



Society for the Prevention  
of Cruelty to Animals (HK)  
香港愛護動物協會

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Ref: WF/283/FW/02/2019

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Hon Chui Hoi-dick  
Chairman  
Subcommittee to Follow Up the Issues Related to the Wang Chau Development Project  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

Dear Chairman and members,

Arrangements for dealing with animals affected by the Wang Chau Development Project  
and relevant policy issues - a human and animal friendly approach

Please find below a synopsis of the speech I made on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals during the meeting with deputations at the subcommittee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February:

*Many people consider their animals to be part of their family. With family life already disrupted by re-location families should not be torn apart.*

*A problem should not be created when it can be avoided by a humane and sympathetic approach on the part of the Housing Authority.*

*The SPCA believes that pet owning residents affected by the re-development should be re-located to accommodation that allows pet keeping – keeping families together.*

*Noting that dog keeping is allowed in public rental housing the Housing Authority must put in place and implement measures to facilitate this including giving the relevant permissions in writing.*

*In 2003 the HA gave permission for tenants to keep over 13000 dogs so that they could remain with their owners and live out their lives – a similar compassionate approach should be adopted.*

*Considering the Wang Chau re-development during construction special attention needs to be paid to ensure that more animal related issues do not arise.*

*It is common during such projects for dogs to be brought on to site to be used for security. Often these dogs are not properly cared for – not being licenced or neutered. They roam around and breed freely and at the end of the project are abandoned – being left behind by the workers.*

*Measures need to be put in place to prevent this:*

*Either dog keeping should be banned on site or the Code of Practice for Construction Site Dogs should be strictly enforced.*

*Relevant clauses should be included in contracts.*

*Animal Birth Control Programmes such as TNR programmes for dogs and cats should be permitted to be run on site if there is need.*

*For the future (and in line with other animal friendly measures and developments in town planning and facilities) the Housing Authority's current policy position where dog keeping is actively discouraged and blocked – must change.*

*This is something that the SPCA have been advocating for for over 25 years*

*The current policy disenfranchises a significant proportion of Hong Kong's population – denying them the choice of being able to benefit from and enjoy the companionship of dogs should they wish to.*

*Pet ownership in public housing – especially of dogs - has been a repeated social and animal welfare concern for the past 30 years and this will continue in the coming years with increasing rates of dog and pet ownership in Hong Kong and changing societal needs and expectations.*

*It has been shown over the years (including the exercise that started in 2003) that it is possible for tenants to keep dogs in public housing.*

*Currently over 1000 tenants keep dogs with permission. Information from the Census and Statistics Department implies that many thousands more dogs are kept without permission.*

*The SPCA has advocated all along that tenants should not violate Housing Authority rules; however, the approach to pet keeping - specifically dogs, should be reviewed and adjusted to reflect a more positive approach - providing a framework for a fair and enlightened policy that allows and supports dog keeping.*

*The Housing Society should also change its policy on pet keeping.*

*Indeed looking to the future a more human and animal friendly approach to town planning should be adopted at the outset – integrating elements and design features that support pet owners and meet their needs.*

*Subsidised housing and estate and infrastructure design in general (including that to be built in Wang Chau itself) should take into account modern life and aim to meet the needs of society and be designed to be more human and animal friendly and more easily accommodate pet (and dog ) keeping.*

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact us on 22325563 or by email c/o: [fiona.woodhouse@sPCA.org.hk](mailto:fiona.woodhouse@sPCA.org.hk).

Yours sincerely,

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