



## The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK

ATCM, Suite 10 Brentano House, Unit 5 The Exchange, Brent Cross Gardens  
London NW4 3RJ

Tel/Fax: 0208 457 2560

Email: [info@atcm.co.uk](mailto:info@atcm.co.uk)

Website: [www.atcm.co.uk](http://www.atcm.co.uk)

### Press Release

02<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

#### **Re: China eases ban on rhino and tiger parts**

The Chinese government recently issued a new policy on rhino and tiger parts, which has caused some concerns among the western media and animal protection organisations.

The new policy is published on the website of China's State Council

[http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2018-10/29/content\\_5335423.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2018-10/29/content_5335423.htm) in Chinese, and its English version can be obtained on webpage

[http://english.gov.cn/policies/latest\\_releases/2018/10/29/content\\_281476367121088.htm](http://english.gov.cn/policies/latest_releases/2018/10/29/content_281476367121088.htm). Having read through this official document, we as the UK's largest professional organisation of traditional Chinese medicine would like to make the following statements:

We are concerned that the partial reversal of the ban on medical use of farmed rhino horn and tiger bone will potentially put wild animals at risk. We also fear that using farmed rhino horn and tiger bone for medical purpose will damage the reputation of Chinese medicine internationally. We would like to reassure consumers in Britain that registered practitioners of TCM will not be using these products. We oppose the use of ANY animal parts in Chinese medicine. We urge consumers only to use accredited members of the ATCM so they can be reassured that the products they are getting comply with the highest standards.

- All of over 700 members in our organisation are Chinese medicine practitioners in the UK, who are all bound by British law as well as our own Code of Practice and Code of Professional Conduct. ATCM members do not use any animals or animal parts in their practice. ATCM has in the past published a list of prohibited substances traditionally used in Chinese medicine, and periodically this list was circulated to our members as a reminder not to use any of them illegally.
- Traditional use of rhino horn and tiger bone in Chinese medicine is due to historical reasons and we should not blame ancient people for using them for medical purpose. Fundamentally they

were not commonly used in Chinese medicine and are not magical medicines at all, even much less valuable medically than people would think they are. Since China's ban on them in 1993, rhino horn and tiger bone have been removed from Chinese medicines (although some very small scale of illegal trade exists underground in China). The vast majority of Chinese medicine doctors have never used these two animal parts in their practice, even prior to the China's ban in 1993.

- ATCM supports animal protection globally. We have in the past worked together with some UK based animal protection organisations such as Asian Animal Foundation campaigning to stop the use of bear bile in Chinese medicine. We will continue supporting animal protection, especially to stop the use of animal parts in Chinese medicine.
- For clarity: The new policy still strictly bans the sale, purchase, utilization, import and export of rhino and tiger parts in China. One of the few exceptions is the ease on medical and research use of rhino horn and tiger bone under a new strict regulation and authorization scheme. Under this new scheme, only those approved hospitals and doctors are allowed to use rhino horn and tiger bone, which are restricted to the sources of farm bred or natural death only. The policy states clearly that Chinese authorities still uphold the prohibition of any parts of wild rhino and tiger.

**Notes to editor:**

Dr. Liqin Zhao is the president of the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK (ATCM), who is available for comment on 0114 2681868, e-mail: [info@atcm.co.uk](mailto:info@atcm.co.uk) , ATCM's Tel: 0208 457 2560

The ATCM represents over 700 qualified practitioners of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine throughout the UK. Founded in 1994, the ATCM is the largest voluntarily self-regulatory body for the practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) including acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. All ordinary members of ATCM hold a university, college or other recognised professional qualification at or above BSc level. Our website [www.atcm.co.uk](http://www.atcm.co.uk) lists all practising members and local practitioners can be found via the website "Find a Registered Practitioner" search.

ATCM Council

End