

Animal Voice

Irish Council Against Blood Sports Letter Writing Appeals

January 2004

Minister refusing to introduce alternative to coursing cruelty

MINISTER FOR Arts, Sports & Tourism, John O'Donoghue, has informed ICABS that his officials raised the issue of introducing drag coursing with the Irish Coursing Club, but were told that "coursing greyhounds would not follow a drag" and that "drag coursing would be unpopular".

We are quite amazed that Minister O'Donoghue, a greyhound racing enthusiast himself, would swallow the claim from the coursers that greyhounds would not follow a drag. ICABS has already submitted video footage to him which shows greyhounds enthusiastically following a drag. In Australia and the USA, where the use of live hares is banned, drag coursing is very successful.

Minister O'Donoghue should take on board that 80% of Irish people want a total ban on the use of live hares for coursing. So drag coursing (where a mechanical lure is used instead of a live hare) may be "unpopular" amongst the tiny

diehard minority who engage in this barbaric and outdated animal abuse, but it most certainly would be very popular with the Irish public.

At coursing matches in Ireland, hares are still at risk of being pinned down, injured and killed by muzzled dogs.

Minister O'Donoghue and his department may attempt to salve their consciences by stating that hare kills have been reduced due to muzzling, but what they fail or seemingly don't want to take on board is the fact that hare coursing is an inherently and intrinsically cruel sport which involves the

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

Minister John O'Donoghue,
Department of Arts, "Sports"
and Tourism, Frederick
Buildings, South Frederick
Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-631 3802.
Email: customerservice
@dast.gov.ie

snatching of hares from the wild in nets and terrorising them on coursing fields for the "entertainment" of a tiny minority.

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports is renewing its call on Minister O'Donoghue to respect the wishes of Ireland's majority and replace live hare coursing with drag coursing. Please join us in this call.

FOX HUNT MEETS OUTSIDE COUNTY WICKLOW HOTEL

THE WICKLOW Foxhunt set out for a day's hunting from the Woodenbridge Hotel according to a report in the Irish Field newspaper in December.

A photograph shows members of the hunt posing in front of the hotel alongside the pack of hounds. Reference is made in the report to foxes being chased and killed.

Please write to the manager of the Woodenbridge Hotel and outline that as long as foxhunts are associated with the hotel, you will not be in a position to patronise it in the future.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Manager, Woodenbridge
Hotel, Vale of Avoca, Arklow,
County Wicklow.
Tel: 0402-351 46

UK cow run will not take place

IN NOVEMBER'S Animal Voice, we outlined reports that the Welsh village of Cowbridge was planning a Pamplona-style bullrun as part of its 750th anniversary celebrations.

We are now happy to report that this event will not take place. The council maintain, in fact, that it was never even being considered.

Council leader, Jeffrey James, said: "This is a complete untruth. I, or any of my colleagues would never consider such an event. Please rest assured nothing of this nature will ever take place in Cowbridge."

WELCOME LETTER WRITERS!

WELCOME, letter writing campaigners, to the January 2004 edition of Animal Voice.

Happy New Year from all at ICABS and thank you for your help with the December letter writing appeals.

In this issue you will find the latest set of appeals along with news and some positive updates. This year, we will be trying to get even more people involved in the campaign so if possible, please encourage your friends and family to join you in your efforts.

The more people working for the animals, the better the results will be!

We wish to again urge everyone to please write to their local Dail and Senate representatives. Keep writing until you get a satisfactory response. It is unacceptable that blood sports remain legal in Ireland.

A massive majority of Irish people want Ireland to become a country where it is illegal to abuse animals for the purpose of "entertainment". More of our politicians should therefore be working towards that goal.

Tell your TD and Senator that you want legislation introduced to outlaw coursing, fox-hunting, carted deer hunting and all forms of hunting with hounds.

We thank you in advance for your continued help and support throughout 2004.

With all best wishes.

**Philip Kiernan, Co-ordinator
Letter Writing Campaigns**

Northern Ireland bans coursing

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports is delighted to report that hare coursing and other forms of hare hunting was banned in Northern Ireland on January 19th, 2004 for at least twelve months.

The development was announced by Angela Smith, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment in Northern Ireland who stated: "It's clear that the activities which a ban would prevent put the lives of Irish hares at risk."

"It has been established over a number of years that Irish hare numbers are low," she added. "As a result, the Environment and Heritage Service of the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment published a Species Action Plan which includes a target to double the 1997 hare population levels over as wide an area as possible by 2010."

