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The Associated Press

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SECTION: International News

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HEADLINE: Poll: South Koreans Want Dog Meat Legalized

DATELINE: SEOUL, South Korea

BODY:

Most South Koreans believe dog meat should be legal, according to a magazine's survey.

The survey of 1,208 Seoul residents found that three-quarters have eaten dog meat and nearly half eat it at least once a month, the monthly magazine Food and Hygiene said.

Eating dog meat has been officially banned since 1988, but it is widely available in markets and specialty restaurants in Seoul's back alleys.

Dog meat is considered a delicacy, and believed to enhance stamina in men.

The survey was conducted amid increasing foreign pressure to enforce the ban. Some animal rights groups have called for a boycott of South Korean goods unless the trade in dog meat is halted.

In the survey, four-fifths of the respondents opposed banning dog meat, and about two-thirds said foreign customs should not dictate what South Koreans choose to eat.

No margin of error was given for the survey, conducted over a 10-day period in May.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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