

REVIEW

China After Covid-19

Review and Impact of Wildlife Fasting Policies and Regulations

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Keywords: COVID-19; fasting; wild animals; policies and regulations

ABSTRACT

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected global public health security and economic development and is a huge test for China and other countries around the world. Among the factors affecting the outbreak of the epidemic, human abuse of wildlife appears to be the most important. Under the influence of relevant factors, China has formulated and implemented policies, laws, and regulations on a comprehensive ban on wildlife.

Objectives:

Through the integration and impact analysis of China's comprehensive wildlife fasting policy and relevant laws and regulations, this paper aims to provide reference for other countries in epidemic prevention and control and the improvement of public health governance.

Methods:

Through the integration of relevant policies and regulations and detailed introduction, the author studied from three aspects: policies and regulations related to people's life, health and safety, improvement of public health and safety risk prevention and promotion of environmental protection and human civilization development, and analyzed its impact on all aspects of human society, especially public health safety and emergency management system and management capacity, to remind people to change the habit of over eating wild animals.

Results:

The article is of reference and guiding significance in promoting the global implementation of comprehensive fasting for wild animals, and in the current epidemic prevention and control of other countries, maintaining social public health and security governance, and safeguarding human health.

Main Contribution to Evidence-Based Practice:

The article demonstrates that the relevant policies, laws, and regulations of China's comprehensive prohibition of wildlife have reference and guiding significance for epidemic prevention, maintenance of social public health and safety management, and protection of human health. In addition, it has promoted the global implementation of a comprehensive ban on wildlife.

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What do we already know about this topic?

The existing science shows that the outbreak of Neo-coronal Pneumonia is related to human overeating wild animals.

What is the main contribution to Evidence-Based Practice from this article?

The integration, analysis and impact survey of China's comprehensive wildlife fasting policy, laws, and regulations.

What are your research's implications towards theory, practice, or policy?

The article points out that the beneficial effects of China's comprehensive wildlife fasting policy and laws and regulations on epidemic prevention and control and improvement of public health governance are worthy of reference for other countries.

Authors' Contributions Statement

Dong, Liu and Zhang conceptualized and drafted the article.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has severely affected global public health security and economic development, and it is also a huge test for China. At present, the source of the COVID-19 virus is still unknown, but some scientific studies suggest that this outbreak may be related to the excessive eating of wild animals. Currently, there are more than 1.7 million unknown viruses worldwide, about half of which is harmful to humans. If humans do not entirely change the habit of overeating wild animals, epidemics may occur more frequently in the future. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Chinese government has actively formulated relevant wildlife fasting policies, which has played a positive role in epidemic prevention and control and public health security governance and are worth learning from other countries in the world.

Current Status of Wildlife Fasting Policy in China

In the face of the sudden COVID-19 outbreak, the Chinese government has responded quickly and positively in terms of policies and regulations. On January 26, 2020, China's State Administration for Market Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and State Forestry and Grassland Administration jointly issued the "Notice on Banning Wildlife Trade", deciding to ban wildlife trade from the date of the announcement to the period when the epidemic is lifted nationwide. On February 24th, 2020, the thirteenth session of the standing committee of the National People's Congress of China passed the 16th meeting of the standing committee of the National People's Congress on banning illegal wildlife trade,

expelling the excessive eating wild animal abuse, to protect the decision of the people's lives and health and safety (hereinafter referred to as the "decision"). The decision explicitly prohibits the consumption of state-protected terrestrial wild animals of great scientific, ecological and social value, as well as other terrestrial wild animals, including those bred and raised in captivity. It is completely prohibited to hunt, trade and transport terrestrial wild animals naturally growing and breeding in the wild for the purpose of food. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, none of the laws and regulations on wildlife protection have explicitly specified whether wild animals and other non-protected terrestrial animals can be eaten, but the decision closes a loophole in Chinese law. The decision aims at a complete ban on the consumption of wild animals and aims at expanding the scope of the relevant laws in China, to establish a complete ban on the consumption of wild animals. Therefore, the decision is of epoch-making significance in the field of wildlife protection in China and has a milestone significance in the establishment and improvement of China's wildlife protection system, and plays an important guiding role in the formulation, modification and improvement of relevant laws and policies on wildlife protection in China in the future.

