



International Anti-Fur Coalition

February 13, 2006

Honorable Zhou Wenzhong
Chinese Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. President,

There is a Chinese proverb that says "To close one's eyes will not ease another's pain." We write this letter to implore you to open your eyes to the unspeakable suffering endured by the millions of animals in your country, including domestic dogs and cats, who are killed for their fur. We urge you to make enforceable animal protection laws a priority before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Please do not let the atrocities of the fur industry tarnish your image during the Games. In particular, we urge you to immediately enact enforceable laws to ban China's dog/cat fur trade and the live skinning of all fur-bearing animals as part of a comprehensive set of animal welfare laws and regulations.

Recent investigations have uncovered the shocking cruelties of the Chinese fur industry. Video footage that can be found at http://www.petatv.com/tvpopup/Prefs.asp?video=trent_fur shows caged dogs and cats stacked into wire cages for cross-country transport without food or water, some already dead or dying, many more with rotting wounds. At an animal market in Southern China, investigators documented 20 cats smashed inside one wire cage and dead cats draped over cages. Live dogs and cats are flattened inside cages the size of filing drawers and tossed from truck beds on to hard pavement. Animals scream as their paws are crushed, their bones shattered. Some of these cats and dogs still wear collars and ID tags, demonstrating that once they were someone's beloved pet. Cats are choked in their cages alongside live cats. Dogs are hung from wire nooses and slashed across the groin; cats are typically strangled, others boiled alive.

Dog/cat fur items are then deceptively and fraudulently labeled as Gae-wolf, Sobaki, Asian Jackal, Wildcat, Goyangi, Katzenfelle, or other names before being exported abroad. Unsuspecting shoppers purchase unmarked, dyed or vaguely labeled boots, coats, linings, toys and homeopathic remedies. These are unacceptable trade practices from China or any other country. As documented in the enclosed video *Fur Fur? A Report on the Chinese Fur Industry*, equally

shocking atrocities are also committed against other fur-bearing animals including raccoons, minks and foxes. As you will see in this video, Chinese fur markets violently bludgeon, hang, electrocute and strangle fur-bearing animals. At fur farms in Hebei Province, investigators videotaped workers carving off skin and fur from alert dogs, foxes and other animals. Investigators witnessed a significant number of animals that were still alive when the skinning process began—starting with a knife at the rear of the belly and ending with the fur being pulled over the animal's head. After the skin was removed, investigators taped animals being thrown on a pile of other carcasses. These animals were still breathing, had a heartbeat, and continued moving and blinking for between five to ten minutes after their skin had been ripped from their bodies.

As the philosopher Jeremy Bentham famously put it nearly 200 hundred years ago, "The question is not, Can they reason? nor Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?" Mr. President, if your eyes are open, you cannot doubt that the answer is a devastating, blood-curdling "yes". They can, and they do. Fortunately, you have the power, and with it the responsibility, to end the suffering of millions of animals in China.

We will not visit a country that brutalizes animals to decorate a sweater, line a coat or become a trinket. This is the ultimate betrayal of creatures who are instinctively trustworthy and devoted companions to people. We stand firm in our boycott of Chinese tourism, commerce and the 2008 Olympic Games, as well as sponsors of the Games--unless China makes visible strides to end the vicious treatment of dogs, cats, and other non-human animals.

Sincerely,

International Anti-Fur Coalition
Washington, DC

Letter -- written by the Anti-fur activists' groups
Edited by: Tracey Glover, Esq; Washington, DC

Enclosures: Petition, Video Fun-Fur?

cc:

Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong
Ambassador Clark T. Randt Jr.
Olympic Sponsors
U.S. Olympic Committee
Press

ORGANIZERS:

<http://fur.arforum.org/?lang=en>