



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association



China Hong Kong Veterinary Association

8th June, 2016

Legislative Council of HKSAR
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Health
Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal
Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 and Specification of Public
Offices (Amendment) Notice 2016
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
Attn: Hon. Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Dear Mr. Cheung

The Hong Kong Veterinary Association and the China 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 and CHKVA gives 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.

The veterinary profession sees on a daily basis the consequences of the way Hong Kong's pet trade operates and the negative impact this has on the welfare of animals. Currently there is insufficient protection for the Hong Kong public and the pedigree puppies purchased by them. Infectious diseases can be seen in animals presented at veterinary clinics often resulting from being housed under poor welfare conditions. Puppies can be poorly fed increasing their likelihood of succumbing to disease and death.

Pedigree puppies frequently suffer from abnormalities and deformities linked to poor breeding practices, often having lifelong consequences.

These animal welfare issues also lead to human welfare issues owing to the emotional stress placed on pet owners should their pets pass away or should difficult life and death decisions need to be made. These issues occur across all species in the pet trade.

This is why the HKVA and CHKVA support the proposed amendments which are long overdue and would be a valuable step in improving the practices of the dog trade. The licensing of all breeders closes loopholes and will put in place a system that regulates all breeders and requires them to meet certain standards. It will create a framework that should help improve transparency and give additional impetus to breeders to improve their breed planning and health screening.

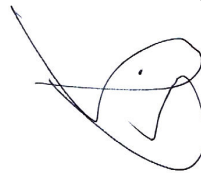
There should be no further delay in implementing the amendments which would then allow work to start on better protecting the other species traded in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely

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

Dr. Tom Mangan
HKVA President

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cornwell Shiu', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Cornwell Shiu
CHKVA President