



meeting of Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of Legislative Council on 13 November 2012

Semirah Darwin to: lkllam

06/11/2012 15:03

From: Semirah Darwin <>

To:

Dear Miss Lam

I am writing to you to give my view on the proposals to better regulate pet trading.

I am a member of the public and am very concerned about the current way in which breeders are allowed to flourish in Hong Kong, with very few regulations and virtually no deterrent against animal malpractice.

My points are as follows:

1. While I welcome the proposal to increase the maximum penalty of illegal trading of animals from Level 1 (\$2,000) to Level 6 (\$100,000) and for breaches of licensing conditions from \$1,000 to Level 5 (\$50,000), I think these increases are still not enough.

It is well known that a purebred puppy can sell for \$10,000 or more. One litter can maybe produce six to ten puppies. The maximum penalty of \$100,000 would clearly be easily recouped from the sale of just one litter. How would this be enough of a deterrent to breeders? They will simply keep flouting the law, knowing that they can quickly cover the fine. In addition, AFCD has no power to revoke an Animal Trader Licence. This is clearly an unsatisfactory situation.

If the Hong Kong government is really serious about cracking down on illegal breeding, then I suggest that you raise the maximum penalty to at least \$1,000,000 for both offences.

Breeders operate only for profit, not to be kind to animals. There is a huge problem of overpopulation of dogs in Hong Kong. Please take into account the fact that we should be trying to reduce the amount of animals sold, not encouraging breeders to create more.

2. The city of Los Angeles has just banned the sale of puppies in petshops. I firmly believe that Hong Kong should do the same. Puppies are removed from their mothers at much too young an age and taken into the unhealthy and unfamiliar environment of the petshop. A very high percentage of puppies become sick and are unscrupulously sold to naive buyers. These puppies often fall very ill and the majority are dumped by their owners or die. Breeders should not be allowed to supply petshops with any puppies at all. Please think about banning the sale of dogs altogether to bring Hong Kong in line with many other cities worldwide.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely

Semirah Darwin.