The move comes just months after the decision by Angela Smith to refuse a licence to Northern Ireland's two coursing clubs in Ballymena and Dungannon. Depressingly, these clubs were

welcomed with open arms south of the border with the Department of the Environment here claiming that nothing could be done to prevent clubs from another jurisdiction from coming to Cavan to terrorise hares.

ICABS has congratulated Angela Smith for her positive move and we have renewed our appeal to Minister Martin Cullen to permanently revoke the licence issued to coursing clubs to net hares from the wild. Please contact Minister Cullen and ask him to follow the good example of Angela Smith and ensure an all-Ireland protection for hares.

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

Minister Martin Cullen,
Dept of the Environment,
Custom House, Dublin 1.
Tel: 1890-202021 (Locall)
(Request to speak to Minister
Cullen or his Secretary)
Tel: +353 (0) 1 888 2000.
Fax: +353 (0) 1 888 2888.
Email: minister@
environ.irlgov.ie

We'll never sponsor any blood sport: Offaly hotel

FURTHER TO our appeal in November's Animal Voice regarding a hotel in Offaly which had apparently sponsored hare coursing, we can now report a positive development.

ICABS observers heard the Midway Park Hotel being thanked for its support over the loudspeaker system during the coursing meeting in Ballinagar. However, any connection to the event was subsequently denied by hotel management.

Responding to letters from concerned campaigners, General Manager, Kieran McGurran stated: "This hotel has never or will ever sponsor any form of blood sports. I am led to believe from the owners that it was a very sick and cruel attempt by a former disgruntled employee to cause as much damage to our good name in Daingean."

ICABS is pleased that this has been clarified. Thank you to all who contacted the hotel.

Coursing backed by bookmakers

THIS FEBRUARY, Paddy Power Bookmakers will be accepting bets on the blood sport of hare coursing.

In a letter to ICABS, Paddy Power himself outlined that as long as coursing is legal in Ireland, the company has no problem with associating itself with it.

"We offer betting on most sports where there is a public interest and coursing as a greyhound sport is popular with the betting public," Mr Power said. "At present we offer betting on the National [coursing] meeting at Clonmel and on the Irish Cup meeting at Tralee." Both meetings are scheduled to take place during February.

UPDATED APPEAL

Please write to Paddy Power and urge him to stop helping to keep coursing alive in Ireland by accepting bets on it. Remind him that Paddy Power Bookmakers is one of the last remaining companies in the country which shamelessly associates itself with this cruel and barbaric activity.

Point out in your letter, if relevant, that until you learn of a change in the Paddy Power policy, you will not be visiting any its outlets in the future.

Another bookmakers that accepts bets on coursing is Boyle Sports. Please also get in touch with this company and ask them to stop promoting a blood sport.

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

Mr Paddy Power
Paddy Power PLC,
Airton House, Airton Road
Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland.
Tel: 1850 4144444 (Ireland),
0800 039 1800 (UK), +353 1
4049611 (Rest of World)
Email: ppower@
paddypower.com

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

Mr Alexander Mar
Customer Services Manager
BoyleSports.com
Internet Service Centre
31 Shop Street
Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Tel: +353 (0) 41 9834344
Fax: +353 (0) 41 9834258
Email: alexmar@
boylesports.com

Prosecutions being taken following hare captures

REPLYING TO a Dail Question from Trevor Sargent, TD in November, Minister Martin Cullen revealed that "prosecutions are currently being taken by my Department for alleged unlawful capture of hares in the Border area."

No further details are available at present but we will keep you updated on any developments.

In his reply, Minister Cullen also stated: "Concern has been expressed to me by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, Ms Angela Smith, MP, regarding the possible capture of hares here for the purposes of coursing in Northern Ireland. In response, I have undertaken to consider

whether it would be feasible to include conditions prohibiting the removal of hares from the State in future annual licences.

"A steering group comprising members of staff from my Department and the environment and heritage service of the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland has been set up to draft an all-Ireland species action plan for the Irish hare.

"Work on drafting this plan commenced in June 2003 and is expected to be finalised by March 2004. A survey to estimate hare numbers in Ireland is expected to be one of the strategies proposed in the action plan. Once the plan has been finalised implementation of identified strategies will commence."

Anti-bullfighting Barcelona 2004

SPAIN'S ASSOCIATION for the Defence of Animal Rights (ADDA) has thanked ICABS supporters for collecting signatures for its "Anti-Bullfighting Barcelona" petition.

