

PRESS RELEASE

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Sir Mike Penning attends World Dog Alliance campaign launch to ban the consumption of dog meat in the UK



This week in the Houses of Parliament, Sir Mike Penning attended the World Dog Alliance's (WDA) launch of its campaign to ban the consumption of dog meat in the UK.

Currently, the sale of dog meat and the slaughter of dogs in abattoirs is illegal, but there is no law against the consumption of dog meat in the UK.

While there have been no cases of people eating dog meat in the UK, the WDA seeks to close the legal loophole to make sure the practice never happens. Closing this legal loophole will send an unequivocal message that this despicable act is not welcome in the UK. It will also send a powerful signal of the UK's moral opposition to this horrific practice and encourage other nations, where there is a problem, to introduce a ban.

Dog meat consumption is already illegal in regions and countries across the world, including Germany, Austria, Taiwan and Hong Kong. South Australia has also banned the practice, despite no cases being reported. A ban on the consumption of dog meat is expected to soon become law in the USA.

The UK was the first country in the world to introduce animal welfare legislation. Following the example of other nations, enacting a ban would demonstrate the UK's continued commitment to be a global leader in animal welfare. A position that Prime Minister Theresa May has publicly stated she wishes to maintain.

Every year it is estimated that 30 million dogs are killed around the world for their meat, of which 70% of these are stolen pets. There is also a misconception that the meat will taste better if the animal is tortured before death.

Sir Mike Penning who supports the campaign, said:

"Animal rights are of the utmost importance, so I am pleased to be supporting this campaign to close the legal loophole and make it illegal to eat dog meat in the UK. As leaders in animal welfare, we must make sure we set the right example across the globe that this treatment of animals is not acceptable."

Mr Him Lo, Director of Legal Affairs from the World Dog Alliance has said:

"Historically the UK has been a leader in animal welfare practices. Making it illegal for people to eat dogs in the UK will reinforce this reputation across the globe. We believe a ban in the UK would send a strong and powerful message to other countries that this treatment of dogs is not acceptable. We believe legislation changes are the only way to help stop the torture of these dogs and hope the UK makes the necessary changes in the coming months to help save the lives of 30 million dogs each year."

The charity has also launched a petition in the UK to ban dog meat consumption. Details of this can be found online here: <http://bandogmeat.uk/petition/>.

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Notes for editor:

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