

**Responses to motions passed at the meeting of
LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 14 May 2019**

Motion 1

(Moved by Dr. Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan)

The Government has been actively promoting the concept of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. Since 2010, a dedicated team in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing public education and publicity programmes for disseminating messages on caring for animals and thinking carefully before keeping a pet.

2. The Government launched a three-month public consultation on proposals to enhance animal welfare in end-April 2019. One of the proposals is to impose a positive “Duty of Care” on animal keepers, requiring them to take reasonable steps to provide for the welfare needs of animals under their care. The proposed “Duty of Care”, if implemented, will be a legal requirement binding all keepers of animals, without requiring the signing of any undertaking by the keepers. AFCD will also promulgate Codes of Practice for looking after animals commonly kept in Hong Kong and further step up the public education and publicity to ensure that animal keepers understand clearly the requirements and responsibilities of being “animal keepers” under the “Duty of Care” concept.

3. We are not aware of any overseas jurisdiction that requires a person to attend mandatory training before keeping a pet. That said, AFCD has been providing training for dog owners to properly take care of their dogs.

Motion 2

(Moved by Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin)

4. The Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) has been advising AFCD on various matters related to animal welfare. AWAG is considering providing some general recommendations on fish butchering for reference by the trade operating in wet markets. During the process, the trade will be consulted to ensure the recommendations will be acceptable to the trade.

**Food and Health Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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