



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association Ltd

09 June 2009

3rd floor, Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong

Legco Panel on food safety and environmental hygiene, progress in introducing additional conditions of animal traders license

To Secretariat of the panel: Legislative Council Secretariat, Council Business Division 2
Miss Mary SO, Ch Council Secy

Re: progress in introducing additional conditions of Animal Traders License

Dear Sirs,

We write on behalf of the members of the Hong Kong Veterinary Association to express the following relating to the above.

1. We make known that veterinarians encounter preventable grave or fatal diseases in newly acquired puppies leading to unnecessary suffering of the animal and distress to the owners.
2. In cases where pet shops and breeders use and sell drugs that must legally be prescribed or administered by registered veterinarians, including antibiotic and pesticides, this falls under the Pharmacy and poison ordinance under the department of Health, HKVA wishes to see more diligence in enforcing this ordinance in relation to veterinary products.
3. We support efforts to introduce more stringent controls to ensure that all animals sold are of legal and verifiable origin
4. We support additional conditions that introduce a more stringent enforcement of the requirement that dogs sold in pet shops must be microchipped and vaccinated by a registered veterinarian.
5. We support additional conditions that introduce more stringent enforcement of the existing licensing conditions for pet shops and breeders. We also believe that these conditions can be further improved and wish to be active partners in this process

6. We support the recommendation to limit the definition of private or hobby breeder to one breed and two breeding bitches.
7. We advocate that cats, rabbits, and all other animals sold should fall under legislation and licensing schemes that protect animal welfare, public health and consumer interests

We support enforcement of existing regulations and the adoption of new conditions that have a positive effect on animal health and welfare, protect public health and give an increased measure of consumer protection.

We are encouraged by the steps taken towards improving the welfare of animals in Hong Kong; as veterinary surgeons one of our primary concerns is ensuring animal welfare. The HKVA as a major stakeholder is keen to participate in the improvement of relevant legislation and pleased to continue to work with concerned parties to effect improvements in companion animal welfare in Hong Kong.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paolo Martelli', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paolo Martelli
President HKVA