



Proposed Amendments to the Animal Trader Regulations (Cap 139B)

Rahmeena Karamdin

to:

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From: Rahmeena Karamdin <>

To: <>

Please respond to Rahmeena Karamdin <>

Dear Ms Lam,

As a true animal lover, I would like to express my support and welcome the proposed amendments to the captioned amendment re Cap 139B.

I find the current law provide little or even no protection against animal abuse or deterrent for offenders should they be caught breaking the law. The current penalty is very minimal and does not genuinely help in controlling the situation. I believe the Government and its regulated bodies should seriously review the penalty system and increase the fine/penalty on both illegal breeding of animals and on animal abuse, which I see has an increasing trend.

I am not opposing the ever existence of dogs/cats breeders but I would certainly say there should be a stringent control in the issuance of license and permit to those that are interested to do so. Control on the breeds and litters should be taken into account, e.g. at any time there could be 4 adults and 4 litters of anything up to 10 puppies in one area. More importantly, there should be regular checks on the breeding environment and facilities. I see many cases of under-fed litters (especially kittens and puppies) and animals being kept in appalling conditions without providing a decent shelter. Many dog breeders are only seeing this as a means of commercial trading and they and their staff do not take proper care of their animals, leading to many cases of disease and inevitable sufferings. Those dog breeders who fail to provide the above should be seriously fined and with their licenses revoked immediately.

If there is a proper control on the origin, i.e. dog breeders, there will be a vicious effect in the control of pet shops as well. I see nowadays that puppies and kittens are far too young to be put on sale, although I understand that the reason of doing so is to make use of their cute faces to attract potential buyers. Many of these potential buyers, however, lack the knowledge of taking care of these little ones resulting to either sick babies or simply dumping them on the streets. I believe that the banning and stringent control on retail pet stores would encourage more pet adoptions from local animal shelters which I understand many countries such as US, UK and Japan are adopting it.

As a conclusion, I do not see why Hong Kong cannot live up to the standard of other countries such as UK, US and Japan who have been taking measures in improving the lives of animals being used for breeding and commercial use. I truly hope the Government could hear our voices and concerns and make Hong Kong a better place for animals and animal lovers.

Regards,

Rahmeena KARAMDIN (Ms)