



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association

5th June, 2017

Hon. Tanya Chan
Chairperson
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council
Hong Kong

Dear Hon. Tanya Chan

RE: Legislative Proposal Cap 586

The HKVA would like to speak out in support of the proposed amendments to CAP 586 The Endangered Species Protection Ordinance.

The continued illegal trade in endangered wild life is both a conservation and an animal welfare issue, threatening many wild populations and causing tremendous suffering to individuals on a large scale.

Endangered animals are either killed for their body parts or may suffer horribly and die during smuggling operations if being captured for the illegal, live animal trade. Some of the animals targeted are amongst the last of their species living in the wild.

To help with enforcement and deterrence the HKVA supports the proposed increase in penalties and that there should be no difference in penalties between offences associated with commercial activities and so called "personal consumption".

In addition the problematic local ivory trade should be closed down as soon as possible, this is long overdue. There should be no more import or re-export, ivory should be no longer traded domestically and no compensation should be paid to ivory traders.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Tom Mangan BVSc BAppSc MRCVS
HKVA President

