

Drug Company Raise Bears for Livestock

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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BEIJING: While American ranchers raise cattle, some Chinese ranchers are breeding Black Bears for drug companies. But some animal rights activists are growling against this new agricultural trend.

The China Daily reports that, "a Chinese medicine professional denied claims that the practice of extracting bear bile is cruel and promised to give media a chance to visit the country's bear farms."

In recent years, the extraction of bear bile for medicinal purposes faced opposition from animal rights activists. Skeptics contend that the bears have been subjected to crude surgery that leaves permanent scars in their abdominal walls and gall bladders that may inflict serious illnesses and even death.

According to the China Daily, "the protest became increasingly intense in the past weeks after a pharmaceutical company in Fujian province that make medicine from bear bile for approval by the Growth Enterprise Board to be listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange."

Fang Shuting, head of the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), said, "the process of extracting bear bile now only takes about 10 seconds. During that short period, the black bear feels no pain or any strange sensations and can play an eat as usual."

To read the entire article from the China Daily, link here:Mcgregor@chinadaily.com.cn