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Sunny

The high is expected to reach the mid-60s and the low to fall to the upper 50s.
Map, date / A12



Groups probe firm seeking dogs for food

Scripps Howard News Service

DENVER — The Denver-based American Humane Association and other national animal protection groups are investigating a company that solicited dogs from hundreds of shelters for use as food in Asia.

Dozens of animal-rights groups also received the letter and wonder if the offer is a hoax. In 1992, 6.3 million dogs were euthanized in animal shelters.

The one-page letter, written in broken English with perfect spelling, said that some people like to eat dog and the company, Kea So Joo Inc. of New York, will buy all dogs for 10 cents a pound.

"Dog no suffer. We have quick death for dog," said the letter signed by Kim Yung Soo, company president. "We cook dog in America. We can dog in America and sell some dog in America in Asian market place.

"Most dog we ship overseas. Lot of people eat dog," the letter said, listing the Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Japanese and Cambodians as dog consumers.

"We're taking it seriously," said Joan Paylo of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York,

which is also investigating.

The letterhead address in New York City is a mailbox in a contract station. An answering machine took calls on Friday. A woman, speaking broken English, asks for a name and number. In the background, dogs are barking.

Robin Duxbury, director of the Denver-based Animal Rights Mobilization, said she called the number Thursday and talked to someone. Duxbury identified herself and said she is involved with animals.

"I asked what I could do with dogs since I'm in Colorado and they're in New York. He said, 'We have people that come pick them up from you, even in Colorado,'" said Duxbury, who was flabbergasted and hung up.

Nicholas Gilman of the American Humane Association said the association asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture — which handles meat inspections — to investigate.

The letter ends with a final sales pitch:

"Our business getting very big. Need more dog. We do big business together. We have a big business already with many dog breeder and many dog hospital."