



Fw: Cap 139b Amendment

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From: "Dr. Howard Kai Hay WONG" [REDACTED]
To: "sc_subleg@legco.gov.hk" <sc_subleg@legco.gov.hk>
Date: 08/06/2016 17:48
Subject: Cap 139b Amendment

Clerk to Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders)
(Amendment) Regulation 2016 and Specification of Public Offices (Amendment)
Notice 2016

Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council
Road Central, Hong Kong

[REDACTED]

[Fax No: 2509 9055] or [Email: sc_subleg@legco.gov.hk]

Dear Subcommittee,

I am writing to you in support of the administration's proposed amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds)(Animal Traders) (Amendment)Regulation 2016.

For many years Hong Kong has had a very serious problem in dealing with dog breeders who have been unable to ensure adequate animal welfare. The sole reason for the administration's inability to deal with these unscrupulous breeders has been the existence of a loophole in the law, namely that which allows persons to seek dogs without a license if they claim that the dogs are their pet or offspring of their pet.

With such a large proportion of dogs being sold through pet shops being sourced from these so called pet owners, clearly the reality is different and these pet owners are merely making a mockery of the law by claiming to be merely selling their pets.

The only way that we can begin to protect these breeding dogs is to capture the industry under a legislative framework and that is exactly what this proposed amendment does. Once a legislative framework has been enacted the license conditions that accompany these licenses can keep pace with the latest animal welfare needs. The administration should be congratulated for proposing this legislative amendment which will have far reaching positive consequences for breeding dogs in Hong Kong.

Please do not be detracted from the arguments regarding the number of licenses or the inability of the government to enforce the new licensing system. These are mere distractions and what is clear is that without a regulatory framework the status quo will continue and Hong Kong will regress and again be seen as a backwater for animal welfare.

Hong Kong has made great strides in the past decade in the spirit of animal welfare from the

opening of dog parks by LCSD to subsidized neutering of adopted pets from NGOs to Trap Neuter Release Trials. This latest amendment is consistent with the advances in animal welfare that the community in Hong Kong has embraced and demanded of the administration. In line with Hong Kong people's aspirations, City University's School of Veterinary Medicine has even identified animal welfare as one of its main pillars and we fully support these amendments.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Howard WONG
Director, Centre for Animal Welfare,
School of Veterinary Medicine
City University of Hong Kong

Dr. Howard WONG
B.A. (Hons), M.A., Vet.MB (Cantab)
MPVM (UC Davis), MRCVS

Executive Director - School of Veterinary Medicine
Director - Centre for Animal Welfare

5/F, Block 1, To Yuen Building, 31 To Yuen Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 3442 9008 [REDACTED] Fax: (852) 3442 0589
Website: www.cityu.edu.hk/svm

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