



Proposed Amendment to Public Health (Animal Trader) Regulation - Cap. 139B.

Javier Chicon

to:

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From: Javier Chicon

To:

Dear Mrs Lam,

Uncontrolled dog breeding is a huge problem in Hong-Kong: every year it costs large amount of money, time and energy to cope with unwanted dogs abandoned in our streets, with no consideration of animal welfare, public health or safety. The citizen has to cope with this problem, but breeders don't, and they still producing dogs year after year, just looking for profits.

It's time to change that situation, and control the breeding of dogs.

(Proposal 1): The proposal amendment is too soft. One female dog breeding is perfectly normal in a home. Every number above one female dog breeding should be considered as trading business, and should be licensed as trading business and periodically controlled regarding animal cruelty. Anyone who sell a dog, including his own pet, should be licensed to avoid past situation abuses.

"All licensee must comply with a Code of Practice which will form part of the licensing conditions and be a legal requirement under Cap. 139B. The code will help ensure that animal health and welfare standards are kept up to date." >> strongly agreed.

(Proposal 2) *"To increase the maximum penalties for breaching the Regulations and licensing conditions to \$100,000 and \$50,000 respectively"* >> strongly agreed, any regulation without proportional but firm penalties is void.

(Proposal 3): *"The AFCD Director will be empowered to revoke the licence of licensee who has been convicted of an offence related to cruelty to and maltreatment of animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Ordinance (Cap. 169)."* >> strongly agreed.

Therefore, the proposed measures to enhance animal health and welfare by better regulating pet trading through – (a) licensing of 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, are appropriate, sufficient and agreeable.

This amendment should also apply to cat breeding. Some cats are kept in very poor conditions.

Furthermore, please also pay attention to animal welfare of birds and fishes sold in the market of Hong-Kong in very poor welfare conditions, lots of them die for lacking something basic as air or water. It's also a dramatic situation that really need to improve quickly.

Thank you for this amendment of law, we really need to improve the law to avoid further costs and animal cruelty.

Best regards