

1 DECLARATION OF MARC CHING

2 I, MARC CHING, hereby declare and state:

3 1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and am the Founder and President of Plaintiff
4 Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation (hereinafter sometimes referred to as Plaintiff
5 "AHWF"), a non-profit corporation focused solely on rescuing abused and neglected animals,
6 providing full rehabilitation services and working to help find them loving homes and families.
7 I have personal and first-hand knowledge of each of the facts contained in this Declaration, and
8 if called as a witness could and would competently testify to those matters. This Declaration is
9 filed in support of Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendant Deborah Hall's Special Motion to Strike
10 Under CCP 425.16.

11 2. I am a 4th generation Japanese herbalist and human holistic nutritionist. I am
12 also the owner of a small retail business by the name of PetStaurant located in Sherman Oaks,
13 California, which, among other things, sells organic pet food for dogs and cats.

14 3. In or about May 2016, I devised a plan to temporarily close slaughterhouses in
15 Yulin, China for the duration of the Lychee and Dog festival, commonly referred to as the "Yulin
16 Dog Meat Festival." I was hoping to negotiate with the slaughterhouse owners once I arrived in
17 China.

18 4. On or about May 15, 2016, I invited, via Plaintiff AHWF's Facebook page,
19 Plaintiff AHWF's supporters to join me in Yulin for the Yulin Dog Meat Festival. A copy of
20 the May 15, 2016 post is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "1" and is incorporated herein by this
21 reference as though fully set forth at length.

22 5. On June 2, 2016, I posted, via Plaintiff AHWF's Facebook page, a plea for those
23 who were interested to assist Plaintiff AHWF and me in preparing for the journey to Yulin. In
24 the post, I explained that I needed veterinarians to accompany me to Yulin to treat and care for
25 the rescued dogs, people with contacts in China and other animal rescue organizations to assist
26 with the efforts of Plaintiff AHWF. A copy of the June 2, 2016 post is attached hereto, labeled
27 Exhibit "2" and is incorporated herein by this reference as though fully set forth at length.

1 Society International as well as the Buddhist monks at Tree of Life to discuss each of them
2 assisting Plaintiff AHWF with the rescue efforts. That evening and the next day consisted of
3 heated negotiations between myself, Tree of Life and the slaughterhouse owners as to the
4 number of dogs the slaughterhouse owners would release to Plaintiff AHWF.

5 11. In the late evening hours of June 21, 2016, Tree of Life and Gao Yao monastery,
6 a sister sanctuary of Tree of Life, and I negotiated the release of hundreds of dogs. We were
7 given a short window of time to remove the dogs from the slaughterhouse. I texted with Helen
8 Reed and Lia Lee, two of the volunteers, that I needed the volunteers to meet me at the
9 slaughterhouse in Yulin. Upon the volunteers' arrival at the slaughterhouse, we quickly began
10 transferring the dogs from the slaughterhouse to the awaiting truck; once all of the dogs were
11 removed, the truck departed for Gao Yao monastery, in northern China. Approximately one (1)
12 hour later, Tree of Life and I successful negotiated the release of an additional approximate
13 eight hundred (800) dogs. The volunteers and I then traveled 20 minutes outside of the city to
14 an open field where we discovered the approximate eight hundred (800) dogs still in butcher's
15 cages. Out of the approximately 800 dogs, approximately three hundred (300) dogs were
16 loaded onto a truck by the volunteers and myself and taken to the safehouse in Nanning; the
17 remaining dogs were taken to Tree of Life. The truck carrying the 300 dogs left for Nanning at
18 approximately 4:00 a.m. The volunteers followed in a separate van. My translator and I stayed
19 behind in Yulin to attend an early morning meeting with another slaughterhouse.

20 12. During the morning hours of June 22, 2016 and while I was in Yulin, I was
21 communicating via text with a volunteer by the name of Travis Seurattan. Travis informed me
22 that the approximate 300 dogs had arrived at the safehouse that morning. I stated to Travis that
23 the dogs were to be placed in the shade as I was concerned about their wellbeing and did not
24 want the dogs to needlessly suffer in the heat. A copy of the text message chain between
25 Travis and me is attached to the Declaration of Travis Seurattan as Exhibit "11" and
26 incorporated herein by this reference as though fully set forth at length.

1 17. Prior to my arrival at the safehouse on June 22, 2016, I had no communication or
2 interaction with the owner of the safehouse whose name I do not even know.

3 18. If dogs were left in cages in the sun, it was because the volunteers chose not to
4 place the cages in the shade under the metal structure that had specifically been built for that
5 purpose as common sense would have dictated and as per my conversation with Travis. The
6 volunteers did not need my permission to move the cages under the shaded metal structure and I
7 certainly never instructed the volunteers or anyone else to leave the dogs in the cages under the
8 sun. The purpose of the metal structure was to give the dogs some reprieve from the debilitating
9 heat. I was never asked by any volunteer for permission to move the dogs from the sun to the
10 shaded structure.

11 19. Humane Society International (“HSI”) arrived at the safehouse in the afternoon
12 hours on June 22, 2016 to take 120 dogs to another shelter. All of the 120 dogs taken by HSI
13 survived the 35-hour car ride as evidenced by text message correspondence between Peter Li of
14 HIS and me on June 23, 2016. A copy of the text message chain between Peter Li, Valarie
15 Ianniello and me is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit “3” and incorporated herein by this
16 reference as though fully set forth at length. These are the same dogs Defendant Hall falsely
17 states in her Declaration that were “dead and dying at the feet” of Plaintiff Ching.

