



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association Ltd

14 Dec 2005

The Honourable Mr. Li Wah Ming
Chairman, Legco Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Dear Mr. Li.

Proposed reorganisation of the Food Safety Regulatory Framework


Hong Kong Veterinary Association, as the largest veterinary professional group in Hong Kong, is very concerned about the proposed organisation structure as outlined in the Legco paper No. CB (2) 464/05-06 (01). We support the proposal to create a new food safety department. However, we would like to urge the government to establish a more solid and professional veterinary framework led by a "Chief Veterinary Officer" in the new organisation which would be in consistent to other government organisations.

Veterinary science is unique and different from medical science especially when dealing with veterinary public health. Veterinary public health requires veterinary surgeons of specific experience and expertise. The DIVA vaccination strategy to control Avian Influenza started from 2002 is a good and successful example to show the importance of professional input from veterinarians and field force.

Comparing to overseas veterinary infrastructure, the veterinary role and the number of veterinary officers is obviously insufficient in the existing government organisation in Hong Kong. For the increase of unknown hazard and food safety concern, the protection of public health and better preparedness, we would like to urge the government to actively involve more veterinary professionals in the new proposed organisation to achieve our common goal.

We would be happy to contribute our professional opinion and please feel free to contact us if there are any questions.

Yours faithfully,


Dr. Veronica Leong, DVM, MAM, Diplomate ACPV
President, HKVA

cc. Dr. York Chow, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Members, Legco Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene