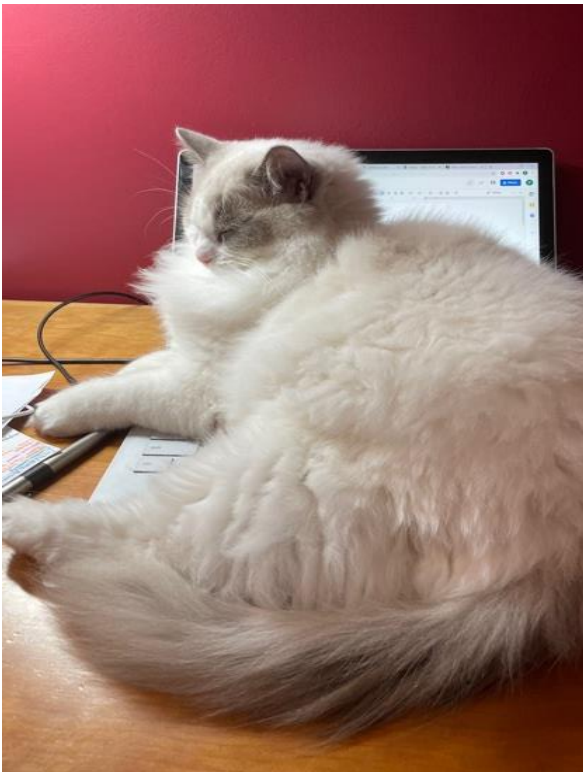


Protect Yourself, Protect Them

Life For Profit

In China, there are multiple ways to get a pet. The market of dogs and cats, especially for popular breeds, is a lucrative one. The practice of Breeding is not limited. There are some legit and caring breeders, but more irresponsible ones. Their goal is to maximize the number of lives they produce to maximize profit, but pay little to no attention to how the animals are treated or their future owners are, as long as the animals are fit for sale. Private pet owners also allow their pets to get pregnant in order to profit from the offspring.



Bad for the Animals, Bad for the People

These unrestrained breeding brought serious problems not only for the animals, but also human residents. In order to maximize profit, puppies and kittens are born in congested, unclean places where diseases spread like wildfire. When unsuspecting buyers buy them, these animals will fall critically ill with diseases. The cost of vet is very expensive; people will simply abandon these animals and leave them for death. Healthy animals also get abandoned all the time. In Dalian alone, there are estimated than 2000 stray dogs and 7000 stray cats. These numbers only count the animals who are taking advantage of the feeding points set up by volunteers throughout the city, and the actual numbers are much higher. The sheer number of stray animals also overwhelms shelters.

For a Better Future

Requiring a license and setting a standard for breeding animals by the government may provide a solution to this problem. Complying with the license requirement may reduce the number of breeders, improve the animal's quality of life, and increase the threshold of getting an animal by increasing their prices. Furthermore, implementing such policy may become grounds to enact further legislations, such as registering pet owners through the licensed breeders, thus making it possible to fine or punish those who abandon their animals. To achieve these goals, a comprehensive education campaign and advocating is required.



How can she end up on the streets?



Q&A

1. What result will a license requirement achieve?

It will reduce the number of animals bred and sold, improve their health and increase the prices of them. Buyers who get healthier and more expensive animals are less likely to abandon them. Furthermore, the people also benefit from this legislation. Buyers are less likely to get sick animals. With less abandonment, there will also be less stray on the streets, which some people find upsetting.

2. What standard for breeding should be implemented for the license?

I don't think requiring breeders in China to provide the best environment and care for animals is feasible at this point. I think the standard should at least guarantee that only healthy animals are allowed for sale, which means some degree of sanitation, food quality, and living conditions.

3. How do laws get passed in China at the municipal level?

Some recognized agencies and courts will propose a particular piece of legislation to the people's representatives and a standing committee. Organizations may attempt to influence one of these organizations for them to propose the bill.

4. How to enforce the licensing requirement after it is passed?

It will require the people's supervision and police action. The implementation of the legislation should be publicized and made known, so people can report to the police when they see violations. Requiring a license is just a first step in addressing this problem; down the road, more legislation should be implemented to enhance the effect of the licensing requirement.

5. What is DTA's role in this?

DTA's expertise in advocating for animal rights in foreign countries will prove great help to the cause. Furthermore, problems are bound to emerge after the implementation of the policy, and DTA can help come up with ideas and additional legislation to address them.

6. What will be the emphasis of the campaign?

Under the context of China, where the government's focus is on the welfare of humans, advocating based on both consumer's rights and animal's rights will prove the most effective.

7. How does that align to DTA's mission of caring for animals?

While advocating on consumer's rights may seem far away from DTA's mission, it is only the means to achieving the goal of providing a better future and environment for animals.