Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 16/2016-2017

Animal Welfare and Resources

WHEREAS there is currently a single animal welfare officer appointed at the Department of Agriculture to investigate animal welfare issues;

AND WHEREAS there have been more than 225 investigations into animal cruelty and neglect in 2016, with only one person being charged with an offence;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Government considers:

(1) launching an investigation into why animal cruelty offences are failing to be prosecuted and properly resource, staff and train the appropriate number of animal welfare officers at the Department of Agriculture or create or empower an organization like The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to be able to assist the Department of Agriculture to conduct investigations and have special powers to enter premises with police officers to seize and remove animals, collect evidence, advance prosecutions and allow them and the Department of Agriculture to issue administrative fines at the time of inspection;

(2) establishing a tribunal (of representations from the established Animal charities) to review cases brought under the Animals Law (2015) to ensure that these cases are investigated and appropriate sentences given;

(3) amending the Animals Law (2015 Revision) to make it mandatory to spay and neuter all dogs and cats imported from other countries and all banned breeds;

(4) create a licensing regime for all animal breeders (professional and occasional), trainers, pets stores, day care and boarding facilities to register, inspect and oversee the importation, breeding and training of allowed animals to prevent backyard breeding and to ensure that registered breeders are held to a high standard of animal welfare;

(5) amending the Animals Law (2015 Revision) to make it mandatory to micro-chip animals;

(6) creating a Register of Prohibited Persons who are prohibited from adopting or buying animals after a conviction of certain types of animal welfare crimes;

(7) amending the Animals Law (2015 Revision) to enforce steeper penalties for convictions on animal cruelty; and

(8) implementing education programmes within the primary schools to educate and sensitize students as to animal abuse and proper welfare and treatment of animals.

Moved by: _____

Mr Winston C Connolly, MLA
Fifth Elected Member for George Town

Seconded by: _____

Mr Alva H Suckoo, MLA
Fourth Elected Member for Bodden Town

Table in the Office of the Clerk this 14th day of February, 2017.

Passed/Rejected by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly this day of , 2017.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly