

## Cats on Hot Thin Soups and Siopaos? - MabuhayRadio

Written by Bobby M. Reyes

Sunday, 19 September 2010 14:33 - Last Updated Sunday, 19 September 2010 22:34

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By Bobby M. Reyes

### ***Part One of a Series of Essays***

{xtypo\_quote} Masarap yan sa siopao. Masarap ang siopao dito sa Pinas. :-) – Mon Ramirez  
{/xtypo\_quote}

Thus, Mon Ramirez commented with biting (pun intended) humor in the [Botomo@yahoo.com](mailto:Botomo@yahoo.com) after Roberto

Ortega made his remarks on the posting by Johnty: “

*Are you for real, Johnty, that cat meat is available for consumption in the Philippines*

*? In the*

*USA*

*and*

*Latin America*

*, cats are pets and not for public consumption?*

”

Here’s Johnty’s original posting in the thread (subject): RE: Cats being sold in markets in Mainland China: “*Best cat-meat siopao at a Chinese resto on Session Road near market across old Star Café in Baguio City—Johnty.*”

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With due apologies to the estate of Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) for his play, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” and to Ms. Elizabeth Taylor for playing the role of “Maggie, the Cat” in its movie version, [Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \(1958\)](#), this writer wishes to discuss – using the said punned headline – the matter of cats being made into ingredients for soup and meat-filled steamed bun (called “siopao” in the Philippines) in China and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, including the Filipino homeland.

Some Asians indeed eat not only meat from cats but also from dogs, as I described it in this article, [Michael Vick Can Never Be Guilty of "Dogmestic Violence" in the Philippines \(As Updated\)](#)

This writer also wrote this follow-up article, [China Continues “Dogmestic Violence”](#). But I did not discuss in it the fact that among some Chinese ethnic groups, dog meat is also a favorite animal protein for the table.

The sad reality is that even if there are laws in the Philippines that prohibit cruelty to animals, it will be impossible to impose them. Why? Because the Philippine authorities cannot even prohibit the cruelty to people (usually activists, advocates and crusading journalists and broadcasters), which cruelty is otherwise known as “extra-judicial killings.” Besides, if the Philippine National Police cannot protect even foreign tourists, how much more Philippine National “Kitchen” Police patrols protecting dogs and cats from being turned into meat for the table?

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Perhaps, foreign tourists and Overseas-Filipino “Balikbayanis” who want to visit the Philippines may follow-in the footsteps of the Italian ceramic industrialists that this writer hosted in 1983-1984. Per my advice, the Italian visitors ate only seafood, fruits and veggies – after I confirmed to them that indeed some Filipinos (and some Asians) continue to enjoy eating dog meat. I did not have the heart to tell them that even cat meat is served supposedly in some ethnic restaurants.

***E ditor’s Note:*** Some other commentaries posted in the [Botomo@yahoo.com](mailto:Botomo@yahoo.com) about the “Cats on Hot Thin Soups and Siopaos” are reproduced in the User’s Comments at the end of this instant article.

(To be continued . . .)

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