

# Animal Law Digest

## Canada Edition

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## New Article Finds China's Stray Animal Caregivers Face Growing Legal Risks

Peter Bo Zhang, "[In Depth: Why Chinese Courts Are Penalizing the People Who Feed Stray Pets](#)" (2026). *Caixin Global*.

A new analysis from a JD candidate at the Henry N.R. Jackman Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, warns that China's revised public security laws are increasingly exposing grassroots stray animal caregivers to legal and financial penalties. Courts have begun assigning liability to residents who regularly feed or care for stray cats and dogs when animals cause injuries, even if caregivers are not legal owners. Critics argue this unfairly shifts the burden of systemic failures, including weak shelter systems, poor enforcement against abandonment, and inadequate public funding, onto volunteers. The article calls for clearer legal standards, stronger public animal management systems, and protections for good-faith caregivers assisting stray animals.



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