

4A (15)

FUNG KWOK CHING

Part B

Question:

Your friend lives in a small flat in a high-rise building in a busy area of Hong Kong. Your friend wants to get a dog as a pet. You strongly disagree with the idea. You think it will be bad for your friend and for the animal.

Write a letter to your friend and support your arguments with reasons.

Dear Mary,

I recently heard that you have thoughts to keep a pet dog for company. I understand that living alone might feel lonely and that your dog could bring you more joy and plentifulness in life. However, I have several concerns about such an idea particularly in relation to whether your living environment is suitable to raising a pet, and thus I doubt whether it is suitable for you to get a dog.

Firstly, you live in a rather small flat. I think such a tiny place is hardly enough for you and your furniture to fit in. Now Imagine a dog is living there. Would there even be adequate space for you and your dog to move around? Would your dog feel content about living in such a cramped environment? Don't forget that you are going to need extra space for your dog's necessities such as dog food, feeding bowl, a cage or sleeping space, etc. Are you sure you are able make out these spaces for your dog?

Secondly, you live in a high-rise building right in the middle of a bustling area In Hong Kong. The lifts in your building are also quite small; neighbours who fear animals might feel uncomfortable taking the same lift with your dog and your dog might feel the same too if the lift was crowded and your dog is afraid of strangers being so close. Next, you are going to have to walk your dog every day -all dogs need walks, don't they? Going outside is the only time when dogs go to the poop- they don't do it at home. But in such a busy place like yours, crammed with so many people every day, is there a clear path for walking your dog? Can your dog find space to poop? There is indeed a park in your neighbourhood, but it doesn't allow entry of dogs – as many parks in Hang Kong don't. You don't have a car yet, so is it possible to travel to the nearest dog park, which is not at all close to you? Most public transport denies entry of pets.

Lastly, you must consider your financial capabilities of raising a pet. You have Just started a new job as stockbroker. You said that your salary largely depends on the commissions, which is unpredictable at the present time of economic turbulence. This presents a challenge for you to have a stable income to support your pet and yourself. Besides, you still need to pay back your student loan debts at university. Would you be able to handle all this at such a young age? Not to mention, you will have to spend lots of time with your dog, or it will feel lonely and isolated too. Time is also something you require for your own work, and in such a competitive environment, you are expected to work over time for better performance. Consider whether you have enough time for work and your dog.

To sum up at such a young age, you will encounter many difficulties when trying to keep a dog as a pet. Well, the decision is yours, but I doubt if you can handle that at this point. You are going to need time. Maybe you Can consider getting a pet when you move into larger flat in the future?

Best wishes,

Chris Wong