The petitions will be presented to the mayor of Barcelona in a bid to convince him to ban bullfighting in the city.

There is still time to sign this important petition. Copies can be printed from the petitions section of the ICABS website. Alternatively, get in touch with us and we can send you out one. Either return the petition directly to ADDA or forward it to ICABS and we will send it to them on your behalf. Thank you.

Ward Union deerhunt back on public roads

LAST YEAR, following an ICABS appeal, the National Safety Council told the Ward Union Deerhunt to stay off the public roads in the interests of road safety.

Responding to concerns that the hunt poses a potential danger to road users in Meath and North County Dublin, an NSC spokesperson stated at the time that:

"We would have obvious concerns if such [hunt] practices posed a danger to road users. We will be writing to the Ward Union Hunt to communicate these concerns and that in the interests of road safety we would request that all appropriate precautions be taken to prevent incursions (by deer/stag, dogs and the hunt party) onto the public highway during hunting outings.

In November 2003, we received the following statement

from Larry Whelan, Meath County Council's Road Safety Officer:

"Legislation down through the years has always provided for the right of pedestrian, vehicular or horse traffic to pass and re-pass over public roads.

"There is provision in the Roads Act 1993 which enables a Local Authority to take action against individuals or companies who cause damage to the public road - however, I am not aware of

form of action should be taken. ICABS observers have witnessed massive tailbacks forming behind the hunt, frustrated drivers trying everything to get past and even members of the hunt holding up traffic to pose for photographs.

We have also seen hunt members causing road blocks by congregating at road junctions, displaying indifference to the traffic tailbacks they cause, chasing a stag at speed along a public road,

"In the interests of road safety we would request that precautions be taken to prevent [hunt] incursions onto the public highway"

any such damage being caused as a result of the activities of the Ward Union Hunt.

"The responsibility for the free movement and control of Traffic on public roads rests with the Garda Siochana."

ICABS was disappointed at this response. We feel that some

parking at the sides of narrow country lanes, jumping through ditches onto roadways and moving from narrow country lanes onto busy main roads.

The potential danger to motorists was also highlighted in a past report in the Irish Independent which referred to a stag being struck dead by a truck. Clearly, this is not the type of thing motorists should have to put up with.

Please write to Larry Whelan, urging him to take action to prevent hunts from coming onto Meath's public roads. Tell him that hunts should not be permitted to use public roads as an extension of their hunting grounds, particularly when it means motorists are being subjected to inconvenience and potential danger.

If you witness a hunt blocking public roads or causing any inconvenience or danger to motorists, please report the incident to the Gardai.

Ganly Walters present blood sports as property attraction

DUBLIN-BASED real estate agents, Ganly Walters, are using positive references to blood sport activities on their website.

Appeals from ICABS for such references to be removed have so far been ignored.

A current listing includes the following statement: "[This property is] adjacent to Meath and Louth foxhounds, Tara Harriers and Ward Union Staghounds."

A past entry, meanwhile, outlined that a property was close to five local hunts - "ideal for a family looking to reside in the midst of Meath Hunting Country."

Please express your opinion to the company. Ask them to stop using blood sports to help sell properties. Contact: A. Strong, Ganly Walters, 37 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Email: astrong@ganlywalters.ie

TAKE ACTION
Write Now!

Mr Larry Whelan
Road Safety Officer
Meath County Council
Co. Hall, Navan, Co. Meath
Email: lwhelan@meathcoco.ie
Tel: 046-902 1581
Fax: 046-902 1463

Courser Vinnie Jones and Bacardi contract

FORMER FOOTBALLER Vinnie Jones owns a greyhound which is due to take part in the National Coursing Meeting in Clonmel at the beginning of February.

In court in December, Jones was fined and ordered to do 80 hours community service after pleading guilty to an "air rage" incident during which he reportedly threatened to have the crew of the Virgin Atlantic airplane murdered.

An article in the Irish Mirror (December 13th, 2003), told also of how Jones was reported to the Football Association in

1995 for biting a Mirror journalist's nose in a bar in Dublin, "leaving the reporter's face bloodied".

Following December's court case, Bacardi Rum (which had been featuring Vinnie Jones in its TV advertising campaign) announced that it would be "reviewing our options when his contract comes up for renewal"

In a letter to ICABS, a company spokesperson stated: "We very much regret the recent behaviour of Vinnie Jones."

Please write to Bacardi and ask them to also take into consideration Vinnie Jones' involve-

Roscrea website lists coursing as a "sport"

ROSCREA ONLINE website which describes itself as the portal for Roscrea and surrounding areas is currently including hare coursing in its list of local sporting activities.