Since the promulgation of the decision, China has introduced a series of policies and revised relevant laws. The Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China was amended on January 22, 2021 and entered into force on May 1, 2021. It clearly stipulates the content and requirements of animal

epidemic prevention, further regulates the consumption of domestic animals and wild animals and prevents the occurrence and spread of animal epidemics. Effective as of April 15, 2021 of the biosafety law of People's Republic of China "is to safeguard national security, preparedness and response of biological safety risk, safeguard the people's life and health, promote to build human destiny community, realize the harmonious coexistence between man and nature as the objective, specify a major new hair abrupt, animal or plant epidemic prevention and control of infectious diseases, to check the prevention and control of entry and exit animals, to better safeguard national biosecurity. After the outbreak of the epidemic, China made major adjustments to the List of National Wildlife under Key Protection. On February 5, 2021, the new version of the "List of National Key protected wildlife" was officially announced, 517 (category) of new wildlife, the first and second level of national key protected wildlife species also increased, the direction of adjustment and China promulgated in 2020 "decision" purpose in line with. In addition to the List of National Wildlife Protection, China has also revised the List of Aquatic Wildlife under State Key Protection such as Artificial Breeding to increase the protection of wildlife and further clarify the boundary between amphibians and reptiles in captivity and fasted wild animals.

The Impact of the Perfection of Policies and Regulations

Guarantee People's Health and Safety

Fasting wild animals is beneficial to human survival and health. Modern science has confirmed that most wild animals contain a variety of parasites, bacteria, viruses and other toxic substances, and there are more than 100 kinds of symbiotic diseases between humans and animals. Selling and eating wild animals will increase the circulation of infectious viruses in wild animals in the public environment, creating potential virus spreaders, and the risk of infectious virus transmission is easily uncontrolled. Once an infectious virus is latent in the human body through human selling and eating wild animals, it is very likely to produce fever, cough, shortness of breath, dyspnea, and other symptoms, seriously damaging the health of citizens. A total ban on wild animals has cut off the spread of the disease, greatly reduced the risk of infection, and directly

protected people's lives and health. In addition, wild animals have very important research values in many fields such as medicine, ecology, bioenergy, anthropology and so on. Whether mice or apes and other animals, non-human primate function, structure and metabolism of wild animals and humans are similar, such as its for human medical research, to explore the pathogenesis of many diseases, seeking the right to play an important role in prevention and treatment of the method, in the history of many vaccines is inseparable from the successful development of these experiments the contribution of wild animals.

Comprehensive regulation of eating wild animals can not only prevent "disease from entering the mouth", but also directly protect people's lives and health safety. It is also conducive to the protection of wildlife, to provide a basis for relevant medical treatment, medicine and epidemic prevention and control. Researchers and medical personnel can use existing facilities to study viruses, bacteria, and parasites in wild animals, constantly breakthrough the extent of existing medical treatment, conquer diseases that are not fully understood in the world at present, and effectively safeguard the lives and health of people.

Conducive to the prevention of public health security risks

Since the beginning of the 21st century, China's public health governance practice has repeatedly proved that the management of major epidemics usually faces and exposes a series of problems and dilemmas. Such as emergency measures lag, inefficient allocation of medical resources and emergency supplies, internal infection in medical institutions, material shortage, market panic buying, public opinion out of control, market and public service crisis and other secondary disasters and so on. With the development of human society, today, the risk of a major epidemic is never far away. In the past 30 years, more than 40 new infectious diseases have emerged in the world, which has become a key and difficult area of global public health with spread widely, spread rapidly and great social harm. Major acute infectious diseases spread rapidly and cause great harm. If handled or responded to incorrectly, they will cause catastrophic consequences. Only by building a strong public health emergency management system, building a tight "protective net" and a solid "separation wall", can we provide a strong guarantee for people's health.



