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Lifelong Animal Protection is, along with other animal welfare groups in HK, in the front line of witnessing the effects of the pet trade in hk. Our position is that we would like to see the banning of all sales of animals as pets, We see far too many cases of appalling exploitation and neglect resulting from this cruel trade, and on the rare occasions when breeders are reported to the authorities for gross mistreatment, the cases are rarely prosecuted. The few cases which do result in prosecution receive sentences so light that they are no deterrent, and do not reflect the exploitation and suffering of the animals.

While we welcome these proposed amendments to tighten the pet trade laws, we feel they do not go far enough.

LAP's position is that:

1. No animal should be bred specifically to be sold as a pet. Any animal used to provide income is not a pet and the owners should therefore be classified as a commercial breeder.
2. All breeders, commercial or otherwise, and all pet traders should be subject to frequent checks for conditions of care.
3. Every animal which is regarded as a pet should require a license, irrespective of its breed or genus.
4. The requirements for receiving a licence should be very clear and each licence reviewed at regular, short, intervals.
5. The productivity of the animals should be taken strictly into consideration when deciding on the licensing requirements for that type of animal.. There is no control over what happens to the animals when they are no longer productive. The definition of "breeding age" is not clear. Animals who are still of breeding age not sufficiently productive, or productivity is on the decline can be abandoned by pet breeders.
6. Current laws provide almost no protection against abuse and neglect of animals or deterrent for offenders should they be caught breaking the law, and we welcome an increase in the fines and sentences for offenders.

7. No animals should be advertised for sale or sold over the internet,
8. No should any animal be sold or passed on to a minor without parental consent.
9. The sale of an animal should be subject to stringent controls and regulations, covering health care and desex. This would reduce the number of abandoned animals and “accidental” pregnancies. Efforts should be made to combat animal abandonment, including mandatory neutering of pets and awareness and education to promote adoption
10. There should be an increase of penalties for illegal trading of animals and the breaching of animal trading license conditions to the maximum level possible.
11. Breeders who obtain licences to exploit their animals should limit a bitch to no more than one litter per year.
12. Controls on breeding and selling of companion animals should include all the species at risk.
13. Rather than applying many controls which need to be monitored Hong Kong could follow the cities which have made it illegal to sell companion animals in pet shops. There are 27 cities in North America and Los Angeles has approved an ordinance that bans the sales of dogs, cats and rabbits

We support the AFCD's initiative in this urgent matter and call for the most stringent safeguards, coupled with the maximum possible deterrents, to try and protect the lives and welfare of Hong Kong's animals.

Lifelong Animal Protection Charity  
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