18 20. I left the safehouse in Nanning during the evening hours of June 22, 2016 to go
19 back to Yulin. I had arranged a meeting with the local Yulin government for that evening.
20 Upon my departure, I felt confident that things were in order for the care of our dogs.

21 21. On June 23, 2016, as I was preparing to leave China, I was made aware that the
22 Tree of Life was in urgent need of help because they had taken more dogs than they were could
23 handle. Instead of leaving China on June 23, 2016 as I had planned, Wang and I drove in the
24 middle of the night to Tree of Life in Guangzhou to assess the needs of the rescued dogs and to
25 determine whether Plaintiff AHWF could be of any assistance to Tree of Life. When I arrived
26 in Guangzhou, there were local veterinarians treating the rescued dogs and many volunteers
27 caring for them. Over the next two (2) days, I assisted a Chinese monk named “Jacky” who was

1 in charge of the dogs. I helped Jacky organize a triage and quarantine area, separate male dogs
2 from female dogs, bag and bury dogs that had died, prepare food for dogs that were ill and assist
3 local activists remove dogs from Tree of Life.

4 22. On June 25, 2016, I departed China for Los Angeles, California leaving Wang in
5 charge at TOL; Valarie and Jeffrey Beri had engaged Dr. Beck of Beck & Stone, a highly
6 respected British veterinarian who had agreed to travel to Tree of Life along with his support
7 staff to examine and vaccinate the approximately 450 dogs remaining at Tree of Life. I left
8 China knowing that I had left in place a solid team to care for the dogs in Nanning and Tree of
9 Life. Upon my arrival in Los Angeles on June 26, 2016, I went straight back to work at
10 PetStaurant and did not go on "vacation" to Hawaii. Weeks later I traveled to Hawaii to be with
11 my parents, who reside there.

12 23. My role at Plaintiff AHWF is to document the torture of abused and neglected
13 animals and to physically rescue dogs and cats. Like I did in Nanning and Tree of Life, I have
14 always created a support system to manage the aftercare of the rescued animals. I did not leave
15 any of the rescued dogs to die, which is why, prior to my departure from China, Plaintiff AHWF
16 had arranged for payment of the expenses regarding the aftercare of the rescued dogs at
17 Nanning, which included staff, electricity, water bills, veterinarians, vet hospitals, medicine,
18 food, equipment, cages, drivers to transport dogs. Throughout the month of July, August and
19 September 2016, Plaintiff AHWF continued to pay for all expenses that arose in connection
20 with the rescued dogs, including hotel and airfare for Defendant Beri.

21 24. While I take my role for Plaintiff AHWF very seriously and think I have a depth
22 of knowledge on the dog meat trade, I have never referred to myself as an "expert", nor do I
23 think I am an expert in the animal rescue arena.

24 25. I posted the video of Liberty, the dog whose paws had been severed, to Facebook
25 and Instagram, to raise awareness of the different ways dogs are tortured in Cambodia. I did not
26 ask for any money in connection with said video. I never posted the video of the dog being
27 tortured by way of a blow-torch on any social media platform as I knew it was far too disturbing

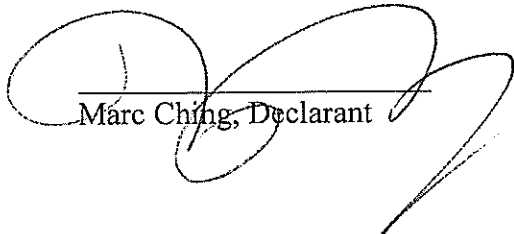
1 and graphic. I happened to be in the Tomohon market investigating their dog meat trade when
2 my translator and I stumbled upon the scene which was taking place in broad daylight while
3 passersby ignored the dog's screams. My translator filmed the gruesome act only to use as
4 evidence of the cruelty happening in Indonesia.

5 26. In early June 2016, Mr. Dalley sent me correspondence concerning the blow
6 torch video wherein he offered to present it to the Indonesian government as evidence of
7 torturing practices.

8 27. Prior to arriving in Yulin, Plaintiff AHWF had arranged for a local camera
9 operator to follow the volunteers and me in Yulin as this was our first time in Yulin rescuing
10 dogs in connection with the Yulin Dog Meat Festival. I have reviewed all of the footage of
11 Yulin 2016, which includes the day's events on June 22, 2016. During the morning hours of
12 June 22, 2016 and throughout that day until approximately 5:30 p.m., the volunteers along with
13 workers retained by Plaintiff AHWF continuously and without interruption removed dogs from
14 butcher's cages into new individual crates. At no time did the volunteers, including Defendant
15 Hall, ever complain or appear upset about a supposed ban on removing dogs from cages. After
16 my two (2) minute interview on June 22, 2016, I immediately began assisting the volunteers and
17 the workers in continuing to remove dogs from cages into larger crates.

18 I DECLARE, UNDER PENALTY OF PEJURY, UNDER THE LAWS OF THE
19 STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

20 Executed this 14th day of August 2017 at Los Angeles, California.

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