

[Translation]

本局檔號 Our Ref :
來函檔號 Your Ref :

電話 Tel : 3509 8705
傳真 Fax : 2136 3282

31 March 2016

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene
(Attn.: Miss Josephine SO)
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss So,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to Meeting on 8 July 2014**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) on 8 July 2014, Members enquired about the requirement for animal breeders to attend compulsory training, and requested our Bureau to provide the Panel with information about the training programmes, including the content of the programmes, and whether and if so how the breeders would be assessed after completion of such programmes. Our reply is set out as follows.

The Government has proposed to amend the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) with a view to enhancing animal health and welfare through better regulation of animal trading, as well as the breeding and selling of dogs. Under our proposal, there will be three types of licences, namely Animal Trader Licence, Dog Breeder Licence (Category A) (“DBLA”) and Dog Breeder Licence (Category B) (“DBLB”), as well as a One-off Permit.

Each of the three types of licences mentioned above will be granted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) alongside a set of licence conditions. All licensees will be subject to one common condition, that is, they must comply with the Codes of Practice (“CoP”) of their respective licences as one of the licence conditions. AFCD will stipulate under the CoP that licensees, their operational management personnel and staff are required to attend appropriate training programmes on husbandry of dogs and good hygiene practice to the satisfaction of AFCD.

The content and duration of the training programmes will vary depending on the type of the licences and the occupational position of individuals. As far as dog breeding activity is concerned, DBLA and DBLB licensees must have a good understanding of the local legislation related to dogs, knowledge pertaining to animal welfare, basic needs of dogs, hygiene condition of the environment and equipment, health care, first aid, hair and nail care, as well as how to control the dogs properly and prevent dog bites when in contact with other dogs. Apart from the above subjects, licensees must also be familiar with genetics and hereditary diseases, dog breeding, care for pregnant dogs, delivery and postnatal care for dogs, newborn puppy care, etc. Besides, the operational management personnel and staff working for DBLB licensees are also required to attend training programmes on individual subjects mentioned above.

Licensees, their operational management personnel and staff are required to enrol themselves at institutions in the open market which offer training programmes recognised by AFCD. The recognised programmes will be published on the Department's website. AFCD will ensure that the above-mentioned specific subjects are covered in the training programmes provided by such institutions, while licensees, their operational management personnel and staff must attend the training programmes in person and pass the examination set by the institutions upon completion of training. Assessment results must be recognised by AFCD so as to comply with the requirements under the CoP. Any breach of the CoP may be considered as a breach of the licence conditions, against which AFCD will take appropriate action.

Yours sincerely,

(Swing YAU)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.:

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn.: Dr. Thomas SIT)

Fax: 2311 3731