

Clerk to Bills Committee on
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill 2006
Legislative Council Building
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Central
Hong Kong
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13 September , 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Chief Curriculum Development Officer in the Education and Manpower Bureau and in personal capacity I have been appointed a member of the Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) of the AFCD. I have been involved in the consultation on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) amendment in the AWAG meetings throughout the past few months.

The amendment is long overdue, and the proposal to increase the maximum fine to HK\$100,000 and imprisonment for 12 months under the Ordinance and to increase the maximum fine to \$25,000 under the Regulations is much needed. Although a heavier penalty is much desired, this is no doubt an interim measure and I would urge the bill to be passed. Otherwise it would be back to square one and we might have to wait for another few years before we can increase the sanction. I would regard the suggested amendment at least enhances the deterrent effect against cruelty to animals and would be welcomed by many people in Hong Kong who care for the animals. Of course, in the long run, heavier penalty and more substances would be desirable for the Ordinance in order to encompass better measures to have deterrent effect on offenders and to further protect the welfare of animals.

Yours sincerely,

CHAN Pui-tin
Member of the AWAG