



appointments, rescuers and organizations can bring strays to the scene. Each animal is photographed for about three minutes.

During a recent open-day event at MIXC Shopping Mall in Minhang District, around 10 to 20 stray cats and dogs were photographed each day.

The photos will be published online, including on HPP's social media accounts on Xiaohongshu and WeChat as well as related organizations' websites. And each picture has a QR code with detailed contact of related rescuers and organizations.

"Having been engaged in small animal photography for a long time, we found that stray animals have clearer eyes without cunning," HPP co-founder Allen Lee said. "There is the purest world in their eyes full of expectations."

Compared with pet photography, taking pictures

of stray animals is more challenging.

Some of them have had horrible experiences, such as being beaten by humans, so they are more vigilant to protect themselves, especially when they see the long sticks of photographic equipment.

Lee said that when giving street dogs snacks to appease them before the photo sessions, a team member would pat the dogs' faces gently to test whether they are sensitive.

If the dog stops eating and intends to bite the staff, they will be extra careful during the next three minutes.

"During the photo shooting for stray cats, I put the cat treats at a safe distance from them and wait for them to approach," said Sookie Cheng, an HPP team member.

But the team does not shut the door on them because of any external reasons, such as appearance, disease or temper.

"Every animal is equal and has the right to find a home," Wu said.

Penny Pan brought a street dog to MIXC on Saturday. This was the first time she had rescued a street animal, though she has taken part in adoption from friends seven times.

"Good photos will attract more people's attention and the poor things are more likely to be adopted," she noted. "It is reasonable to choose those who are cute and attractive."

Another rescuer surnamed Li agreed: "There is no denying that this is a books-dominating world, whether people or animals. These photos are the stepping stones to the forever home."

However, HPP refuses to retouch the photos and publicize the tragic stories of these stray animals.

There is only a pure white background without any props or decorations except



A rescuer hugs a street dog while HPP staffer Sookie Cheng (left) registers information about the animal.



Allen Lee, a co-founder of HPP, hugs a stray dog in front of the photo studio at MIXC Shopping Mall in Minhang District on Saturday.

the collars prepared by some rescuers. You can see the eye discharge of stray dogs in the pictures, as well as the skin diseases that have not yet healed.

"This is their original appearance. Shelter animals themselves are good enough to be loved," Wu said. "And we hope that people decide to adopt them out of pure love."

In recent years, more Chinese people have started to keep pets. The purpose of raising them has changed substantially, from guarding

the house and catching mice to accompanying people like family members.

But some people's selfish desires gradually infiltrate this field.

The China Small Animal Protection Association reported in 2020 that according to incomplete statistics, the number of stray dogs in China exceeded 40 million, 20 percent of the world's stray dog population. An article reposted by thepaper.cn said that many street animals were pets abandoned by people.