

## **Indonesia's cruel and dangerous dog meat trade exposed in investigations by newly-launched *Dog Meat-Free Indonesia Coalition***

### ***Indonesian superstars and global celebs join campaign calling for an end to Indonesia's brutal dog meat trade***

JAKARTA (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017) – Shocking nationwide investigations by animal campaigners from the newly-launched “Dog Meat-Free Indonesia” coalition, expose the horrifying brutality and suffering endured by up to a million dogs every year for Indonesia's dog meat trade. In the coalition's campaign video launched today, dogs, including stolen family pets, are shown being roughly snatched from the streets and crammed onto the back of trucks with their legs and mouths bound with string. The clearly terrified dogs are driven for hours to supply markets, slaughterhouses and restaurants, where they are brutally beaten and then bled out for their meat in front of each other. The World Health Organization has also identified Indonesia's dog meat trade as a major contributor to lethal rabies in the country.

Most people in Indonesia don't eat dogs, and calls are growing to end the trade because of animal welfare and human health concerns. The launch of the “Dog Meat-Free Indonesia” campaign by Animal Friends Jogja, Change for Animals Foundation, Humane Society International and Jakarta Animal Aid Network, has received the backing of some of Indonesia's biggest superstars – actresses Chelsea Islan and Sophia Latjuba, and singer Gamaliel Tapiheru - and well as international celebrities Ricky Gervais, Joanna Lumley and Peter Egan.

The celebrities star in a powerful new PSA video called “I Didn't Know” which campaigners hope will influence hearts and minds towards ending this trade.

**Download photos, broadcast quality broll video footage, and our celebrity PSA here:**  
<https://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org/resources/information-pack>

In addition to being immensely cruel, Indonesia's dog meat trade also poses a grave human health risk to all sectors of society, notably in the form of rabies transmission, given that it is the only known mass and unregulated movement of dogs of unknown disease-status from different cities, provinces and islands.

The dog meat trade in Indonesia operates in breach of existing laws and regulations to safeguard public health and safety, as well as provisions to protect animals from cruelty; and is in breach of rabies control recommendations from leading experts including the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). There are growing concerns that rabies-positive dogs are being moved to supply highly-populated cities such as Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Surakarta— that have worked hard to secure their rabies-free status – and dog meat eating hot spots throughout the nation.

The unsanitary conditions of slaughterhouses and the unknown health status of dogs slaughtered for consumption are of added and equal concern, with anyone involved in the dog

meat trade – traders, slaughterers, vendors and consumers – at further risk of being exposed to rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

In July this year, Bali's Governor I Made Mangku Pastika issued an official letter ordering a crackdown on the dog meat trade on this Indonesian island, following a harrowing investigation. The letter was issued on the basis of animal cruelty, the risk to public health and to the island's reputation as a tourist destination, all factors that apply equally to the rest of Indonesia. The *Dog Meat-Free Indonesia* coalition believes that strong actions must be extended to the whole of Indonesia in order to shut down the brutally cruel, unsanitary, and unsafe dog meat trade.

*“Although dog meat is only consumed by a minority of Indonesians – estimated at less than 7% – and only a tiny fraction of society are reliant on it as a primary source of income, the dog meat trade threatens the health and safety of the entire nation. If Indonesia is to achieve its goal to eliminate rabies by 2020, urgent action is required by the government and all sectors of society.”*  
– Karin Franken, Jakarta Animal Aid Network

*“There is an ever-growing opposition to the dog meat trade in Indonesia and globally, and we are committed to working with the government to identify solutions to ensure the protection of animal welfare and public health and safety, which are gravely compromised by the trade.”* – Lola Webber, Change For Animals Foundation.

*“Indonesia’s dog meat trade is as brutal as it is unsafe, threatening to undo all of Indonesia’s hard work towards achieving rabies-free status by 2020. The Dog Meat-Free Indonesia coalition’s investigations have exposed the horrifying suffering that dogs caught up in the dog meat trade endure..”* – Kelly O’Meara, Humane Society International.

*“I didn’t know the magnitude, literally millions of dogs are slaughtered for food in Indonesia every year. It has to be condemned, and we have to stop it. Now that you know, please help us help them, thank you.”* – Ricky Gervais.

*“I didn’t know that the transportation and slaughter of dogs poses a significant risk to the transmission of rabies and other deadly diseases. Some of these diseases can be passed on by eating dog meat.”* - Gamaliel Tapiheru

*“I didn’t know the huge scale of the dog meat trade, and the pain and suffering that these dogs go through. Please make your voice heard.”* - Sophia Latjuba

*“Right now, tens of thousands of dogs are suffering in ways I can hardly imagine. Please support us for our cause, for a dog meat-free Indonesia.”* - Chelsea Islan

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**ENDS**

## Media Contacts:

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## Notes to Editors:

### About The Dog Meat-Free Indonesia Coalition

Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN) Change For Animals Foundation (CFAF), Animal Friends Jogja (AFJ) and Humane Society International (HSI) created the “Dog Meat-Free Indonesia” campaign based on a shared commitment to working collaboratively to tackle the dog meat trade in Indonesia.

Through public awareness campaigning and political lobbying, our united goal is to harness opposition to the dog meat trade in order to secure an Indonesia-wide ban. With proven experience and expertise in delivering effective public awareness campaigns, and in working in collaboration with local and central governments to pass and implement laws and regulations to end cruel practices and strengthen animal protection legal provisions, we are well positioned to tackle Indonesia’s cruel and dangerous dog meat trade.

Find out more: [www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org](http://www.dogmeatfreeindonesia.org)

**Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN)** was established in 2008 and is committed to raising awareness of animal cruelty issues and to promoting the compassionate treatment for all animals. **JAAN’s** work is divided into two main categories: companion animal welfare, including animal rescue, promotion of responsible pet ownership and public awareness activities; and wildlife rescue activities and campaigns. ([www.jakartaanimalaid.com](http://www.jakartaanimalaid.com))

**Change For Animals Foundation (CFAF)** is an organisation committed to promoting

compassion towards all animals and ending animal suffering. CFAF works to support and inspire positive change for animals around the world in partnership with local animal protection groups and an international network of animal welfare specialists. ([www.changeforanimals.org](http://www.changeforanimals.org))

**Animal Friends Jogja (AFJ)** is a non-profit organisation committed to improving the welfare and protection of all animals throughout Indonesia through humane education, the provision of veterinary care, advocacy and public awareness campaigns. For better compassion towards animals and nature, AFJ is committed to promoting grassroots activism and building networks with local organisations and communities. ([www.animalfriendsjogja.org](http://www.animalfriendsjogja.org))

**Humane Society International** and its partner organisations together constitute one of the world's largest animal protection organisations. For more than 25 years, HSI has been working for the protection of all animals through the use of science, advocacy, education and hands-on programmes. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty worldwide. ([www.hsi.org](http://www.hsi.org))