

Implementation of Dog Ban Policies in China: Regular Enforcement and Special Campaigns

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Abstract

In China, the government's crackdowns on dog owners can be traced back to 1949 when owning a pet dog in cities was viewed as a bourgeois affectation. Despite some softening of attitudes towards dogs in recent years, authorities still regard them primarily as noise polluters and potential disease carriers. Consequently, cities throughout China have implemented multiple rounds of clampdowns on dogs. These anti-dog movements have resulted in the indiscriminate killing of countless dogs, both stray and domesticated. This study examines the evolution of dog-control policies and the campaigns in China, shedding light on the current living conditions of dogs in the country and social attitudes towards "man's best friend."

In Chinese history, dogs had played important roles in human communities since ancient times. They were historically viewed as productive tools and properties of humans, actively involved in hunts, fighting in wars, and serving as fearless guardians of livestock and lifesavers. The human relationship with dogs changed profoundly throughout modern Chinese history. Notably, dogs in the mid-20th century were primarily seen as potential disease vectors, noise polluters and useless sources of filth, rather than reliable and constructive members of society. They were therefore progressively expelled from cities and became targets of eradication

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