

4,201 dogs beaten to death in China

BEIJING (Reuter-Kyodo) More than 4,000 dogs were beaten to death in one month in a Chinese city as part of a government campaign against raising the pets in urban areas, a local newspaper reported.

Several thousand residents of Lanzhou, the capital of western China's Gansu province, were organized into 56 "dog-beating squads," which went door-to-door in search of the illegal pets, the Gansu Daily said.

In the month before China's Lunar New Year holiday, which began Feb. 15, 4,201 dogs were beaten to death, according to the Feb. 27 edition of the newspaper, received in Beijing on Sunday.

Owners of 2,000 dogs sent their pets to the mountains or countryside to escape the slaughter, the paper said. Witnesses to such killings say the dogs are put in sacks before being viciously beaten.

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