



8 June 2016

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

Attn : Ms Camy YOONG

[Fax No: 2509 9055] or [Email: [sc\\_subleg@legco.gov.hk](mailto: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, cruel and greedy breeders has been the existence of a loophole in the law, which allows people to breed dogs without a license (if they claim that the dogs are their pet or offspring of their pets.

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 way these sentient breeding dogs are treated is appalling and inhumane. A large portion of these breeding dogs are inbred, which causes huge health issues and in a lot of cases, death. The puppies are separated way to young and the puppies and dogs are not socialised, which results in many of these dogs having huge behavioural problems from the start. They are then sold like

[www.hkrescuepuppies.com](http://www.hkrescuepuppies.com). [hkrescuepuppies@gmail.com](mailto:hkrescuepuppies@gmail.com)  
Please join & "Like" us on Facebook - HK Rescue Puppies  
Tel: [REDACTED] & 2818-1598 (10 am to 7 pm only)



merchandise to the highest bidder with no government regulations/ requirements for pet owners (other than they are supposed to have a microchip and rabies vaccine every three years – something that is not properly enforced by government animal welfare officers).

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. If Hong Kong is really to be a real "World City" then it needs to act like one. Ghandi once said that a Nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated. Let us come together to help these poor animals.

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. HK Rescue Puppies fully support these amendments.

Yours faithfully,

Hazel Black

Chairman, Founder of HK Rescue Puppies

Qualified Dog Behaviourist/ Trainer

[REDACTED]

[www.hkrescuepuppies.com](http://www.hkrescuepuppies.com). [hkrescuepuppies@gmail.com](mailto:hkrescuepuppies@gmail.com)  
Please join & "Like" us on Facebook - HK Rescue Puppies  
Tel: [REDACTED] & 2818-1598 (10 am to 7 pm only)