

# All dogs should be muzzled in public: lawmakers

Davis Ip

The legislature's 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee suggested yesterday that pet dogs of any size should be legally required to wear a muzzle in public areas, committee chairwoman



This 2008 file photo shows a muzzled German shepherd.

Photo: Joshua Sherurcij/Wikipedia

an Kwan Tsui Hang said yesterday.

Kwan said the government had pledged to consider the suggestion, aimed at protecting the public from attacks by dogs.

The committee met yesterday to discuss the latest version of the government-initiated bill on animal protection with several officials including Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) President Jose Fonseca Tavares. Kwan briefed reporters on the closed-door meeting afterwards.

The bill has been revised five times by the government since the legislature passed its outline in October 2014.

Kwan said the committee had suggested the government remove the bill's clause that proposed only pet dogs weighing 23 kilogrammes or over must wear a muzzle, adding that dogs of any size could possibly make some people worried that the animals might bite them. The offi-

cials attending the meeting yesterday agreed that it was a valid concern, Kwan said.

However, the officials also pointed out there might be difficult to implement the rule as some dogs may be too small to wear a muzzle, according to Kwan.

Under the current General Regulations Governing Public Places, pets in public places must stay in a cage or be kept on a lead by their owners. It is not compulsory for dogs to wear a muzzle unless specifically required by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, such as "potentially dangerous" dogs. Its official list of "potentially dangerous" dogs includes German shepherd, Tibetan mastiff, Rottweiler and pit bull terrier.

During the meeting, the committee and the government also reached a consensus that any scientific experiments on animals must be officially approved in advance, and entities conducting such experi-



Lawmaker-cum-unionist Kwan Tsui Hang speaks to reporters after a closed-door meeting with government officials at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday.

Photo: Davis Ip

ments such as schools should be legally required to submit reports to the bureau afterwards, Kwan added.

According to IACM statistics, 11,240 dogs were licensed at the end of last year. ■

## Biden slams Trump's 'dangerous' anti-Mexico rhetoric

MEXICO CITY – US Vice President Joe Biden took a thinly-veiled swipe at Donald Trump yesterday, decrying during a visit to Mexico the Republican White House hopeful's "dangerous" rhetoric against the neighboring country.

Addressing Mexico's finance minister and other government officials, Biden said the message expressed about Mexicans and Mexico in the US election campaign was "disturbing," but that this episode of "xenophobia" would pass.

"Some of the rhetoric coming from some presidential candidates of the other team are I think

dangerous, damaging and incredibly ill-advised," Biden said.

"But here's what I'm here to tell you: They do not, they do not, they do not represent the view of the vast majority of the American people," he said.

"This too shall pass.... We have gone through these episodes of xenophobia but they have always been overcome."

Trump has angered Mexico from the start of his candidacy by declaring that the country was sending rapists across the border and that he would force the neighboring government to pay for a giant wall to keep illegal migrants out.

—AFP

## Top US general quizzed on Trump's torture pledges

WASHINGTON – A US lawmaker yesterday quizzed the American military's top general on whether he supported Donald Trump's pledges to torture terror suspects and "take out" their families.

Trump, who is the frontrunner to win the Republican presidential nomination, has made a series of controversial remarks about America's struggle with the Islamic State (IS) group and other jihadists.

Last week, he told a crowd in South Carolina that "waterboarding is fine, but it's not nearly tough enough," and last year he said that as president, he would order the United States to "take out" the families of terror suspects.

Speaking at a House Appropriations Committee meeting, Democratic Congresswoman Betty McCollum asked General Joe Dunford, the Pentagon's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, what he thought of Trump's "rants."

"He says he will use torture to help defeat ISIL, including things way beyond waterboarding," McCollum said, using an alternative abbreviation for the IS group.

"He says he will order our military to take out the families of Islamic terrorists. I presume that means directing the secretary of defense and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff to use men and women under your mil-

itary command to intentionally kill innocent family members including children."

But Defense Secretary Ashton Carter interjected before Dunford could answer, saying it would be inappropriate to comment on such matters.

"This is an election year," Carter said. "I feel very strongly that our department needs to stand apart from the electoral season."

Nonetheless, Dunford said he was proud to be in uniform because it represents "the values of the American people."

"I'm assuming the values of the American people do not include torture," McCollum said.

—AFP

## Thai newborn survives after being stabbed, buried alive

Thai police are hunting for the parents of a newborn infant who survived being stabbed multiple times and buried alive in a field, officers said yesterday.

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## BBC culture of 'fear' helped cloak Savile's sex abuse: inquiry

An inquiry released yesterday into sexual abuse at Britain's BBC by late presenter Jimmy Savile found a culture of "fear" around whistleblowing that helped him hide his crimes for decades and persists to this day.

Full story on p. 10

## Moody's cuts Brazil credit rating to junk

Moody's has become the third big agency to cut Brazil's credit rating to junk, citing mounting debt and political instability in Latin America's biggest country.

Full story on p. 11