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Chief Executive Mr Chui Sai On met with the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals' (Anima) president, Albano Martins, last Wednesday to discuss measures for cooperation between the government and Anima to guarantee the protection of animals in the territory.

With animal welfare being the main objective of Anima, Albano Martins emphasized the importance of the role of government in the cause of animal welfare, mentioning the need to create legislation in this area.

Anima's president presented some suggestions for legal measures, for example, concerning punishment for animal abuse and neglect, and highlighted the work already being done by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) on animal protection, such as capture procedures for the territory's abandoned animals.

The organization directed an open letter last year to IACM to suggest solutions, other than the killing of abandoned animals in Macau, which was reaffirmed this Wednesday, noting Anima's stand against it. "Anima offers protection and shelter to reduce the number of animals on the territory's streets, and we believe sterilization would be enough", stated Albano Martins at the meeting.

The president of Anima also offered other suggestions including requiring professional qualifications for veterinarians, licenses for pets, vaccination, adoption and regulation of pet shops.

Chief Executive Mr Chui Sai On said that the government also cares for the territory's animal welfare, and is now proceeding with legislation and is considering the feasibility of the suggestions made by Anima. Furthermore, the government will take as reference regulations from other countries and regions; emphasizing however that establishing new legislation takes time and the maintenance of dialogue with associations is crucial.