



Submission to Bills Committee on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment)
Bill 2006 by Hong Kong Alleycat Watch (HKACW).

Dear honorable members,

HKACW is delighted to have the opportunity to submit views on the government's latest proposal to increase penalty against cruelty to animals. We would like to make the following points:

- 1) Proposed increase of penalty from \$5000 fine and 6 month imprisonment to \$100,000 fine and 12 month imprisonment

It is encouraging to see the government finally making a move to update our laws to introduce greater deterrence against animal abuse. However, we recommend a heavier prison term of 3 to 5 years to really make a difference. Animal abuse is a serious crime. In order to put a real stop to the rampant situation, we need harsher penalties.

- 2) Law enforcement

Without diligent law enforcement efforts, any law is like a toothless tiger. We need our law enforcement agencies to treat animal abuse seriously to send the right message to the community – animal abuse should not be tolerated. Our courts should impose proportionate sentence to offenders of animal abuse to prevent recurrence.

- 3) Rationalization of powers and responsibilities among different departments

There is a lack of transparency and clear delineation of duties among the Police, AFCD and the SPCA. The administration should immediately review the overall case handling mechanism among these departments to facilitate effective case management.



4) Review of all animal-related laws is a pressing matter

Our legislation is out-dated and as an world class international city, HK is seriously lagging behind when compared to other advanced cities. HKACW urges the administration to undertake to review all animal-related laws in HK and provide a proper time-table for this task.

5) Control of stray population

HKACW has neutered more than 200 stray cats on our own and over 10,000 through the CCCP program since July 2000. Trap-neuter-return has proven to be an effective way in controlling the population of stray animals in HK. We urge the administration to allocate more resources into desexing strays instead of massive destruction.

Thank you very much.

Helena Chung

Michelle Temple

on behalf of the Hong Kong Alleycat Watch Team