

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As a veterinary surgeon for 30 years and as someone who is opposed to the killing of animals for human consumption, I would like to add my voice to the submission by Sirius to the United Nations, calling for the removal of dog meat from the human food chain, based on the following:

1. Dogs are highly sentient animals
2. They have evolved in conjunction with humans for more than 10,000 years
3. It is no accident that they are referred to as 'man's best friend'. In addition to their wonderful companionship, they have contributed to our well-being in many other spheres – from search and rescue missions of missing people to guide dogs for the blind
4. They are considered to contribute positively to human health, through 'zootherapy' – whether by helping to lower blood pressure in their human companions, or by providing psychological comfort to the elderly or infirm
5. The killing of dogs for their meat will necessarily inflict an enormous amount of pain and suffering on these highly sentient animals - the result of indiscriminate breeding, incarceration and transportation
6. It has been reported that some dogs are killed by beating, burning or hanging - to make the meat more tender
7. These, and the other issues raised by Sirius, make a compelling case for removing dog meat from the human food chain

Sincerely, and with respect for all life,

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