

SEMINAR

THE CASE FOR ANIMAL
WELFARE LEGISLATION**Mike Radford OBE***Reader in Public Law and Animal Welfare Law
University of Aberdeen*

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Room 404, 4/F T.T. Tsui Building, The University of Hong Kong

The UK has a long history of protecting animals from cruelty. In 1822, UK Parliament passed the first legislation specifically intended to prevent cruelty to animals: Richard Martin's *Act to Prevent the Cruel and Improper Treatment of Cattle*. The impetus for this legislation was founded on much more than sentimentality. Greater understanding of animal psychology, a reassessment of man's place in the world, the development of secular morality, the increasing influence of urban middle class values, concern for social discipline and stability, a responsive political and legislative system and simply having the right people in the right place to affect change all served to allow for the new law.

In 2006, UK Parliament again passed ground breaking legislation to protect animals. The *Animal Welfare Act 2006* has introduced the most significant changes to animal welfare legislation in almost a century. It recognizes that persons who keep animals have a responsibility to protect them from more than just overt cruelty. The Act focuses on the conditions in which the animal is kept and places a duty of care on those who keep them to provide their animals with a minimum standard of care. This talk will focus on the reasons for the introduction of the *Animal Welfare Act 2006* and the improvements to animal welfare protection which have resulted from the new law.

Mike Radford is Reader in Public Law and Animal Welfare Law in the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He established the first animal welfare law course in a European law school in 1992, since then he has worked extensively with ministers, public officials, NGOs, and veterinarians in the UK, Europe, and beyond on issues of law, policy and administration. He was deeply involved with the enactment of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, for which he was appointed OBE in 2008 for services to animal welfare law. Mike is a member of the UK's Independent Advisory Council on Dog Breeding; Companion Animal Welfare Council; the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law Board of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; and a trustee of Dogs Trust, the PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals), and is presently Chair of UFAW (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare).

Please email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.