

April 2012

### **Sick Puppies from Pet Shops Survey 2012**

Dear Colleagues

In an effort to highlight any welfare issues, improve the well being of animals and protect potential pet owners, the SPCA has been monitoring the incidence of sick puppies being sold in Hong Kong pet shops.

In 2006, the introduction of compulsory micro-chipping made it possible to highlight any pet shops who were selling puppies without microchips.

Thanks to the support of the Hong Kong Veterinary Association and the Animal Welfare Advisory Group, SPCA was able to gather the following data:

Between November 2006 and January 2012, of the reported cases, we found that:

- 77.3% of puppies were 12 weeks or younger.
- A staggering 78.7% of puppies became sick within a week of purchase with 14.7% of them actually being sick on the day of purchase.
- 37.3% of puppies had no micro-chip certificate and 17.8% had no accompanying vaccination card; two findings that are in breach of the animal trader's licence under Cap 139 Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance that is relevant to regulating the pet trade.
- In 10.7% of cases, no receipt was issued, which is against good consumer practice.
- Most problem pet shops were located at Victory Avenue, Mongkok and Cannon Street, Causeway Bay.
- Presumptive diagnoses included canine distemper (54.7%), parvovirus (21.3%) and upper respiratory tract infections (19.1%); 38.7% of puppies presented with more than one disease.
- All the above can be prevented with vaccination and proper disease control measures.
- Mortality was 19.6% due to disease or euthanasia. The actual figure is likely to be higher since puppies could have died after clinical treatment without the clinics being informed.

We are planning to continue to monitor the situation and as such seek your participation and support in our efforts. As veterinary surgeons working in the private sector the number of puppies from pet shops you encounter is likely to be high and thus your assistance is crucial in trying to get an accurate measure of the problem. This survey continues to receive the full backing of both the Hong Kong Veterinary Association (HKVA) and Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG).

We have updated the form (in Chinese and English) for vets and clients to fill in at the time of consultation. The client and veterinary clinic can of course remain anonymous if they want to. There is a section on the form for the client to sign and provide contact details if they are willing to be involved in any follow up action.

A sample of the form has been enclosed for your reference.

To download a copy of the form, please visit  
[http://www.sPCA.org.hk/welfare/eng/pet\\_shop\\_puppies.asp](http://www.sPCA.org.hk/welfare/eng/pet_shop_puppies.asp)

The SPCA is happy to be the collection point for forms and the plan is to send a report of the findings to the AFCD on a regular basis. Veterinary surgeons should fax the completed form to "Attention Miss Ho Shu Ping" at fax number 2519 7985.

We hope this survey can continue to highlight problems regarding pet shops in Hong Kong and be a useful tool in lobbying the government for stronger controls in an effort to improve animal welfare.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Warm Regards



Dr. Jane Gray  
Deputy Director (Veterinary Services)  
Chief Veterinary Surgeon  
JG/V005/03/12

關於寵物店出售患病動物資料記錄

Record of Sickness in Animals Purchased from Pet Shops

愛護動物協會與漁農自然護理署配合進行一項調查,關於寵物店出售患病動物的資料.



我們非常感謝閣下能抽空協助我們填寫這問卷,所有資料會轉交漁農自然護理署作進一步行動. 你有權選擇不答某些問題.

The SPCA is conducting a survey on the number of animals that get sick shortly after being purchased from a pet shop.

We would be very grateful if you could help us by filling in this form. This information will be given to the AFCD for their action. You have the option of leaving any questions or details unanswered.

日期 Date		主人姓名 Name of owner	
寵物種類 Species	狗 / 貓 Dog / Cat	寵物品種 Breed	
寵物年齡(星期) Age (weeks)		晶片號碼 Microchip number	
購買日期 Date of purchase		發病日期 Date illness first seen	
寵物店名稱/地址 Pet shop name and address			
1. 購買動物時, 你有否收取收據? Did you receive a receipt at the time of purchase?		有 Yes / 沒有 No <input type="checkbox"/> 附上正本或副本/ Copy attached	
2. 購買動物時, 你有否收到植入晶片證明書? Did you receive a microchip certificate at the time of purchase?		有 Yes / 沒有 No <input type="checkbox"/> 附上正本或副本/ Copy attached	
3. 購買動物時, 你有否收到防疫注射咭? Did you receive a vaccination certificate at the time of purchase?		有 Yes / 沒有 No <input type="checkbox"/> 附上正本或副本 / Copy attached	
本人(簽署人)同意香港愛護動物協會可以聯絡寵物主人以獲取更多相關資料. 本人明白問卷上的所有資料將會絕對保密,而且只提供予香港愛護協會和漁農自然護理署作研究用途. I, the undersigned, agree to be contacted for further requests for information. I understand all the personal information provided will be kept confidential and solely be used for research by AFCD and SPCA.			
主人簽署 Signature		電話 Tel	電郵 Email

由獸醫填寫 To be completed by Veterinary Surgeon (tick and complete as appropriate)

Clinic name		Client no.	
<input type="checkbox"/> SPCA <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Date of 1st visit	Clinical signs		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cx <input type="checkbox"/> Sn	<input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> Inappetance <input type="checkbox"/> Dehydration <input type="checkbox"/> Skin disease <input type="checkbox"/> Collapse <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Presumptive diagnosis(es)			
Canine	<input type="checkbox"/> Parvo	<input type="checkbox"/> Distemper	<input type="checkbox"/> RTI <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Feline	<input type="checkbox"/> FIE	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat flu	<input type="checkbox"/> FIP <input type="checkbox"/> FIV
Skin	<input type="checkbox"/> Ringworm	<input type="checkbox"/> Demodex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sarcoptic mange
Treatment			
<input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotics <input type="checkbox"/> Special diet	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Fluids	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Date of outcome	Outcome		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Euthanasia <input type="checkbox"/> Died	<input type="checkbox"/> Returned to pet shop <input type="checkbox"/> Continue present treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Recovered <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Please return this form with any attached documents by FAX: 25197985 (attn: Miss Ho Shu Ping) OR by e-mail: <a href="mailto:petshopsurvey@spca.org.hk">petshopsurvey@spca.org.hk</a>			

感謝您參與! 如果需要更多資訊: [http://www.spca.org.hk/welfare/chi/pet\\_shop\\_puppies.asp](http://www.spca.org.hk/welfare/chi/pet_shop_puppies.asp)

Thank you for your participation!

For more details, please visit [http://www.spca.org.hk/welfare/eng/pet\\_shop\\_puppies.asp](http://www.spca.org.hk/welfare/eng/pet_shop_puppies.asp)