



Registered Society (Founded 1998)



P.A.L.S.

大嶼山動物保護協會

Protection of Animals Lantau South

The Original and Only Local Lantau Animal Welfare Group

Lantau Pets for Lantau People

www.pals.org.hk



18th February, 2017

Council Business Division 2.
To the Legislative Council Secretariat.

Sub Committee to Study Issues relating to Animal Rights

To Legco Panel Members.

This Society feels that to 'study issues relating to animal rights' it must first be categorically agreed upon that animals DO have rights and exactly to what extent these rights can be established and upheld within the context of human rights! Does an animal's rights supersede that of a human when it is to the direct benefit and well-being of that animal?

To successfully promote 'Responsible Pet Ownership' define the concept of 'pet'? For most of us it would be an animal (fish, fowl or reptile) that we willingly welcome into our homes and our hearts with open arms with the determination to look after it for the rest of its life!

However, sadly in Hong Kong this does not seem to always be the case. Witness the vast numbers of "loosely-owned" animals that proliferate throughout the New Territories villages and the Outlying Islands! Are these pets? They are certainly taken on, not out of love, not out of companionship and not with any real intention of sufficient care and attention. They serve a purpose and are treated as disposable objects and as long as we have the governmental Department tasked with the management of these hapless creatures acting with both inefficiency, ineffectiveness and a huge degree of inertia then no amount of responsibility can ever be instilled.

Animals need to be removed from the realm of a personal possession on a par with a car, a sofa, an i-pad. As it stands at the moment they are far too easy to acquire and likewise far too easy to dispose of!

Curtail - or better still simply cut out entirely - the activities of the 'money for profit' pet shops. Take advantage of the steps forward CAP 139B has offered to ensure that genuine pet adopters with specific tastes can go only to a 'reputable' licenced and inspected breeder.

Enhance the availability of public information setting out the legal requirements for owning a pet in Hong Kong and encourage desexing of all pets by offering a low-cost licence for those who do and/or incentives with the operation itself! Pursue cases vigorously of non-compliance as well as those of suspected/convicted cruelty with much harsher prison sentences and far higher fines.

With reference to the claim that in 2010 a dedicated team from AFCD has been implementing public education and distributing pet informative materials, it can only be said that, on Lantau Island where P.A.L.S. is the only full time AWO, this has never been apparent. There has been little or no attempt to co-ordinate, collaborate or co-operate with this Society.

Furthermore any code of practice established to control dogs kept on construction sites, building yards etc. has certainly born no fruit here! In November 2016 AFCD removed a total of 16 dogs and 11 puppies from one area alone in Tung Chung, where a reported case of animal bestiality recently took place, of which most were from construction sites. Were it not for the fact that a well-known NGO took all but 2 of these animals for rehoming the AFCD's euthanasia figures would be somewhat greater!

And, for heavens sake, tackle head on the building yards, the car storage plants, the construction sites and any place, area, location etc. where animals are known to roam and where the humans are guilty of actively encouraging this scenario because they don't have the responsibility of a flea!

We appreciate your kind attention.
Jacqueline Green (Founder)
Protection of Animals Lantau South (P.A.L.S.)

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