



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANIMAL TRADER REGULATIONS (Cap 139B)

Reiko Okuda

to:

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From: Reiko Okuda

To:

Dear Miss Lam,

I would like to submit my comments for consideration regarding the Proposed Amendments to Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B).

I strongly believe that the current regulations are not working, as evidenced by the significant over supply of pet dogs in Hong Kong, which results in the AFCD having to euthanise many thousands of healthy dogs each year, and animal welfare organisations such as SPCA and HKDR being full to capacity with dogs available for adoption.

There is also significant evidence that those operating as animal traders and hobby breeders (self proclaimed pet owners) often have little or no regard for the welfare of animals. This is reflected in the very poor state of health that dogs from breeders arrive in when they are no longer wanted and arrive at welfare organisations. Likewise many petshop retailers hold little regard for the well-being of animals, with a high proportion having serious health issues and a significant number having no vaccination or microchip. I refer to the SPCA Pet Shop Survey -http://www.sPCA.org.hk/welfare/eng/pet_shop_puppies.asp

This state of affairs is clearly not in the public interest, as taxpayer funds are used in the operation of AFCD in dealing with the resulting issues, and private citizens like myself use our time and money in as volunteers in welfare organisations.

Animal traders and breeders may claim a right to continue operating as they are, however I would questions whether they hold this right on two grounds:

1. On moral grounds we all have an obligation to protect, as opposed to exploit, the lives of animals. Breeding and training animals for pets is no more morally acceptable than making a living from theft, extortion, corruption or gambling.
2. Animal traders and breeders do not hold the right to create a social problem which then requires taxpayer funds and citizen's time and effort to resolve.

I therefore strongly believe that stronger controls over the pet trade are urgently needed. I support all proposals (1, 2 and 3) under the proposed amendments.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Reiko Okuda

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