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Animal Rights Activists Gather at Chinese Consulate, Protest Consumption of Dog Meat

By Qing Yang / Los Angeles Times

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Nearly 200 animal rights activists gathered in front of the gates of the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles on the morning of June 19 to protest against some Chinese who eat dog meat and abuse animals.

Last Chance for Animals, a national animal rights group, has recently sought to pressure the overseas Chinese government organ through Facebook, protesting in marches against those among the Chinese who eat dog meat. They didn't expect to garner support from several animal rights activists in such a short time. Roughly 90% of those participating in the march that day were white people, and many brought their own canine companions.

Protestors carried large signs reading "Stop The Brutal Dog Meat Trade," "Stop Dog Meat," "Stop Torturing Animals," and "Dogs are Suffering," and even more protestors used loudspeakers to shout their demands at the consulate. They sought send a message to the Chinese government via its consulate to more effectively stop Chinese people from eating dog meat, and to protect animals.

Mr. and Mrs. Zhou of Los Angeles are among the few Asian immigrants who have joined the protestors. They say they come from Vietnam, adding "as far as we know, China, Vietnam and South Korea are the countries that east the most dog meat." Wensen said that when he lived in Vietnam, he and his friends all had their dogs stolen by dog-eaters. "Then they go back and, to make the dog taste better, they toss it in a burlap sack and beat it to death. A lot of dogs suffer like that," he said.

Last Chance for Animals founder Chris DeRose said that June 19 marks the second time that animal rights organizations have marched in protest to the Los Angeles consulate, and in recent years they have consistently pressured the South Korean government as well, and on several occasions they have marched in protest to the South Korean consulate in Los Angeles. They initially did not understand why his organization was shouting through loudspeakers at their chief consul's office, but ultimately several organizers from animal rights groups were invited into the South Korean consulate and after holding four or five rounds of conferences, the South Korean situation regarding the consumption of dog meat has improved markedly.