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**Regulating breeding and sales of dogs to minimize dog abandonment,  
animal abuse and over-breeding**

Animals Asia Foundation Animal Welfare Director David Neale

Ideally a dog population should be regulated to meet the companion animal needs of a local community and to minimize the number of unwanted and subsequently abandoned animals. In an ideal world every dog would have a home which has the ability to meet the dog's welfare needs.

Currently unregulated dog breeding leads to a surplus of dogs within a community with many dogs being abandoned, and either developing a roaming/stray lifestyle, dying due to illness or accident or ending up at an animal control shelter. All of these factors lead to both human and animal welfare issues

**Human Welfare** 基于人类福利

- Dogs are the vector for 98% of all human rabies cases
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  - More than 55,000 people die of rabies every year: mainly in poor areas
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  - The majority of victims are children
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  - Every rabies death is preventable
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  - Mass vaccination of the reservoir species (dogs) is the only way to eliminate rabies
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- Roaming dogs can be a nuisance - noise, fouling, damaging property, killing livestock and wildlife
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- Roaming dogs threaten human safety by being a major cause of traffic accidents
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**Animal Welfare** 基于动物福利

**A typical roaming dog may suffer from:**

- Malnutrition and lack of clean water
- Skin disease -
- High (75%) puppy mortality rate
- Agonising diseases - rabies, parvovirus, tumours
- Injuries/death from traffic collisions
- Fear, aggression, and competition

Dog shelters across the world operate at maximum capacity in an attempt to deal with the effect of overbreeding, and millions of dogs are euthanised annually as homes will never be found for them. In the USA alone the Humane Society of the United States estimate some 6-8 million dogs enter animal shelters each year and 3-4 million of these dogs are euthanised annually.

The desire to produce the maximum number of puppies for sale and the desire to sell puppies quickly can lead to the welfare of dogs in breeding establishments and retail establishments to be severely affected. In many cases such establishments have been called 'puppy farms'. Dogs are bred in appalling conditions purely for profit with a total disregard for the health and welfare of both the adult dogs and puppies. Adult bitches are kept in small pens with little or no access to daylight, no social contact with other dogs or other humans and no space to exercise or play. They are bred continuously until they become too old and are then discarded. Puppies bred under such intensive conditions often suffer from genetic abnormalities and other health-related issues. Puppies are frequently removed from their mothers when they are too young, leading to further potential health and behavioural issues. Puppies bred in such intensive conditions are often sold through newspaper adverts, via the internet, at pet shops or in pet superstores.

To address the issues of over breeding leading to abandonment, and the poor welfare of dogs at breeding and retail establishments regulations are necessary.

The AVMA says: Dogs in many breeding and retail establishments are currently left unprotected, thus regulations should provide assurance of acceptable animal care for dogs and to ensure all dogs sold/distributed to the public are protected, irrespective of facility type (i.e. dogs are deserving of a minimum standard of care whether bred/raised/distributed by breeders, shelters or animal control facilities (AVMA Apr 2010)

### **Regulation 监管制度**

Regulations need to provide an assurance of acceptable animal care for dogs at breeding and retail establishments:

Animals Asia recommends authorities develop both resource based and performance based standards for breeding and retail establishments. Resource based standards address the animals physical environment i.e. a minimum cage space a dog must be provided depending upon its size/breed. Performance standards measure how a dog's welfare is impacted by a given environment. If the performance standards are high a dog's general physical and behavioural condition will be good.

Regulations should include 监管制度应包括:

- minimum space requirements to allow a dog freedom to move and assume normal postures
- the provision of solid flooring
- the provision of an area for dogs to retreat and rest
- the provision of a whelping box for pregnant dogs
- requirements for socialisation, critical for the psychological development of puppies including both human and dog-dog socialisation. *Research at Queensland University into socialisation of puppies found litters from registered breeders receive better socialization compared to litters from non-registered breeders.*
- the provision of environmental enrichment: i.e. providing dogs with appropriate objects such as toys and chewing substrates, items of furniture or platforms.
- providing dogs with the opportunity for locomotory activity on a daily basis: this can be achieved by providing walks or an exercise area where spontaneous activity can take place.
- Regular routine and preventative veterinary care: facilities should develop standard protocols for routine veterinary care, including examination by a licensed veterinarian, a vaccination schedule, and parasitic control: *Housing a large number of dogs in a facility without strict sanitation and preventative healthcare practices can promote the spread of infectious diseases, conditions which create unnecessary stress can pose health risks to both dogs and people.*
- The provision of detailed veterinary records for each dog
- Daily health and welfare checks to ensure individual dog's general health, behaviour and welfare are assessed daily.

