A Letter To The SPCA

7B Robert Li

Dear Sir,

I'm writing this letter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), expressing my concern about the problem of pet abuse that has been occurring recently. I am afraid that some of my neighbors are treating their pets badly. Let me begin by describing the incidents of abuse that I am aware of.

Next to my apartment a middle-aged man lives with his "golden retriever". In the past few weeks, barks were often heard and this is an unusual case because his dog was trained not to make loud noises. The last time I saw the man having a walk with his pet, the dog was limping. I approached the owner and asked why the dog was hurt. The owner said that the dog hurt itself when it jumped off a cupboard. Ever since then, I haven't seen his dog again. I suspect that the owner might have been kicking and punching his dog and thus made it badly injured.

On the other side of the building lives a busy manager who works for a big corporation and he often needs to work overseas. About a month ago, he bought a pet dog so that he could have a pet to play with. Last week, he was on a work trip again and left his dog alone in the apartment, leaving nobody to take care of his pet. Days later, after not having heard any barks or sounds created by the dog for a long time, I started to worry about the situation and I called the police. It was then found that the pet had been starving for days and it was so weak that it could barely move!

I then realized that it is important that something should be done to ensure the welfare of the pets. I thereby suggest the following measures.

A very fundamental way of protecting pets is to use the power of law. Stricter laws should be imposed because obviously, fining the owners does not get to the root of the problem and it's not working. There should be heavier punishments so that the owners will always bear in mind that pets are not sandbags for them to release their pressure on when they get overstressed. By implementing these stricter laws, the number of pet abuse cases can definitely be reduced.

In addition, another good measure is to re-educate the public towards the concept of owning pets. For instance, brochures with guidelines and reminders on how to care for a pet correctly can be distributed at pet shops. Lessons can also be offered to pet owners. It's important and urgent to do this because many owners simply treat their pets as playful toys and show no love or care towards them. This misconception should be rectified as soon as possible; otherwise, the lives of pets will be in jeopardy in the long run.

To conclude, both pets and humans are living creatures. So we humans have no right to ravage and torture them or to do anything bad to them just because we pay to own them. It is high time for us to let the general public know about the problems related to pet abuse. Only by increasing public awareness can we really solve the problems.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

Teacher's Feedback :	A delightful piece of work. The writer has adopted a suitable tone for the letter, which is also clearly paragraphed and well organized. The ideas are well elaborated with a good choice of examples for illustration. The letter runs spontaneously with subtle use of cohesive devices. Adequate range of vocabulary and sentence variety. Further improvement can be made with a more refined use of idiomatic expressions. (Miss Chan Siu Ying)
Food For Thought :	Keeping pets has been a popular pastime for many affluent societies. Hong Kong is no exception. Some young couples have even given up the idea of raising children but devote a lot of time and money on keeping dogs and cats. Yet, there are cases of pet abuse coming up. The government has tried to arouse public concern for this phenomenon with propaganda films and posters. After reading this essay, you may come to a better understanding of the issue and draw your attention to the problem, especially if you are a pet owner. If you are not a pet owner yet, will you think twice before deciding to have one?