

- 2. 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.

Hi Peter,

I hope this letter finds you well. I heard that you really want a dog. However, I think that your current living condition isn't suitable for one. It would be harmful for you and your dog. I would like to give you some advice on what to do instead.

Firstly, dogs are high-maintenance needing animals. They not only require a lot of living space, but also daily walks. A small flat in a high-rise building just isn't enough space for a dog. You would have to take it on daily walks, which can be usually in commercial areas or streets packed with vehicles and people. This wouldn't only negatively affect your dog, but you too! The dog would not have enough space to move freely, and it may defecate everywhere, if you forget to take it out. This would turn your house into a messy, dirty and stinky warehouse. You can imagine how tiring it would be when you have to complete your homework, clean the dog's faeces and take it on daily walks.

Secondly, there are many other interactable pets that require less maintenance and space. Cats, for example, are quite independent. They don't have to be brought on daily walks and they defecate in the cat bins. This would mean less work and tidier houses. However, they shed their fur often, so it would be advisable to groom them often. Hamsters are also good choices. They are small, cute and can be kept in an enclosure. It would be easy to clean their enclosure, and your house wouldn't be filled with faeces everywhere. Cats and hamsters are some examples of low-maintenance pets. You can interact and cuddle with them, while reducing the mess. They would also be relatively happy even if they not have much living space.

Lastly, if you are really keen on having a dog, you should move to a bigger house. Housing prices is expensive in Hong Kong. You should persuade your parents to move to village houses in the New Territories, such as Yuen long or Tuen Mun. The environment and air conditions in these areas are much more suitable for having dogs. There is a lot of spare in village houses. Many houses in these areas have gardens and parks to bring your dog to. You would be able to consume healthy grass and defecate at tree barks, fertilising the trees. Your dog would live a happier life, while you wouldn't have such a heavy burden.

In conclusion, if you plan to continue living in the high-rise building, you shouldn't keep a dog. They require a lot of space and daily walks. Instead, adopt for low-maintenance, low-small-spaced pets, such as cats and hamsters. They are interactable, independent and do not require much living space. However, if you really want to have a pet dog, it is advisable that you move to a bigger house. This way, your dog would be able to live a happier life, while your burden wouldn't be as high. Remember, we are only truly happy if our fur pets are also happy and healthy. Keep only what is favourable to your environment to ensure your and your pet's happiness.

I hope you would take my advice seriously, and I wish you all the best in the making of your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong