



Analysis on the Development of Animal Protection in France and the Feasible Plans in China

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Abstract. France is one of the countries that start to establish and improve animal protection laws at an early stage. Now, it has a relatively complete legal system for animal protection. In contrast, China still has a lot to improve in this area. Therefore, it is particularly important to promote the development of animal protection policies in China. This paper presents the development of animal protection policies in France and summarizes the current problems existing in China. In addition, the author also proposes feasible plans for the future development of animal protection in China. To conclude, France has gone through the banning of public cruelty to animals in 1850 to the banning of cruelty to domesticated animals in 1959. Today, animal shows are being banned in France, and from 2024, the sale of pets in any form will also be banned in France. Besides, for China's future development in animal protection, there are mainly two steps of improvement. The first step is to enforce education about animal protection for children in primary and middle schools, so as to increase the awareness of animal protection for the next generation. And the next move is to take an experimental step, which is to build an animal farm with video surveillance to prevent the maltreatment of animals, thus eliminating cruelty to animals and pushing the establishment and improvement of related regulations and policies.

Keywords: Animal protection policies, France, China, Education.

1 Introduction

Cruelty to animals can be found in various situations. For example, some rare animals are killed by people for bloodletting so that their fur can be made into clothes. What is more, farm owners may feed animals drugs to let them grow fast but unhealthily, and animals can be forced to stay in a small area (this leads to animals growing with degenerated limbs or broken legs unable to support their own weight). For cetaceans and dolphins in aquariums, because of the water there, they usually have skin disease which leads to a short life. Things like these are countless.

Therefore, in this paper, the author introduces the development of animal protection policies in France and the current relative situation in China, as well as discussing what China can learn from France and the possible actions China can take to increase the welfare for animals. At present, China only has related laws that prohibit cruelty to rare

animals, so what has been done is far from enough. This paper can provide some ideas for regulation makers.

2 The Development of Animal Protection in France

2.1 Early Establishment of Related Laws and Policies

Not every country has perfect policies for animal protection in the first place. At the beginning, France had just a few policies about animal protection. According to the development of animal protection policy in France, in 1850, France announced its first law on animal protection, which only prohibited cruelty to animals in public [1]. Despite little protection of animals in the first law, France has taken a very important step. They then added several laws related to animal protection, such as the decriminalization of the cruelty of domestic or captive animals in 1959 [2]. And in 1976, France recognized the sentient abilities of domestic animals (making it the first one of the countries to identify animals' perceptual abilities) and, where possible, use alternatives to animal testing [1]. Today, France has added more comprehensive laws to protect the rights of animals.

2.2 Achievements Made in Animal Protection

France has made quite a few achievements in animal protection. First is the close of fur farms for some non-domestic animals such as minks. After years of anti-fur campaign by the French animal protection organization, more than 90% of French people have aroused their voice of anti-fur trade. Nearly 60,000 supporters signed the petition, and many French celebrities joined in. Although the decision did not involve domesticated animals such as the Orylag rabbit, it marked a historic advance and would help further push the fur trade to an end [3].

Second is the ban on breeding and starring of caught cetaceans and dolphins in aquariums within five years. The French government has announced its support for the development of marine reserves for such animals in the near future [3].

The third is the ban on animal shows in circuses within seven years. More than 60% of French people are in favor of banning animal performances in circuses. A growing number of cities have also been anticipating the ban. More than 40,000 sympathetic people signed the petition. After a long period of struggle of French animal protection groups and numerous animal rights groups, the French government has finally ended the captivity of animals in traveling circuses [3].

Finally is the ban on pet stores of cats and dogs by 2024. This measure, which animal rights groups have been demanding for years, has finally come to be true. The measure also restricts online sales, which is a good step taken, but there are still a lot of animals abandoned in French shelters, so what has been done is not enough [4]. The next step is to completely ban the sale, exchange, and donation of animals online, which leads to abuse, neglect, and abandonment of these animals, as well as the overpopulation of animals through the breeding of profitable kittens and puppies [3].

2.3 Respect for Animals in Education in France

Young People at the Animal Welfare School. In some SPA (society for protection of animal) shelter youth clubs, volunteers are minors and children aged 11-17 who come into contact with animals. Founded in 1948, shortly after World War II, their mission is to raise children's awareness of animal protection while also giving them responsibility and fostering their volunteerism [5]. During the war, the founder of the SPA shelter youth clubs, Germaine Coutelier, had the idea to train young volunteers for animal welfare. She was an obstetric nurse who took in about fifteen children after the hospital was bombed. After realizing that human can become better with animals, she aspired to teach children to respect animals, and in 1948, she created the Youth Spa Education Department. Today, no less than 24 clubs across France are training young volunteers to become responsible adults [5].

The SPA aims to raise young people's awareness of animal protection and improve the fate of all animals through all means within its power. It also combats animal trafficking, and ensures that legislation and regulations protecting them are respected by giving them assistance [5]". Volunteers from the SPA Youth Club, with the support of local leaders, come to help walk the dog, hand the dog to the toilet, and brush the dog. Young volunteers can also get involved with horses and other new pets. They also take action to prevent cruelty to animals through local campaigns or animations [5].