Alongside a logo of a greyhound running, a listing for Roscrea Coursing Club appears.

The website is managed by Brian King of Roscrea Credit Union and is sponsored by the credit union. We have written to Mr King, appealing to him to exclude coursing on the grounds that it is a form of animal cruelty which eighty per cent of Irish people want banned. Our correspondence has received no reply.

Roscrea Credit Union declares itself to be the proud sponsor of the website. Please contact both the manager of the credit union and the manager of the website and ask if they are proud that their credit

union is among the few last remaining companies in Ireland who shamelessly back blood sports?

Appeal to them to eliminate coursing from the website. Tell them that among those who have already acted to keep their websites free from blood sport references are Bord Failte, Go Ireland, Kilkenny Information Age, East Coast & Midlands Tourism, Cavan Tourism and Wicklow Tourism.

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

The Manager and
Mr Brian King
Roscrea Credit Union
Roscrea
Co Tipperary
Email: bking@roscreacu.ie
or info@roscreacu.ie
Tel: 0505-236 01
Fax: 0505-218 06

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

Mr Chris Searle
Executive Director
External & European Affairs
Bacardi.
Email: searle
@bacardi.com
Tel : +44 (0)2380 318211
Fax : +44 (0)2380 318679

ment with blood sports when they are reviewing his contract.

Ask if the company is content to have the Bacardi brand name associated with animal cruelty?

Hunting book removed from shop window

A BOOK about foxhunting was removed from the window display of a book shop in Mullingar following an appeal by ICABS before Christmas.

"This book amounts to a promotion of the blood sport of foxhunting which results in the horrific deaths of thousands of foxes annually," we stated in our appeal to the manager.

Earlier in the year, the town's Kilroys Superstore responded positively to an appeal and removed a painting of a foxhunting scene from their window display.

If you spot similar displays of hunting scenes - in shops, restaurants, hotels, pubs, etc - please express your opinion to the manager. Tell them about the reality of hunting and the suffering it causes to animals.

Irish MEPs support EU ban on dog and cat fur imports

ICABS is delighted to report that a majority of Irish MEPs responded positively to our appeal to them to sign a Written Declaration calling on the European Commission to introduce an EU wide ban on the trade in domestic dog and cat fur.

This is only the fifth occasion in history that Members of the European Parliament have given their backing to a Written Declaration.

The Declaration asked the European Commission to draft a regulation under internal market powers to ban the import, export, sale and production of cat and dog furs and skins to restore European Union consumer and retailer confidence and end the trade immediately.

Responding to the news that the declaration had received more than enough signatures (346 MEPs signed; 325 were required), the author of the declaration, Struan Stevenson stated: "This is fantastic news. [A majori-

"This is fantastic news. The European Commission should now bring in new proposals to ban this vile trade."

ty of MEPs] now support moves to make the trade of cat and dog fur illegal. The Commission should now listen to the Parliament and bring in new proposals to ban this vile trade across the EU."

The following is a list of the Irish MEPs who signed the declaration: Nuala Ahern, Niall Andrews, Mary Banotti, Gerard

Collins, Brian Crowley, John Cushnahan, Avril Doyle, Jim Fitzsimons, Liam Hyland, Joe McCartin, Patricia McKenna, Sean Ó Neachtain and Dana Rosemary Scallon. ICABS has thanked them all for their support with this issue.

We will keep you informed on the European Commission's response to this tremendous development. In the meantime, please avoid purchasing any product which contains fur - animals will inevitably have suffered.

Cat and dog fur can be found in, for example, clothing, decorative accessories, ornaments and pet toys.

Environment Minister condemns "scientific" whaling slaughter

IN SEPTEMBER, we highlighted the resumption by Iceland of its deplorable whaling activities. The country's barbaric slaughter of 38 Minke Whales prompted calls for Iceland to be boycotted by the international community.

Iceland and Japan are among the countries which continue to exploit a loophole in the International Whaling Commission's world-wide moratorium on commercial whaling by claiming that their whale hunts are for so-called scientific purposes.

An ICABS letter writing campaigner who brought his concerns about whaling to the Irish Government received the following reply from the office of Environment Minister, Martin Cullen.

"At the meeting of the IWC last June, Ireland maintained its stance of previous years and again voted against a separate proposal from Japan for quotas for Special Permit or "scientific" whaling.

