

South Korea bans dog meat eating and selling

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South Korea's parliament has passed a bill to ban the eating and selling of dog meat. The legislation aims to end a centuries-old and controversial practice amid increasing support for animal welfare. The bill was passed with an overwhelming 208 votes in favour. According to the new law, breeding and slaughtering dogs for human consumption will be punishable by up to three years in prison, while those guilty of raising dogs for selling dog meat may be sentenced to a maximum of two years. The new law will take effect by 2027.

Violators of the law could face imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of up to 30 million won (approximately \$22,800). Eating dog meat was once believed to improve stamina in the humid Korean summer, but pet ownership has risen over the years. Government data shows that one in four Korean households owned a pet dog in 2022, up from 16 per cent in 2010.

The legislation will become law once it is approved by the cabinet and signed by the president. The law will take effect after a three-year grace period.