Young People at the Zootopia Center. By educating young people about animals, not only their awareness of animal protection can be improved, but also they themselves can be developed on a sensory level. Since animals can provide psychological, emotional, educational, and therapeutic help to humans [6], the educator Victoria Sule created Zootopia, a center for civic life through animals [7]. Educator Victoria Sule uses animals to teach young people about human society and help them avoid falling into crime. A center near Mortain-Bocage accepts juveniles who have fallen into crime or are on the road to crime, referred by PJJ (Protection of Juvenile Justice) and ASE (Aide Sociale à l'Enfance). "The idea is to get them to think about their behaviour, respect for the rules and way of life in society," explains Victoria Sule. Every afternoon, the teens, Victoria, and the dogs go for a hike. There are dwarf goats, Nordic dogs, house mice and more surprising colonies of ants [7]. Each day is divided into two parts: in the morning, teens learn how animal societies work and how each of them behaves. These societies are then compared to each other as well as to human society. In the afternoon, Victoria will focus on sports practice with a group of Nordic dogs (mountain biking, hiking...). The goal is to let young people better understand the animal society and help them find their own places in human society [7].

Foreign Animal Protection Educational Institutions for the Next Generation. American company PURINA conducts animal protection education courses for young people in many countries and regions, and cooperates with different types of organizations [8]. The idea is that children represent a new generation of pet owners, and it is important to develop their sense of responsibility, so they must recognize and be edu-

cated about the benefits of pets. The company's goal is to improve the lives of young owners and their pets. Children are taught how to approach a pet, how to understand its behavior, and how to care for, feed and groom it [8]. At PURINA, it is believed that life is better when humans and animals live together. Having a pet is both exciting and emotional, and animals teach children to be responsible, to show love, and to respect boundaries. For several years, many European countries have successfully implemented programs to raise awareness among children about the responsibility of owning animals [8].

In France, for example, the "Pet School" program, which has existed for over 10 years, has sensitized more than 485,000 primary school children and their families to become responsible pet owners for the well-being of all. Similar plans have already been rolled out in countries such as Italy, Russia, and Germany [8]. Children discover in their learning: the origins of cats and dogs, their body language, how to detect their "superpowers", and how to approach a dog one does not know, etc. Throughout the game, a child can verify different levels and earn medals to enhance his or her knowledge. Finally, there is a diploma of "Perfect Pet Owner" which he or she can proudly display in the room [9]. This original approach through playing makes children aware of the importance of respect for animals and proper behaviors. When it comes to respecting animals, the earlier one learns, the better she or he can avoid dangerous situations [8].

3 Possible Studies on Animal Protection in China

In China, only the brutal killing of rare animals is considered a crime. Animals have long existed as legal objects, under the same conditions as other inanimate property. Education should be started with the cultivation of the awareness of animal protection in the next generation, so as to gradually improve related policies in China. The author designed two experiments successively.

The first experiment is for the younger generation. An injured dog or cat can be put in several cities to see how many people will stop to help it and how many people ignore it. Two groups in equal proportions will be taken for our educational program. One is the experimental group and the other is the control group. Then a year later, we retested these two groups to see if the experimental group had a higher percentage than the control group.

The second experiment is aimed at monitoring the farm. The first step is to use simple sampling to determine which province is best suited to implement the program. In the next step, a questionnaire will be created and distributed to the local residents to see how the plan works. If all goes well, we will go to the next city. However, if this plan cannot be implemented, we will continue to cultivate primary and secondary school students' awareness of animal protection, and wait for a time when public opinion matures to promote the development of relevant policies.

Here are the questions the author designed to ask the participants during the survey before installing the farm with surveillance:

- 1). Do you want to do something for animals?

2). Have you ever had the experience of freeing captive animals, adopting animals, or doing some volunteering jobs in this area?

3). Do you think improving education about animal protection for the next generation is important?

4). Do you think introducing curriculum about animal protection in the primary school or middle school will work?

5). How much do you know about animal protection?

6). Do you have any feasible plans for improving animal protection?

7). Do you have any other plans about raising the awareness of animal protection for the next generation?

The education for the next generation can be started with how to take good care of their pets, and then children can feel animals' feelings by watching some videos. For example, when a chicken is going to be killed, it screams loudly and miserably, running around the court and looking for a chance to live alive. And for yaks, when a calf leaves its big family and is sold to a new place, it will fight with its owner, even being tied up in the track. It will use its horns to hit the track, trying to get away from it. Eventually, some of them will die. And all of the members of yaks' family will come around the dead calf and howl for it. Lectures about how to achieve animal protection and these videos can let children feel the sensation of animals and make them want to protect animals.

4 Conclusion

By completing the policies of animal protection, French people realize the importance of education about this area for the next generation. And, step by step, they increase their awareness of animal protection. As for China, there is a need for Chinese people to first introduce the curriculum for animal protection into primary education. Some courses such as those conducted in PURINA can be introduced and integrated with the local culture, so that some relative policies can be made. What is more, considering China's current situation, it will take years to achieve great progress in animal protection. First, curriculum of animal protection may be failed to be added in schools. But pointing out that improving children's awareness of animal protection can decrease juvenile crime may arouse principals' interest. The most difficult part is to make relative policies and put them into effect. But increasing the awareness of animal protection in the next generation can also help enact legislation, so these two works for each other. China is now going through a transition from a developing country to an advanced country, and it is time to consider more about animals' welfare and improve the animal protection policy.

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