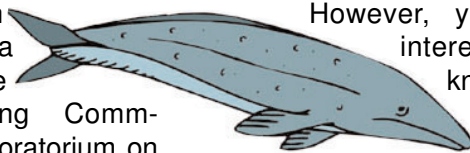
"Traditionally, as you will be aware, such "scientific" whaling has been undertaken by Japan.

However, you will be interested to know that, in anticipation of a decision by Iceland to commence Special Permit whaling this year, Ireland co-sponsored a motion at the annual meeting of the IWC last June which, inter alia, noted that Iceland had presented a programme of research to the Scientific Committee of the IWC and urged "any country conducting

or considering the conduct of Special Permit Whaling to terminate or not commence such activities and to limit scientific research to non-lethal methods only".

"When Iceland subsequently announced its decision to commence "scientific" whaling - in defiance of the Resolution which was adopted at the IWC - Ireland joined a Demarche or official complaint to the Foreign Ministry in Reykjavik along with no fewer than 22 other countries to convey this country's strong objection to the decision.

"The Minister hopes you will accept from the foregoing that the position of Ireland in relation to "scientific" whaling is fully in line with your own strong views in the matter."





18th December 2003

Q. Trevor Sargent: To ask the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism the level of Exchequer funding made available to the Irish Coursing Club each year in the past ten years; and the purpose for which this funding was required.

A. Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue: Under the provisions of the Greyhound Industry Act 1958, Bord na gCon is the statutory agency responsible for the promotion and development of greyhound racing in Ireland. Section 16(1)(c)(vi) of the Act allows Bord na gCon to provide funding to the Irish Coursing Club, ICC, "in assisting the club in the performance of its functions or contributing to the costs of schemes operated by the club for the improvement and development of greyhound breeding and coursing." Bord na gCon has informed my Department that it has not allocated any Exchequer funding to the ICC over the last ten years.

20th November 2003

Q. Tony Gregory: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government if the arrangement by the Dungannon Coursing Club to carry out coursing in County Cavan on 21, 22 and 23 November 2003 is in breach of the hare netting licence given to the Cavan Coursing Club; if he will have this matter investigated and dealt with; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

A. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Martin Cullen: My Department understands that the event in question is being organised and managed by the Cavan Coursing Club who are covered by the hare netting licence issued to the Irish Coursing Club for the season 2003-2004. The subsidiary association of other interests with the Cavan Coursing Club in this event would not appear to be inconsistent with the licence provisions.

Letters to Editors

Extracts from recent letters to the media

"Squireens who inherit the legacy of the British Empire" - Limerick Leader, December 13th, 2003.

"Hunting foxes with hounds, described as the most sophisticated form of venery ever devised, is a legacy from the 18th Century English squires who found in the fox a more adventurous quarry than the hare.

"Those squires, their hands "dripping with the fat of sacrilege" to use Lloyd George's words, hunted the fox for pleasure alone. That those English foxhunting squires were "aped" or imitated by Ireland's "squireens" is hardly surprising. Nor is it surprising that from 1849 to 1882, those squireens evicted and drove from their houses 363,000 peasant families. All at a time when, according to Gladstone, eviction meant a sentence of death." (ICABS Director, Dick Power, Limerick).

"Picture fails to tell the hunt story" - Sligo Weekender January 13th, 2004.

"What a lovely picture you had in your paper the week before last of a little girl on her pony at the Sligo Harriers' Annual Hunt at Ransboro. What a pity you had not your photographer in Carrigans Lower and Carrickbanagher last Saturday, January 3 to capture the true colours of Sligo Harriers.

"Ewes due to lamb, cows due to calve, running terrified through fences. There were ponies frightened out of their enclosures, cattle racing mad throughout the fields, not to mention the land itself, which was all cut-up. They even left some of their hounds behind them.

"This behaviour is totally unacceptable in this day and age. These lands have been preserved for the last three years, a fact that the County Sligo Hunt is well aware of, as there was a public notice in the paper and letters were sent to Sligo Harriers and local gun clubs. Signs are also in place stating same.

"These people have no regard for farmers / landowners or the law. Do they hunt on their own lands and dis-

turb their own livestock? They have no respect for land, cattle, sheep, ponies and indeed the wildlife of our countryside. Hunting is not and never will be welcome on these lands again. That day is well and truly dead and gone. So take note Sligo Harriers, stay away." (Natalie Golden, Co Sligo).

"Hunt is a disgrace" - Sligo Weekender, January 20th, 2004.

