid Boknal & Coronavirus Outbreak

Mass Demonstration to Include Activists, Public Figures to Halt Dog Slaughter & Consumption to Protect Dogs and Prevent the Next Pandemic

July 24 2020, Los Angeles – [Last Chance for Animals \(LCA\)](#), in conjunction with South Korea-based [Animal Liberation Wave](#), [WeACT](#), PETA, Direct Action Everywhere and the Eastwood Ranch Foundation issued an open letter to South Korean president Moon Jae-in demanding an end to his country's dangerous and inhumane dog meat trade.

The letter was delivered to the Blue House by Jiyeon Lee, Co-President of [Animal Liberation Wave](#) after a press conference at the Sejong Art Center staircase. Seorak, one of 2 rescued dogs who signed onto the open letter, accompanied Ms. Lee and activists. The text of the letter can be found at [this link](#) or by emailing the above contact. Additional media materials appear below. The Open Letter includes thirty-seven signatories including:

- Jane Goodall, anthropologist
- Alec Baldwin, actor
- Clint Eastwood, actor & director
- Alison Eastwood, actor
- Peter Singer, moral philosopher
- Kim Basinger, actor
- Donna D'Errico, actor
- Mena Suvari, actor
- Priscilla Presley, actor
- Hyo-jin Kim, actor
- El, actor
- Yozoh, musician
- Seo-Yeon Jin, actress
- Jun Bum Sun, musician
- Emmanuel de Merode, conservationist
- Anthony Caere, conservationist
- Jae-chun Choe, biologist
- Kim Sanha, primatologist

The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a wake-up call for the South Korean government to modernize their official position on the dog meat trade. COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease – one that originated with animals and was transferred to humans. Dogs that are bred for their meat are kept in crowded pens and subjected to stress, unnatural nutrition and poor sanitation – a receptive breeding ground for the next zoonotic disease. As an example, the [novel canine influenza A H3N2 virus, first detected in 2007 at a dog farm located in the](#)

[city of Gimpo, South Korea, has been quickly spreading, even to overseas](#), undergoing frequent reassortments and getting closer to humans.

Actor and director **Clint Eastwood**, a signatory to the letter, stated: “In my lifetime, I have seen many things progress, evolve and change. Now is the time for South Korea to evolve and end their dog meat trade.”

“South Korea’s breeding, slaughter and consumption of dog is a brutal and unhealthy tradition that must end,” said Chris DeRose, President & Founder of [Last Chance for Animals](#). “These dogs are no different from companion animals we keep in our homes. They have a right to a life free from fear and cruel treatment. We call upon President Moon to continue modernizing South Korea and take decisive steps toward ending the Dog Meat Trade.”

South Korea trails China in its outlook on dog meat. China recently took decisive action to curtail their dog meat trade by removing dogs from the government’s official livestock list. The South Korean government pledged to remove dogs from their livestock list in 2018, but has failed to fulfill that promise.

To this day, South Korea is still the only country in the world where dogs are systematically bred and raised for consumption. In 3 thousand dog farms, a million dogs are born, raised and slaughtered every year. Most of these dogs are killed in preparation for **Boknal**, the hottest days of the Korean summer when the consumption of dog meat soup, known as “Boshingtang” increases to combat the extreme heat.

“It is time that the South Korean government put an end to the country’s notorious and dangerous dog meat trade by banning dog slaughter and trade for consumption” added Jiyeon Lee, Co-President and Founder of Animal Liberation Wave based in Seoul. “Such a move is sure to save millions of dogs from suffering while protecting the population from a possible outbreak of a new zoonotic disease.”

Additional Media Materials

- Photo and B-roll footage of the event
- Copies of the Open Letter in both English and Korean can be accessed by clicking [here](#).
- An individual video by **Priscilla Presley** calling for an end to the dog meat trade can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/TVq9AJxZNqs>
- Video from the largest South Korean dog meat demonstration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=FS3TKC4Eg74&feature=emb_logo
- Photos and information on Seorak can be obtained by clicking [here](#).
- Meet **Sarge a Dosa** (the breed that is customarily raised for their meat in South Korea and throughout Asia). Sarge was rescued from the South Korean dog meat trade and resides in Las Vegas with his adopted family. Photos and information about Sarge can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vl30zl3ncncoesv/AAAEZOD46S4Qt-y0gtA9vrIya?dl=0>

ABOUT LAST CHANCE FOR ANIMALS:

LCA is an international non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating animal exploitation through education, investigations, legislation, and public awareness campaigns. Since its formation in 1984, LCA has succeeded as one of the nation's pioneer animal advocacy groups. LCA's educational and public outreach programs have empowered the public to make positive changes for animals in their communities. For more information, visit <https://www.lcanimal.org/>.

ABOUT ANIMAL LIBERATION WAVE

Animal Liberation Wave is a non-profit organization based in Seoul, South Korea, working to end speciesism and all forms of animal exploitation for human needs. Founded in 2017, ALW is in close cooperation with Last Chance for Animals to spearhead local campaigns on the ground to end the country's dog meat trade. For more information, visit www.donghaemul.com

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