



---

**of York County**  
*A New Leash on Life™*

BROUGHER COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER  
3159 Susquehanna Trail North, York, PA 17406 \* (717) 764-6109 \* [www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org)

### **York County SPCA Provides Refuge to 9 Dogs Rescued from the South Korean Dog Meat Trade in Coordination with the Humane Society International**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the York County SPCA welcomed 9 dogs who were saved from South Korea's brutal dog meat trade in a rescue mission coordinated by Humane Society International. "To witness these dog's incredible transformation from absolute neglect and fear to loving and playful astounds me. This is a story of resiliency," says Steven Martinez, Executive Director of the York County SPCA.

HSI rescued nearly 200 dogs from farms profiting off the dog meat market, including one farm in Haemi from which 170 of the dogs were rescued. The conditions of these farms were horrific. Most dogs live their entire lives in barren wire cages or tethered to short chains with no access to clean water, adequate food, or protection from the elements. They receive no veterinary care and are deprived of socialization and human affection until being slaughtered.

Kelly O'Meara, HSI's vice president of companion animal campaigns, says: *"Although most people in South Korea don't regularly eat dog meat, and support for a ban is growing, there remain thousands of farms of all sizes across the country where dogs of all breeds endure a harsh existence. With fewer people wanting to eat dog, farmers can see the writing is on the wall for this dying industry and so they work with HSI to find a solution that gives both them and their remaining dogs a chance of a new life. With such interest from dog farmers, and public support, we hope the Korean government will adopt this type of approach to phase out the dog meat industry for good."*

After the dogs were rescued from the farm, HSI transported them from South Korea to the Washington, DC area where they were evaluated, received daily care, and provided with medical treatment at a temporary shelter. Once the dogs were stable, they were relocated to partnering shelters including the York County SPCA.

The York County SPCA happily opened its doors to 9 of the HSI rescued dogs. Currently, the YCSPCA is providing extensive care to four Korean mastiffs, two Korean jindos, a Samoyed, a black Labrador Retriever, and a Chihuahua. Each dog has received necessary medical treatment, behavioral evaluations, daily care, enrichment, and training. They have strived every day to transform the dogs' fear of humans into trust. Canine Behavior and Foster Manager, Sammy Green, has worked with each dog to help them gain confidence, understand communication and socialization, and learn leash training and obedience.

“Having worked with animals for over ten years, I know how truly remarkable it is to see how much a ‘man’s best friend’ actually confides in humanity for comfort. I have worked with animals from all different backgrounds, but these dogs truly needed us and it showed.” Staff and volunteers have also helped to reduce the dogs’ fears, introduce them to toys and walks, and be comfortable receiving affection.

Each dog has made significant progress and four are now available for adoption. YCSPCA staff will discuss behavioral and care needs as well as training advice with potential adopters. These resilient, courageous Korean rescues are simply awaiting their final transport into their forever homes. To learn more about adoption opportunities, visit [www.ycspca.org/adopt](http://www.ycspca.org/adopt).

###

#### Media Contact

Kaila Young, Communications Director

[kyoung@ycspca.org](mailto:kyoung@ycspca.org)

717-764-6109

#### **About the York County SPCA**

The York County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization dedicated to providing long-term human and animal services to residents of York County through programs that find permanent, loving homes for displaced and stray animals, help control animal population growth, investigate and prosecute cruelty offenders and educate the general public about animal wellness and safety. We do not receive funding from the national ASPCA. We are a community resource supporting all York County residents and their animals. More at [www.ycspca.org](http://www.ycspca.org).