**Regulations need to ensure that breeding and retail establishments have the appropriate resources, facilities and trained staff to care for the animals they are responsible for.**

### **Dog Breeding, Sale & Kenneling Permits**

Any person wishing to operate an animal establishment, breed and/or sell adult dogs or puppies must obtain a permit from the governing authority.

- Permits should be issued following an assessment of the facilities to be used for breeding and selling dogs (*criteria for such facilities should be developed based on the health and welfare needs of both adult dogs and puppies*)
- Permits should be issued upon payment of a fee depending upon the type of establishment:
  - Kennel Fee (classification system for size of the establishment)
  - Pet shop fee
  - Other animal establishment fee
  - No permit fee should be required of animal shelters.
- Renewal permits should be issued annually following a further inspection of the facility

### Penalties

- Dog owners, breeders and sellers who mistreat or abandon their dogs should be subject to a fine and prohibition from raising, breeding or selling dogs for a set time period.
- Dog breeders and sellers operating without a permit should receive a monetary fine and/or subsequent ban on raising, breeding and selling dogs.

An increasing number of regulatory authorities internationally are developing regulations on dog breeders and retailers.

### **USA 美国**

In 2008 the State of Pennsylvania developed a dog breeding and retail law which is said to be one of the strictest dog breeding laws in the USA. The new regulation stipulates minimum cage sizes, requires establishments to provide veterinary care and twice yearly veterinary checks, exercise periods, requires breeders to install multiple ventilation units to meet minimum air quality standards and bans wire flooring amongst a host of additional measures. The laws were developed to control the number of 'puppy mills' operating in the state and

the number of commercial kennels in Pennsylvania plummeted from 303 at the beginning of 2009 to 111 today.

## UK 英国

### **The Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999**

Anyone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs requires a licence from the local authority under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999. The local authority has discretion whether to grant a licence and must ensure that the animals will be suitably accommodated, fed, exercised and protected from disease and fire. It is for local authorities, who have extensive powers to check on the standards of health, welfare and accommodation of the animals, to enforce the requirements of the Act. Local authorities can obtain a warrant to enter any premises, excluding a private dwelling house, in which it is believed that a dog breeding business is being carried out. All outbuildings, garages and sheds are open to inspection.

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- Accurate breeding records must be maintained by the establishment for tighter controls on the sale of dogs by dealers and pet shop; for identification for traded dogs;
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- Bitches are not to be mated until they are at least 12 months old.
- No bitch is permitted to have more than 6 litters in total.
- Bitches must not give birth to puppies within 12 months of producing a previous litter.
- All first time licences must involve the inspection of the premises by a vet and the local authority.
- Subsequent inspections may be by the local authority alone though they may call a vet if necessary.
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- A licensed breeder must not sell a dog to a member of the public if he/she believes that person will then sell the dog on to another individual.
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- Dogs must not be sold less than 8 weeks of age other than to a licensed pet shop.

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- All dogs should be vaccinated so as to prevent and control the spread of infectious or contagious diseases. In practice, this means that all dogs should be vaccinated against:
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  - Canine Distemper;
  - Infectious Canine hepatitis;
  - Leptospirosis;
  - Canine parvovirus.

### **Conclusion 结论**

By implementing and enforcing such regulations for dog breeding and retail establishments

- the number of dogs being bred and sold can be monitored and controlled
- fewer unwanted & roaming dogs will result in
  - less dog bites and therefore less injuries to people
  - a reduction in noise, fouling, property damage and potential death of livestock and wildlife
  - less road traffic accidents
- the welfare of dogs and puppies can be monitored and improved
- Regular inspections and audits will allow management problems to be identified at an early stage before they have a serious negative impact on the health and welfare of animals, and will facilitate the implementation of new management regulations to address such issues;
- The development of a register of all breeding and retail facilities within a given community will aid dissemination of information and subsequently aid the management of establishments for the benefit of animal welfare;
- Facilities operating illegally or consistently not meeting the minimum standards can be closed and procedures developed for the subsequent care of the animals.