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## Whales and dolphins in Japanese pet food

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**Whale and dolphin meat is being sold in pet food in Japan, thus negating Tokyo's controversial claim that it needs more whale meat, according to three environmental groups.**

They said analysis carried out earlier this year on samples of pet food purchased near Tokyo revealed levels of both Antarctic minke whale and dolphin meat. "The fact that Japan is using whale meat for pet foods totally invalidates Japan's attempts to legitimise and increase their catches," said Clare Perry, of the British non-governmental **Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)**.

The EIA issued its statement in conjunction with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) and the Humane Society of the United States on the margins of the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) annual meeting in Berlin. Sue Fisher of the WDCS said: "We hear the same rhetoric year after year about distressed coastal whaling communities, and now we find that whales are being used as pet food."

### **Dried dog food**

The analysis was carried out by Frank Cipriano, a professor at San Francisco State University, on samples of pet food purchased by the EIA in February from supermarkets in Shizuoka and Otsuchi, near Tokyo. DNA analysis showed that dried dog food from Shizuoka contained Antarctic minke and a packaged dog food product purchased in Otsuchi contained dolphin DNA. Japan allows the hunting of up to 700 whales a year for what it claims is scientific research, although opponents claim it is a pretext for commercial whaling.