

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Cap 139B**

I support the proposals of measures to enhance animal health and welfare by better regulating pet trading through – (a) licensing persons who breed and sell dogs; (b) increased penalties under Cap 139B and (c) power to revoke Animal Trader Licenses for offences under Cap 169.

I do not think that the proposals go far enough at all, but they are better than nothing. In my view no pet shops or breeders should be allowed **at all**. There are already thousands of dogs in shelters needing homes (mostly as a result of breeders and pet shops!). Breeders and pet shops are not necessary and just lead to thousands of dogs being abandoned, killed by AFCD and ending up in shelters (paid for by volunteers, in terms of money and time).

There are so many illegal breeders and pet shops in Hong Kong, resulting in:-

- thousands of dogs being bred in awful and inhumane conditions. The "parent" dogs are often kept in the most terrible conditions and treated like breeding machines and live a life of hell.
- dogs ending up in pet shops (again, often kept in awful conditions) most of which are sold as "pure breeds" when they are not and people are misled into paying thousands of dollars for dogs which are not pure breeds and which are often unhealthy. Many of these dogs are then abandoned by the owners.
- thousands of dogs purchased from breeders and pet shops who end up being abandoned by their owners and either killed by AFCD, in shelters (who then have to foot the bill to look after these dogs) or on the streets. Those that end up on the streets breed with other dogs on the streets, resulting in thousands of stray dogs (in places like Cheung Chau, where I live), which again are killed by AFCD...and so the cycle continues...

I am a volunteer at HKDR and have seen first hand the thousands of dogs that are abandoned and end up in shelters. It is then some members of the public who come to the rescue by adopting (some) of these dogs or donating money for their upkeep and volunteers who give up their time looking after these dogs. This is all a result of the Government not doing enough to stamp out breeders and pet shops. If breeders and pet shops did not exist, the problem would be solved! Why is it so difficult to see that??

Yours faithfully

Karen Dicks