

Animal Welfare Advisory Group

Advisory Committee to HKSAR Government

Secretariat:
c/o Animal Management (Development) Division
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
5/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road
Kowloon

Our Ref: (35) in AF GR LSK 04/11 Pt. 11

Legislative Council of HKSAR
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Health
Sub-committee on Issues Relating to Animal Welfare and Cruelty to Animals
Attn: Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
sc_fseh_awca@legco.gov.hk

9th March 2016

Dear Mr. Cheung,

Issues relating to animal welfare and cruelty to animals


I note that the above-mentioned sub-committee will meet on 22nd March 2016 to discuss the captioned subject. The Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) is a non-statutory advisory body with the remit to advise the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation on matters concerning animal welfare. Whilst AWAG has been discussing many important issues relating to animal welfare in Hong Kong, on behalf of AWAG I would like to highlight two issues of current concern that have been discussed by the Group recently.

Firstly, the proposed amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B). AWAG and its associated subgroups have been advising on aspects of the proposed legislative amendments (including the proposed new Codes of Practice) all along. AWAG supports the package of measures currently proposed by the government to improve the regulation of pet trading and the breeding and trading of dogs in particular. AWAG believes that it is of the utmost importance to pass the amendments as soon as possible to better protect the health and welfare of animals involved in the trade.

Second, the policy of the Housing Authority in regard to the keeping of dogs in public housing premises has been arousing concern recently. AWAG believes that the current policy is outdated, leads to animal abandonment and disrupts family social structure and ties. The policy should be reviewed in light of the increased importance of pets in modern society and the benefits they bring. AWAG advocates that the criteria used to permit tenants to keep dogs should be broadened to be fairer, more

permissive and enlightened allowing tenants to keep dogs under certain conditions and improve responsible dog ownership and welfare in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Lam', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kenneth LAM
AWAG Chairman