



**INTERGROUP  
ON THE WELFARE  
& CONSERVATION  
OF ANIMALS**

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Established in 1983

H.E. Ambassador Song Zhe  
Head of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union  
Boulevard de la Woluwé 100  
1200 Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 27 October 2009

*Ref. BS/6/2009*

Dear Mr Ambassador,

**Re.: Draft for a Chinese Animal Protection Law**

The Animal Welfare Intergroup in the European Parliament has been recently informed that a draft of a Chinese Animal Protection Law has been published online for public comments and that the text outlines the basic standards for the treatment of animals in different situations. The draft law includes guidelines for disease prevention and medical care of animals. It covers wildlife, farm animals, companion animals, animals used in research and work animals. It also stipulates welfare requirements for animals during transport and slaughter. In addition to releasing the draft animal protection law, changes regarding China's Criminal Law were also suggested, making animal abuse a punishable offence.

The Intergroup applauds the Chinese Government for drafting the country's first animal welfare legislation. This is a very significant step, not only for the millions of animals that suffer from abuse and cruelty, but also for the country's objective for social progress and harmony.

The need to introduce a legislation banning the cruel treatment of animals is increasingly felt by Chinese people. Recently, after the cruel killing of over 40,000 dogs in Hanzhong, Shaanxi Province, claimed by local officials as means to curtail a rabies outbreak, an online poll of 63,000 people in China found that 89% support the drafting of anti-cruelty legislation, to permanently put an end to the killings of innocent lives.

We strongly support these important steps for the humane treatment of animals in your country and we sincerely hope that the National People's Congress will adopt this law in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Lucas MEP  
President

C. c: Lesely O'Donnell, IFAW