The formulation and improvement of policies and regulations on a comprehensive wildlife ban demonstrates the great importance and firm attitude China attaches to public health. The aim of the system is to strictly limit the scope of individual consumption of wild animals, crack down on illegal trade in wild animals, and strictly regulate the legal responsibility for illegal trade and consumption of wild animals from the level of policies and regulations, based on the prevention of public health risks. The biggest difference with the relevant laws amended several times before is that the fasting system since the epidemic has more legislative rules to protect public health, which has played a greater role in effectively containing or even blocking the transmission of the virus from wild animals to people, and comprehensively protecting people's lives and health.

The formulation and improvement of policies and regulations on comprehensive wildlife fasting can accelerate the construction of a public health law and regulation system with a complete system, scientific standard, and efficient operation. We will improve the epidemic prevention and control law enforcement mechanism with clear rights and responsibilities, standardized procedures, and effective implementation. we should promote the popularization of laws and regulations related to public health safety and epidemic prevention and control to improve citizens' awareness of the law and understanding the law, abiding by the law, protecting the law, using the law and the awareness of public health risk prevention and control. Comprehensive fasting wildlife related policies, effective leaders are helpful to establish a centralized and unified command system, to improve and optimize the concept of being serviceable at both peacetime and wartime zone spreading outbreak response mechanism of mechanism, the upper and lower linkage, the local party committee government governance and national department of professional technology advantages better, are clear on instruction principle, system orderly, broad and powerful execution; we will strengthen inter-departmental and regional interaction mechanisms, strengthen training and exercises, and improve the mechanisms for integrating prevention and control, joint prevention and control, and mass prevention and control. We will promote the transformation of the national public health governance system from routine to emergency

management, and continuously improve the country's capacity to deal with major public health emergencies.

Promote Environmental Protection and the Development of Human Civilization

Wildlife is an important part of the earth's ecosystem. Protecting wildlife is to protect the ecological environment on which human beings depend for survival and development. China has vast territory and a large number of wild animals, making it one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. However, due to historical reasons, the population of many wild animals in China is rapidly decreasing and even on the verge of extinction, leading to ecological imbalance and loss of biodiversity. After the epidemic, the relevant policies and regulations on wildlife fasting have been introduced and improved, which is conducive to restricting the hunting, trading, and eating of wild animals, effectively ensuring the living status of wild animals, and jointly protecting the harmony and stability of the ecosystem.

Biological diversity provides basic condition to form colorful human civilization and is the inexhaustible driving force for the continuous creation and growth of human civilization. The exploitation and utilization of the indirect value of wild animals has left a heavy ink in the history of human civilization. Whether it is the strict use of wild animals' traditional Chinese medicine in traditional medicine or wildlife tourism, the value of wild animals has been gradually developed into an important industry to promote the forward development of human civilization.

In China, the expression of people's joys and sorrows, and the description of the magnificent scenery of the great rivers and mountains are mostly expressed vividly and incisively by wild animals. In a sense, without wild animals, human civilization will be eclipsed. Therefore, a complete ban on wild animals is not only in compliance with the law, but also in accordance with the law of human civilization development, leading a new fashion of civilized life, and promoting the progress of human civilization. Not killing, eating, or using wild animals and their products can cultivate the moral concept of respecting life and loving nature, which is of great practical significance for promoting the construction of a harmonious society with ecological civilization and spiritual civilization. The formulation and improvement of wildlife related policies and regulations is not so much to improve the

living conditions of wild animals as a powerful measure to improve social civilization and promote the progress of human civilization.

Summary

Throughout the history of human development, outbreaks caused by microorganisms have always been an important threat to public health. And many global public health emergencies are related to wildlife. With the destruction of wildlife habitat and extensive hunting, culling and consumption of human beings, the possibility of disease transmission from wild animals to human society is accelerated. Every outbreak of the disease brings great loss of life and economy to human beings. After the outbreak of the epidemic, Chinese government quickly and efficiently formulated relevant policies and regulations on

wildlife abuse, which played a positive role in the effective governance and control of the epidemic and provided a good example and reference for other countries. However, the problem of major infectious diseases related to human health and wildlife has become increasingly fierce. How to further strengthen the protection of wildlife and the prevention and control of wildlife epidemics have become a common proposition to protect human public health. With the acceleration of globalization, loss of biodiversity and deterioration of the ecological environment, more wildlife diseases may enter human society in the future. If we do not pay attention to them, human society will face greater losses.

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