

# Stop Animal Abuse:

## No Free Trade Agreement with South Korea!

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_, Senator \_\_\_\_\_,  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_, and President Obama:

CC: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Han Duk-soo, President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak

According to the South Korean humane group Korean Animal Rights Advocates, "Korea does not have strong animal welfare laws and lags well behind the international community in this area."

South Korea fails to meet US humane and wildlife conservation practice in a number of areas:

- Whereas practices like dog fighting and cockfighting are illegal in the US, the cruel spectacle of bloody horse fighting is still practiced in South Korea.
- Dogs are killed in South Korea for food by beating, strangling, and boiling – all methods that would be illegal in the United States.
- South Korea is one of only three countries where bear bile farming is still practiced. While only 20 bears remain in the wild, 1,600 bears live in cramped cages on unregulated farms until the age of 10, when they are slaughtered for their bile.
- Whereas the US supports CITES listing for threatened bluefin tuna, South Korea's bluefin catch and exports to Japan are surging, undermining even CITES listing for Japan's effort to limit total bluefin catch.
- Flouting the international whaling moratorium, South Korea allows fishermen who "accidentally" catch whales to sell them at state-designated facilities.

South Korea's animal protection organizations are calling on international pressure to influence their government to implement legislation to curb these atrocities. The US now has unique leverage to encourage the Korean government to implement humane reforms, but will permanently squander this leverage if it enters a binding trade agreement without first demanding that the Korean government take concrete action to improve animal welfare, either in the text of the agreement or through separate legislation. The KORUS not only ignores animal welfare concerns, but threatens to prolong and exacerbate animal welfare problems.

- In late 2010 and early 2011, South Korea buried millions of chickens and pigs alive to curb the spread of hoof and mouth disease and avian influenza, ignoring World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Guidelines on the Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes. (South Korea is an OIE member.) To prevent future disease outbreaks, South Korea must abandon intensive confinement factory farm and transport methods, which incubate and propagate livestock disease. But increased import pressure from untariffed US exports under the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) will only shift Korea further in the direction of industrializing and concentrating agriculture.
- Investor-state provisions of the KORUS will allow Korean corporations like fur industry giant Jindo Corp, notorious for its cruel treatment of animals, to sue in international tribunals if US environmental protection or humane measures limit prevent future profits.

For all these reasons I urge you REJECT the US-South Korea Free Trade Agreement and to urge South Korea to implement reforms on the issues described above.

NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle YES or NO for each for each of the following questions:**

Contact me with additional information YES NO      Contact me about volunteering YES NO  
Contact me about donating funds or supplies YES NO

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