



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref.: FHB/F 6/8/40/1

Fax No.: 2136 3282

29 January 2014

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Jove CHAN)
[Fax: 2185 7845]

Dear Mr Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to Meeting on 14 January 2014**

**Detention Period for Animals
at the Animal Management Centres (“AMCs”)
of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
(“AFCD”)**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (“the Panel”) held on 14 January 2014, the Administration was requested to provide a response to the suggestion of extending the present “four-day detention period” for stray or abandoned animals at AFCD’s AMCs. Our reply is as follows.

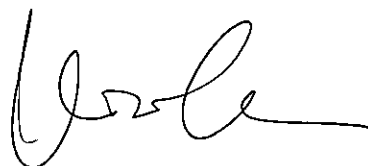
Under section 38 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421), where the owner or keeper of an animal detained cannot after reasonable inquiry be found or ascertained within four days after the commencement of such

detention, the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation may order the forfeiture of the animal, in which case he may either retain it or cause it to be sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of as he considers appropriate.

In actual practice, only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or cannot be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised. For animals which are assessed to be suitable for re-homing but cannot yet be re-homed, AFCD's current practice is to continue to detain the animal in its AMC until re-homing can be arranged. In 2013, animals were actually kept by AFCD for an average of 8.7 days before they were reclaimed by their owners, rehomed or euthanized.

Currently, we have no plan to amend the relevant provision mentioned in paragraph two above.

Yours sincerely,



(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn.: Dr Thomas SIT)
[Fax: 2375 3563]