**Gwangju Metropolitan City**

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Sep 1th, 2022

Warm Greetings from Gwangju!

First of all, we appreciate your interests towards Gwangju and wish to clarify our stance for banning dog meat farm houses in our city.

Controversies regarding dog meat in Korea have been raised for a long time. Recently, as the population of raising pets passed the 10-million line, people of Korea have cultivated the awareness that dogs are a part of families, not mere properties, and as the general awareness for pets has been enhanced, more and more negative opinions regarding dog meat consumption are spreading. However, as dogs are not listed as livestock by Sanitary Processing of Livestock Products Act, the appropriate laws for slaughtering, processing, and selling of dog meat are not applied. As the dog meat industry has remained for a long time in Korea, it is difficult to enact prohibition laws in short time. This is a task of Korea that must be solved step by step through pan-governmental policies and negotiations.

Despite such difficulties, Gwangju has been taking active roles in resolving these issues. For example, in 2017, two dog meat farm houses were found in our city, and we went through negotiation by holding meetings with three animal protection organizations and related departments of City Hall and District Offices. As a result, staffs discovered the breaches of animal protection laws and Livestock Industry Act, and successfully charged the farm owners. We are trying our best to prevent the incidents of animal abuse and such, through continuously strengthening the intensity of security by installing security cameras to watch the disposal of the food that was fed to dogs, and others.

Also, our city is promoting various advanced policies to further enhance the welfare of animals. For example, the animal shelter run by our city accepts more than 3,000 lost animals every year, and provides necessary measures, such as diagnosis, vaccination, first aids, surgeries, and treatments. Currently, the shelter homes about 500 lost animals, endeavoring to actualize the animal welfare that transcends merely taking care of abandoned pets, as the rate of re-adoption of our shelter is more than twice of the national average. Also, we are facilitating various projects to protect animals, such as providing food to stray cats, and have put in about $3 million for animal disease control, animal disease prevention, promoting upright livestock industry, animal protection, and others, in order to create the environment where people and animals coexist harmoniously.

As our city wishes to endeavor its best to actualize animal protection and welfare,

Thank you again for your interest in animal protection policy in our city.

Sincerely yours,

KANG, gi-jung

Mayor

Gwangju Metropolitan Government