



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

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4 December 2014

Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms Alice LEUNG)  
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss LEUNG,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**  
**Import and sale of products made with fur of dogs and cats**

I refer to your letter dated 26 November 2014 to the Secretary for Food and Health, conveying Hon. Claudia MO's concern about the import and sale of products made with the fur of dogs and cats in Hong Kong, and her proposal to the Panel Chairman on holding a special meeting to discuss the subject and to receive views from deputations. The Administration is requested to provide a written response to the issues raised in Hon. Claudia MO's letter dated 24 November 2014. Our response is given below.

Import of Animal Products

Under section 11(1) of the Rabies Regulations (Cap. 421A), no person shall import any animal product (including the skin of dogs or cats) into Hong Kong except under and in accordance with a permit to do so issued by an authorized officer. A person who contravenes the above provision commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has put in place a surveillance programme against the illegal import of animal, carcass or animal products. AFCD works closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) in combating illegal import of such products at all boundary control points.

In light of the media report about the sale of the skin of dogs and cats alleged to have been obtained through illegal import, which appeared on 23 November 2014 and was referred to in Hon. Claudia MO's letter, AFCD has made immediate investigations. On 23 November 2014, AFCD inspected the shop concerned in Tai Po but found no such products at the shop. The responsible person of the shop indicated that he had surrendered those products to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). When contacted, SPCA confirmed that nine pieces of suspected dog skins were surrendered by the shop and kept under their custody. AFCD has warned the responsible person of the shop that it is an offence to import such products into Hong Kong without appropriate permit(s), and will consider taking legal action where appropriate. The Department will step up surveillance and enforcement actions against illegal import of such products in cooperation with C&ED, and enhance publicity on the subject.

#### Slaughtering of Dogs and Cats

Under the Dogs and Cats Regulations (Cap. 167A), no person shall slaughter any dogs and cats or sell the flesh of dogs and cats for food. Anyone who contravenes the regulation shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$5,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. In addition, according to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap 169), anyone who cruelly treats an animal or causes it unnecessary suffering shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 3 years.

AFCD is hitherto not aware of any act of slaughtering dogs or cats for fur production in Hong Kong. If there is any suspected case of cruelty to animals, AFCD will follow up and investigate. Prosecution action will be instigated where appropriate.

We consider that public education is most important for safeguarding and promoting animal welfare. To this end, AFCD has established a dedicated team to devise, implement and fortify public education and publicity programmes for promoting care for animals and

responsible pet ownership. Relevant activities include producing and broadcasting announcements in the public interest through TV and radio channels; advertising on such platforms as public transport, magazines and websites; organising promotional events in shopping arcades; regularly conducting village and community campaigns; holding talks in schools; as well as conducting annual surveys on pet care. Such efforts will continue.

Yours sincerely,



( Alison LO )

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.:

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
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