



本署檔案 OUR REF. : () in AF GR LSK

來函檔案 YOUR REF : ()

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12 March 2013

“Trap-Neuter-Return” Trial Scheme for Stray Dog

The Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department (AFCD) is dedicated to manage and control stray animal population in Hong Kong. Each year, we receive over 15,000 complaints about stray animal nuisances. These include noise nuisance, environmental hygiene problems as well as complaints about public health and safety. It is AFCD's duty to take prompt actions to minimize such nuisances and safeguard public health and safety. To address the problem of stray animal nuisance, AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach including the removal of stray animals and promoting responsible pet ownership through publicity and education programmes.

In the past few years, the concept of “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) has been widely promoted by Animal Welfare Organisations (AWO) as an alternative to the catch and removal strategy. TNR aims to control the population of stray animals by developing allowing designated carers to conduct daily feeding and caring for the animals, then catching and neutering them before returning them to their original habitat until they die of natural causes. Over the years, AWOs have advocated strongly for TNR to be adopted in Hong Kong for stray dogs. They reckon that this would be a viable way to control stray dog population while safeguarding animal welfare. Whilst the implementation of dog TNR has legal implication in Hong Kong and we are not aware of any example worldwide that have scientifically and categorically pointed to the success of TNR for dogs, we are prepared to allow some AWOs to conduct a pilot scheme to assess its effectiveness in controlling the stray dog population in selected areas in Hong Kong. Upon receiving community support, we will assist the relevant AWOs in devising the details of the trial scheme, provide technical support and advice to them in the implementation and prepare necessary legal instrument for them to implement the trial scheme, as well as collaborate with them in the monitoring and evaluation of the outcome of the trial scheme. To this end, we have been actively discussing with the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and the Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA) on identifying suitable sites.

We believe that even if we decide to implement the trial scheme, its effectiveness will very much hinge on a number of factors, including the support of residents of the district concerned, whether a free population of stray dogs will create nuisances and danger to themselves and to the local public in the vicinity and whether we can prevent irresponsible owners from abandoning dogs in the area.

Cheung Chau is one of the recommended areas for carrying out the TNR trial scheme. Since your organization/committee/owner's corporation is located in Cheung Chau, I would be grateful if you could represent your organisation, committee or owner's corporation to kindly indicate if you support the implementation of the TNR trial scheme in your area and provide any comments.

In addition, we have also arranged a consultation seminar for this purpose (for details, please see the attached reply slip) where the AWOs who proposed this scheme will explain in details the implementation of this trial to various stakeholders. If you or your organisation representatives would like to attend the seminar to know more about the trial and directly express your views, please complete the attached reply slip and indicate your choice of date in attending the seminar before 19 March 2013 and fax, email or post to the following address. If you or your organisation representatives cannot not attend either one of the consultation seminars, we would appreciate that you kindly fill out the enclosed return slip and indicate if you support the trial scheme and provide your written comments if any, by sending it to the following contacts:

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department,
Animal Management (Operations) Division,
5th floor, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon
Email : amchq1@afcd.gov.hk
Fax : 2152 0320

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 2150 7067.



(W.M. SO)

for Director of Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation

Reply Slip

To : AFCD

“Trap-Neuter-Release” Pilot Scheme for Stray Dog
Comments Reply Slip

District: Cheung Chau

1. I/We will / will not* attend the seminar on 23 March 2013 (Saturday) at Cheung Chau Praya Sports Centre from 3:00pm to 4:30 pm. (Please indicate the number of persons attending _____ persons)
2. I/We support / object* to the implementation of the trial scheme in the captioned area

Name: _____ (optional) Contact telephone No : _____ (optional)

Organization: _____ (optional)

Please return this reply slip to the following address:

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Animal Management (Operations) Division,
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303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon
Email : amchq1@afcd.gov.hk
Fax : 2152 0320

If you have any comments or suggestions, please kindly input in the space below:

* Delete whichever is inapplicable