I thought it was common knowledge that the hunt people think they own the countryside. It is a cast-off from a time when the people they are emulating did own the countryside! Personally I think it is a disgrace that we allow these people continue

with their Anglo landlord "sport" (barbarity). Where is the sport in it? Horses, dogs and that guy with that stupid horn racing through fields, knocking down fences and walls. And when it comes down to it they get out spades and dig the defenceless fox out of its den. (Cormac Carroll, Sligo).

"Accounting for the 'quarry'" Westmeath Examiner December 6th, 2003.

"If I had a Euro for every time an apologist for the Westmeath Foxhunters stated that they "hardly ever" kill a fox, I'd be a rich woman by now. This myth of the "harmless" foxhunters is constantly perpetuated to lull the public and even their own followers into a false sense of security about the real nature of their barbaric activities.

"The fact of the matter is that fox-hunting is about hounding down and killing foxes, and a day that a fox is not killed during a hunt is considered a "blank" or unsuccessful day for the hunt, but this was not the case recently for the Westmeath Foxhunters, as reported in the 'Hunt Diary' of the Farmers' Journal where it was stated that at a hunt which started in Bunbrosna and following a sharp 20 minutes towards Johnstown, "hounds accounted for their quarry above ground." (ICABS Director, Aideen Yourell).

Irish hares now online

NORTHERN Irish-based "Irish Hare Initiative" are in the process of creating "the most comprehensive Irish hare resource available". For more information on the Irish hare, please visit www.irishhare.org.

The group have also set up Hareline, a hare helpline, on 08707 442285. Members of the public can call this number for information on hares and also to report hare casualties and orphans.

"Quotes"

"When, last month, Northern Ireland's junior minister for the environment Angela Smith banned the killing or trapping of hares as a 'temporary, precautionary measure', she may have been foreshadowing the animal's permanent, year-round protection in the island as a whole, much to the disgust of the coursing clubs." (Michael Viney, Another Life column, Irish Times, January 17th, 2004).

"Whips Aidan Galligan and Mark Casserly were on the spot to view Charlie [the fox] away, but the huntsman took a short cut and was the first over a strong sheepwire fence, topped off with barbed wire and overhanging branches, just to make it more interesting onto the busy Kilmessan/Bective main road! Hounds crossed the road and did a circle back under the bridge, with our pilot [the fox] heading directly into Kilmessan Village. (From a report on the Meath Foxhunt, The Irish Field, December 6th, 2003).

Animal cruelty helpline launch

THE ISPCA has launched a new national cruelty helpline. The society is asking members of the public to call the number if they come across an animal in distress or want to report a case of suspected cruelty. The helpline number is 048-9081 4242.

Cats and dogs under severe threat in Korea

FOR THE past year, campaigners in South Korea have been leading a campaign to persuade the government to reject a draft law which would classify animals as either pets or livestock. The law would mean that cats and dogs could be raised as either pets or as livestock for human consumption.

The Korean Animal Protection Society has argued that dogs and cats need to be placed under a special category so that their long-standing role as companion animals would be recognised and which would prevent them from being farmed as livestock.

Unfortunately, the South Korean Government appears determined to adopt the new law and has begun a process that could result in it being approved by the Korean National Assembly in July 2004. It doesn't help that the country's president has shamelessly admitted that he enjoys eating dogs.

Campaigners in Korea urgently need your help. They say that if this law is passed it will mean that not only would dogs and cats raised for human consumption have no protection from abuse but it would also allow for any dog abuser to get away with torturing these animals, just as long as it's claimed that the animal is not a pet.

Please send an urgent protest letter to the president, reminding him that the overwhelming majority of the rest of the world has banned dog-meat, including Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. If this

TAKE ACTION

Write Now!

President Roh Moo-Hyun
Blue House, 1 Sejong-Ro,
Jongno-gu, Seoul, South
Korea, 110-050.

If you would like to write a letter of appeal to all 217 members of the Korean National Assembly, please click on "How to help" at itstheirdestiny.2kat.net.

new law passes, it would make Korea the first and only country in the entire world to explicitly legitimise dog meat and make it legal to sanction dog and cat killing for human consumption.

Tell President Roh Moo-Hyun that all dogs and cats are companion pet animals and should not be raised for human consumption. Appeal to him to fully protect all Korean animals.

(Source: Korean Animal Protection Society/IAKA)



Subscription Renewals

THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in subscription renewals and donations in recent months. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

The renewal date for your subscription appears on top of the mailing label above your name and address.

If your subscription is not yet due for renewal, we would appreciate if you could pass the enclosed form on to a friend. Thank you.