



**Eyes on
Animals** | Watching
out for their
welfare

Dear officials of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, February 22, 2011

I am writing to ask that the Dutch government take action immediately to assist the government of South Korea in making their cullings *humane*. The Dutch government must coordinate sending out experts now to lend their expertise in the field.

In late November 2010, South Korea announced that it had Foot and Mouth disease. Shortly thereafter the local authorities began culling millions of animals from the regions touched by the disease.

It was not yet clear how the cullings were being done, but various sources indicated that Succinyl choline and pentobarbital were to be used. Succinyl choline only sedates the muscles but the animal is fully conscious and aware of its surroundings. The animal ends up suffocating because it cannot move. This drug is completely unacceptable and cruel to perform euthanasia with. Pentobarbital is risky, because if administered incorrectly the animal can regain consciousness.

Shockingly, in early January, Eyes on Animals received photos and video footage from the Korea Animal Rights Advocates (KARA) showing live pigs being dumped fully conscious into massive grave-pits.

Animal welfare organizations around the world were horrified and members sent letters to their local South Korean Embassies. Officials in Europe as well as the OIE (of which South Korea is a member) were made aware of this animal-welfare atrocity occurring in South Korea.

Now, almost two months later the live burials continue. Just yesterday, February 21st, the South Korean press released the following photos taken of a culling in Icheon of the Kyungi Province. Why is this allowed to continue and why does it seem that we are just passively watching this cruelty?

During the disease outbreaks in the Netherlands in the late 90's, international coordination efforts were made so that veterinarian experts from other continents could assist in the field. South Korea also needs more man-power from foreign experts with experience in handling these tragedies in a *humane* manner; animals must at least be rendered dead before burial. The Netherlands dealt with the Q-kort cullings effectively and humanely. We think that Dutch experts are a trendsetter and have the expertise to teach South Koreans how to do things correctly.

South-Korea is an important economic trading partner with the Netherlands. Coordination between the two players thus should also be possible when it comes to disease outbreaks. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the Netherlands' plans of action to effectively reduce the suffering of animals now.

Lesley Moffat, director

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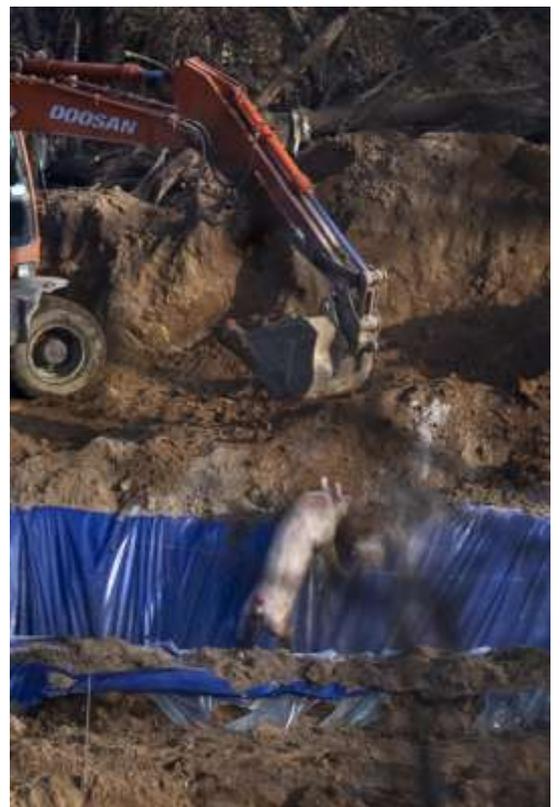
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February 21, 2011

Place: Icheon, Kyungi Province

Photos: ©김흥구



One of the earlier cullings taken almost 2 months ago.

