

Lamma Island,
Hong Kong.

Submission on Animal Cruelty Bill - 18th August 2006
From: Hong Kong No Kill City Forum

Thank you for requesting our views. HKNKCF is an informal federation of Hong Kong animal welfare organisations and individuals formed to promote the idea of "No Kill". The term "No Kill" is shorthand for a policy of preventing the surplus of companion animals to obviate the need for the Government to maintain its expensive and inhumane killing machine at the AFCD Animal Management Centres. Simply by controlling the numbers of animals coming on to the market, it can be ensured that every animal has a good home to go to and will thus be respected instead of looked on as a disposable item as is too often the case at present. This is one good way of preventing Animal Cruelty. However, we also need a good Animal Cruelty Law so that those who persist in carrying out acts of cruelty can be punished.

We certainly support the current proposal to increase the penalties for animal cruelty but we believe this is not enough. AWAG (the Animal Welfare Advisory Group of the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department) has for many years been discussing a revision of the law and has indeed approved proposals for this which have been submitted to AFCD but not acted upon.

We would like the present Bill to be passed but with a corollary that the AFCD should get on at once with a complete revision of the law. We would also like to state that we fully support the specific recommendations submitted today by the SPCA.

It should be noted that there is still no Animal Cruelty Law in Mainland China. We would like to see Hong Kong showing the way with a model Animal Cruelty Act which can be copied by Beijing.

John Wedderburn

Dr John Wedderburn,
Chair, HKNKCF.

Websites:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nokillcity/>
<http://www.aapn.org/nokill.html>