

LC Paper No. CB(2)1799/08-09(09)

Monday 8th June 2009

To : Panel on Food & Environmental Hygiene,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Building,
8, Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Re: Regulation of Pet Shops and Pet Breeders

Meeting Tuesday 9th June 2009, 2:15pm-3:15pm
- Legislative Council Building.

I strongly disagree with the proposed:
Section (d) LC Paper No. CB (2) 17755/08-09 (03) (04)
"dogs obtained from persons selling their pets or offspring of their pets"

Dear Sirs,

As a member of the public, I totally disagree with the new proposed Section (d) of the Regulation of Pet Shops and Breeders. I also feel the changes do not go far enough and Breeders should be regulated even further than what you are recommending.

We very much thank all those who have worked so hard on this proposed bill. But to allow Section (d) to remain as part of this bill will open the flood gates to Breeders, who would claim they are breeding animals to be their pets This isn't honest nor fair to the animals involved and is a big loop hole as it stands as presently proposed.

The other very serious concern is that this new clause will do nothing in improving the welfare for animals, but it will for sure increase the number of animals being smuggled into HK from China. As we all know RABIES is very much wide-spread in CHINA and currently Hong Kong is rabies free, but for how long? If you allow this Section (d) to be passed, I feel sure it will not take long before we see the first case of RABIES in HK and this would be tragic.

During the downturn, many people are looking for new ways to make money and the proposed Section (d) will allow anyone, even with no knowledge or experience with animals to breed them in their own home. They can then sell these animals on to pet shops with no questions asked.

What life can this be for an animal to be pregnant every season? Firstly, these Breeders are causing a great deal of pain for animals by breeding them in such poor and dirty cramped conditions. Secondly, it is irresponsible breeding where they are over-breeding the animals.

Not only are these animals full of very dangerous life threatening diseases, but they also have various bone conditions which require expensive painful operations. This creates great expense to the owners and the animals pay the ultimate price of pain and in many cases death. All this can be changed by law and the sooner the better for all concerned.

ALL BONE AND JOINT CONDITIONS ARE INHERITED AS A RESULT OF BAD BREEDING !!!

I would actually like the law to go a step further by limiting the years an animal can be used by the Breeders as a "breeding Bitch" who is forced into a horrible life at a puppy factory. Of course the only way to rule out all the undesirable inherited conditions would be to introduce a Breeding Licence to the specific dog which would only be issued by The SPCA for each dog who is marked as a "breeding Bitch" or a "breeding Stud" dog.

X-rays would need to be taken of such dogs and a full medical report issued. This would be the only way to rule out this problem of unhealthy puppies, as by law, Breeders would only be allowed to breed a licenced dog with another licenced dog.

ONLY A PERSON WHO IS A REGISTERED / LICENCED AND MONITORED BREEDER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BREED ANIMALS.

I really do hope that in order to help the animals have some kind of quality life, you immediately exclude Section (d) LC Paper No. CB (2)1755/08-09 (03) (04) and include further regulations to improve breeding practices and animal welfare.

Yours Sincerely,
Angela Scott
Member of the Public

