

PAWS to consider continued cruelty at the Friday Market

All too often when we highlight the abuses which are occurring right now and every hour of every day at the Friday Market we are addressing the 'wrong' people. To use the vernacular, we are 'preaching to the converted'. Why, because most of us already feel empathy with the sick and dying animals there. So should we ignore it? Use twisted 'logic' to justify it or turn away? These are not options for people who are disgusted at conditions for animals in markets and pet shops in Kuwait. The more people who read that the maltreatment of animals, in any way, shape or form is totally unacceptable in the 21st century, the more chance the people with the power to change things may one day, hear of (most) of our objections to such barbaric cruelty. There really is little left to say as the pictures of the dying monkey and the starving salukis don't need words. The photos were taken by Linda, a PAWS volunteer who last week and most weekends takes time to monitor the worsening conditions at the Friday Market 'pet' shops.



As she writes of her last recent visit; *"I saw an SUV with a small baby monkey sitting on top with a couple of pups on the roof of the vehicle. After looking inside the car I saw much to my despair a second adult monkey dying on the back seat. He had been put inside the car so that he wouldn't draw a crowd if left in full view. After much negotiation with the 'dealer', I tried to take the monkey to the local vet, but it was closed. It seems that monkeys now flooding into the Friday Market are smuggled in from Saudi Arabia. It is illegal to bring these monkeys into Kuwait, but regulations are not enforced. On the opposite corner near where this poor little monkey's life was ending, people were holding a cock-fight, in plain view! Several dogs, pit bulls and German Shepherds were being roughed up and prepped for fighting. All this is illegal in Kuwait, but no one seems to care. After five phone calls to 777 I got no results. More salukis were on sale there; joining the skeletal group noted previously some weeks ago. No one is buying these dying bags of bones, supposedly regarded as a noble breed. All this was noted in one visit on one day. This country is trying to catch up with Dubai and become a well known tourist destination; well first they have to fix the gross abuse of animals which is now gaining International attention."*



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If you are equally revolted by the lack of regulations governing markets and pet shops where animals are sold, please make your objections known to the two 'august' bodies with the power to act. Contact the EPA (Environment Public Authority), at P.O. Box 24395 Safat, Kuwait 13104 Tel: +965 482 05 80 or PAAFR P.O. Box 21422 Safat, Kuwait 13075: PAAFR Phone hotline 885020. If the sad little monkey dying in the back of a trader's SUV or the starving salukis causes you the merest concern, then please write or call these authorities. It is only when enough people lodge their objections to continued animal cruelty that the powers that be will feel they must act. WSPA stand ready to bring in a training team on pet shop standards, already in place in most of the countries of the GCC. Meanwhile, the callous barbarity continues. www.wspa.org.uk www.paws-kuwait.org

