Chinese Government Release New Policy Forbidding Dog Meat

China's Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs has marked the practice of raising dogs for meat as forbidden in a new draft policy. The ministry further explained its policy, saying dogs were a "special companion animal." Animal rights activists have long decried the eating of dogs in China, and this new stance from the government is a step towards banning the practice.

> *That signals a major shift, recognising that most people in China don't eat dogs and cats and want an end to the theft of their companion animals for a meat trade that only a small percentage of the population indulge in,"*
>
> *Wendy Higgins, Humane Society International*

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Due to the coronavirus outbreak, China's National People's Congress has banned the consumption of all wild animal meat. Shenzhen, a city in the populous province Guangdong, has put forward additional regulations banning the eating of dogs and cats. On May 1st, the law will take effect, and restaurants that serve pet meat will receive a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 yuan (2,800 – 28,000 USD).

Sources

- *Shenzhen could be first city in China to ban eating of dogs and cats* – The Guardian
- *Shenzhen becomes first Chinese city to ban eating cats and dogs* – BBC