



## **NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Olympic Snowboarder Maddie Mastro Escorts Dog to US, Rescued from Dog Meat Trade in South Korea**

***Olympian serves as flight volunteer, brings dog to LAX to find loving home through The Barking Lot rescue***

**SAN DIEGO, Calif., February 26, 2017** — [The Barking Lot](#) announced today Olympic snowboarder, Maddie Mastro is serving as a flight volunteer to bring a rescue dog to the US, saved from the dog meat trade (DMT) in South Korea. Mastro, competing in PyeongChang, and aware of the plight of the DMT dogs, contacted [Save Korean Dogs](#), and offered to bring one of the DMT dogs back with her to LAX. Save Korean Dogs (SKD) works tirelessly to shut down dog meat farms and give dogs a second chance at a happy life. In partnership with The Barking Lot, SKD transports DMT dogs to the US for adoption. Since partnering in October 2017, The Barking Lot has taken in 10 dogs from SKD that were saved from slaughter.

Finding out how she could make a difference, Mastro, one of the youngest US Olympians (who just turned 18 last week), even changed her original flight back to the US at her own expense, so she could fly on a dog friendly carrier in order to escort a dog named Jadu for The Barking Lot rescue. She hopes to inspire others to have compassion and play even a small role in helping end cruelty to man's (or girl's) best friend. As [Mastro](#) returns from her Olympic debut, she will come home to three rescue dogs of her own: "I'm happy to have this opportunity to be a part of helping these dogs, even if it's just one. I encourage others to get involved to help save these dogs and give them a chance at having a loving/caring family of their own."

Save Korean Dogs, led by Nami Kim, works with activist groups in several cities in South Korea, on the front lines in the battle against the Korean dog meat trade. Working to save as many dogs as possible from this barbaric cruelty, the team also campaigns vigorously and works to educate people on these horrors. SKD also engages in dialogue with the government for legislation change and removing dogs from the livestock list. To view a video of Kim shutting down a 300-dog meat farm, please view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MfhhHWGjD4>.

The Barking Lot's founder Stacy Parmer works continually with Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand and Save Korean Dogs in South Korea to help end the abusive and barbaric dog meat trade: "I am so impressed with Maddie's compassion, proactivity and willingness to escort back to California one of the very fortunate survivors of the dog meat trade. I'm hopeful her passion for saving and caring for animals will serve as an example to others and inspire them to make a difference in any way they can."

To find out more about Jadu and other DMT dogs available for adoption at The Barking Lot, please visit <http://thebarkinglot.net/>.

#### **About Maddie Mastro**

Mastro is an American professional snowboarder from Wrightwood, Calif., specializing in [half pipe](#). She won a bronze medal in the superpipe competition at the [2018 X Games](#) in Aspen. Mastro was named to the US Team for the [2018 Winter Olympics](#).

#### **About The Barking Lot**

The Barking Lot is a volunteer-run, all-breed, no-kill 501(c)(3) non-profit dog rescue organization. Since 2006, the group has rescued over 5,000 dogs, finding happy homes for dog meat trade dogs of Thailand and Korea and abandoned dogs scheduled for euthanasia at shelters throughout California and Mexico. The Barking Lot operates with the generous contributions of people who believe as they do; that every dog deserves to have a good, loving home. For more information, to see the dogs available for adoption, to volunteer or donate, please visit: <http://thebarkinglot.net/>.

#### **About Save Korean Dogs**

Save Korean Dogs is a non-profit organization registered in Korea and led by run by Nami Kim. The board of directors consists of animal rights activists on the front lines. SKD is a very small activist group that operates out of a sanctuary, located in Gimpo city, one-two hours north of Seoul, in the midst of paddy fields. All the dogs are 100% dog meat trade survivors rescued from meat farms and slaughterhouses. The dogs stay at the sanctuary while receiving veterinary care and treatment to prepare them for a new life and a second chance ([www.savekoreandogs.org](http://www.savekoreandogs.org)).

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