

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 16

Urging all countries to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2023

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging all countries to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.

Whereas a bipartisan domestic prohibition on the knowing slaughter, transportation, possession, purchase, or sale of a dog or cat for human consumption was included in section 12515 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2160), which was enacted on December 20, 2018;

Whereas the dog and cat meat trade occurs throughout the world;

Whereas established dog meat markets still exist today;

Whereas nonprofit organizations estimate that 30,000,000 dogs and 10,000,000 cats die annually worldwide as a result of the dog and cat meat trade, and those organiza-

tions have found that a considerable number of the dogs and cats in this trade are stolen pets still wearing collars when they reach the slaughterhouses, in addition to stray dogs and cats who are captured for slaughter;

Whereas there have been reports of abuse, poor living conditions, and cruel slaughtering techniques for dogs and cats farmed for their meat;

Whereas many dogs and cats die during transport to slaughterhouses after days or weeks crammed into small cages on the back of vehicles without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport;

Whereas the extreme suffering of dogs and cats at such slaughterhouses and on transportation trucks would breach anti-cruelty laws in the United States and other countries;

Whereas many government officials, civil society advocates, and activists are working to end the dog and cat meat trade on anti-cruelty and public health grounds;

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies;

Whereas individuals involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infectious material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of disease may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog and cat meat at open-air markets and restaurants; and

Whereas the World Health Organization and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control have both acknowledged the link between the spread of rabies and the dog meat trade

which sees large numbers of dogs of unknown disease status moved vast distances: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3           (1) calls for an end to the consumption and  
4       trade of dog and cat meat on cruelty and public  
5       health grounds;

6           (2) urges all countries with a dog or cat meat  
7       trade to adopt and enforce laws banning that trade;  
8       and

9           (3) affirms the commitment of the United  
10       States to advancing the cause of animal protection  
11       and animal welfare, both domestically and around  
12       the world.

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