



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association

10th March 2016

Legislative Council of HKSAR
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Health
Sub-committee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
Attn: Hon. Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Dear Mr. Cheung

Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals

The Hong Kong Veterinary Association would like to submit comments regarding the following:

Proposed Amendments to Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B)

The HKVA gives it full support to the proposed changes to the legislation, and believes it is an important step forward in improving the welfare of dogs in the trade. We urge the Government to be expedient in passing this vital piece of legislation which once enacted will hopefully pave the way for future legislation covering cats and other animals involved in the pet trade.

Consideration to Stronger Animal Cruelty/Welfare Legislation (Cap. 169)

As the panel are aware, in recent years there has been an increase in pet ownership, and as a result empathy and awareness of the plight of animals in Hong Kong. Whilst penalties under Cap. 139 (The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance) have increased in recent years the legislation is reactive and primarily anti-cruelty rather than proactive and welfare orientated. The HKVA urges government to consider a review of the current legislation to include a Duty of Care with minimal standards and Codes of Practice which would encourage good welfare as per the Animal Welfare Act, UK, 2006.

.../p.2



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association

-2 -

Public Housing Policy on Dog Keeping

The HKVA believes the policy on keeping dogs in public housing is not in line with current societal values and leads to animal and human welfare issues such as illicit keeping, animal abandonment and subsequent disruption of family social structure and ties. It is important to recognize dog ownership has been shown to have positive benefits in terms of human mental and physical health. We urge a review of the current policy, and for criteria to be broadened to allow tenants to keep dogs under certain conditions.

Thank you for providing the chance for our Association to comment on the above. We welcome the opportunity for further discussion of these important animal welfare issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Mangan', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Tom Mangan
President, HKVA