



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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To Whom It May Concern:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), with international affiliates in Europe and Asia and with more than 1.1 million members and supporters worldwide, joins hands with those groups and individuals in China who are urging government officials to abandon the inadequate, expensive, and time-consuming dog-killing program and to instead focus on a humane, effective, and permanent rabies control solution.

As former chief of zoonotic (animal-to-human transmission) disease control for the Washington, D.C., Commission on Public Health, I have had the responsibility of ensuring that the U.S. capital successfully maintain a humane and effective rabies control program—and do so on a tight budget. In light of that experience, we respectfully suggest the immediate adoption of a four-point program that will last for the long term:

1. Education is vital. People must be educated not to approach sick animals and to keep children away from animals (not just dogs) who are acting strangely. This can be done in schools and at workplaces and community centers.
2. In the event of a bite, immediate post-exposure vaccination should begin. It would be easy to make refrigerated rabies vaccines accessible to all.
3. Any person who wishes to have a dog must register the dog with town authorities, providing proof of sterilization and of an annual rabies vaccination. Sterilization will stop the dog population from growing and will eventually end the problem of strays, allowing easy control of existing vaccinated populations.
4. If at any time a decision is made to destroy animals, the method used must be one prescribed by international humane standards for euthanasia.

We hope that this information is helpful to you, and we stand ready to assist officials in making this important and necessary change.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS