

Pinky Tsang (4B-16)

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my view on keeping dogs in public housing estates. What first recurring people's mind about keeping dogs is the happiness it brings to its owner, however, some may overlook the negative impacts that it can lead to. As the neighbour of a dog owner in a public housing estate, I adamantly express reservation of such behaviour and therefore support a ban on it.

To commence with, the barking sound of a dog has caused much disruption and inconvenience to my daily life. As public housing estates are often designed to have numerous flats packed on each floor, neighbours are usually living in close proximity to each other. Unfortunately, it is definitely not appreciated that the frequent barking sound of my neighbour's dog can be heard quite clearly in my flat. Noises from the dog keep flowing into my ears that I cannot focus on my work, leading to undesirable performance in my studies as I have been always distracted. Worse, I cannot fall asleep from time to time since the dog sometimes barks at night. It is really annoying since this worsens my sleeping quality and I cannot concentrate on my school work the following day. As a student, the above situations have imposed negative impact on my studies so I once requested my neighbour to keep the dog quiet. Apparently, the dog owner couldn't stop the dog barking, neither could I regain my quiet living environment. As a victim of distraction from the dog, I am afraid I cannot accept residents of public housing estates to keep dogs.

Another point is that the limited space in public housing estates may negatively affect the health and growth of the dog. I do not keep dogs while living in public housing estates as a loving pets owner should be responsible for the physical and mental environment offered to them. It is commonly acknowledged that flats of public housing estates are of bean-sized, which allows only little activity area for dogs. On the contrary to pets like cats and hamsters, dogs need relatively much larger space to run and exercise. If the dog is not allowed to exercise freely, it may lead to depression. Adequate exercise is considered vital for the healthy growth of dogs. While flats of public housing estates cannot suit the fundamental need for them, as pet lovers, residents should not keep dogs.

Being kept alone in a small flat for nearly the entire day, dogs may become mentally unstable and feel neglected due to inadequate care from their owners. If residents do not have enough time to spend with their pet, they are

not advised to keep dogs either. As pet lovers, I firmly believe residents share the same belief with me.

If residents think from different perspectives, they will be able to know how keeping pets may harm the others. Whether it is the dog or the neighbour, they may both suffer due to improper behaviour of the residents. To me, it is surely not uplifting to have dogs as neighbours. To wrap up, I express strong opposition towards residents of public housing estates keeping dogs.