

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Safeguarding animal rights”  
moved by Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
at the Council meeting of 28 June 2017**

At the Legislative Council meeting of 28 June 2017, the motion on “safeguarding animal rights” as amended by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG, Hon Jeremy TAM, Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon CHAN Hak-kan was passed. The full text of the motion is at the Annex. At the meeting, the Government responded to the major issues raised in the motion. This report briefs Members on the follow-up work by the Food and Health Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Environment Bureau, the Home Affairs Bureau, the Security Bureau as well as the Transport and Housing Bureau.

Related to enacting legislation on animal protection and amending the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A)

2. The Government protects animal welfare and health through various pieces of legislation. We have been closely monitoring the international trends and local situations, with a view to reviewing and improving the related legislation, and ensuring the content of legislative provisions could meet the relevant objectives.

3. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) is the primary legislation for safeguarding animal welfare, which mainly relates to the prohibition and punishment of acts of animal cruelty. Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), any person who, by wantonly or unreasonably doing or omitting to do any act, causes any unnecessary suffering to any animal commits an offence, and may be liable to be prosecuted.

4. We have made reference to the legislation related to animal cruelty in other places, including Queensland and New South Wales in Australia, California in the United States, and Singapore, etc. The definition of “cruelty to animals” in the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) is by and large comparable to that adopted by the above-mentioned places, and its maximum penalty is heavier than that in most of them. The current provisions and penalty level are effective in deterring against acts of animal cruelty.

5. Under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421), a keeper of an animal who, without a reasonable excuse, abandons that animal commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for six months. In addition, the keeper of a dog and any person who fails to control his/her dog properly by allowing it to loiter in public places commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. In taking an enforcement action, in the absence of any witnesses or if the evidence gathered is not sufficient to go beyond the threshold of “reasonable doubt” to substantiate a case for prosecution against abandonment of the animal, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will consider other possible enforcement actions, including prosecuting the keeper of a dog on his/her failure to control the dog properly. In 2016 and the first half year of 2017, AFCD has initiated 213 and 140 prosecutions against failure to keep dogs under control respectively.

6. As the motives and underlying reasons for committing the offences vary in different cases, it may not be appropriate to require everyone convicted of animal cruelty or animal abandonment offences to receive mandatory psychological counselling or courses on animal welfare. Apart from regulation and penalty under the law, we consider that education and publicity should help reduce the number of animal cruelty and animal abandonment cases. AFCD has established a dedicated team to devise and implement education and publicity programmes for promoting responsible pet ownership, including appealing to the public to carefully consider whether they are able to take life-long care of the pet before purchasing one, and not to gratuitously abandon animals or surrender them to the authority for handling. The survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department in 2011 and the information of AFCD showed the effectiveness of efforts of AFCD in education and publicity - the number of people who had considered giving up their pets reduced by half comparing with that in 2005. AFCD will continue to strengthen their efforts in publicity and education.

7. In addition, to enhance public understanding about how to take proper care of animals and be a responsible keeper, AFCD was consolidating information for public reference on keeping different animals, such as dogs, cats, reptiles and small mammals, etc. Part of the information has already been uploaded onto AFCD’s website. Together with members of the Animal Welfare Advisory Group, AFCD will continue to compile codes of practice for keeping different animals; to promote public education, with a view to safeguarding animal welfare.

8. Regarding the proposal of making microchip implantation of all cats mandatory, under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), all dogs are required to be vaccinated and licensed, primarily having regard to the relatively high risk of pet dogs spreading rabies. It is necessary to prevent and control the spread of rabies by dogs for public health considerations. Pet cats on the other hand present a lower risk of contracting and spreading rabies in the community than dogs. While the current legislation does not require cats to be vaccinated or microchipped, cat owners may take their cats to practising veterinary surgeons for vaccination against feline epidemic diseases and/or rabies and microchipping for identification purposes.

9. Regarding the suggestion related to the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374), we are reviewing the matter with reference to the practices in overseas jurisdictions, and will, upon the conclusion of the review, consider amending the legislation to bring dogs and cats within that Ordinance.

#### Combating cases of animal cruelty

10. Currently, a total of 13 police districts in Hong Kong have assigned dedicated investigation teams to handle cases of animal cruelty. Depending on manpower deployment, the nature and severity of cases and the crime trend of the district concerned, the commander of each police district may consider assigning crime cases related to animal cruelty to dedicated teams for investigation and analysis where necessary in the future.

11. At present, all cases of animal cruelty will be handled by criminal investigation teams, whose members have received specialised training and possess sufficient experience and investigation skills to follow up such cases. All cases handled by criminal investigation teams will be supervised by a Chief Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Division to ensure consistency in investigation practices and attainment of professional standard required by the Police.

12. The investigation of cases of animal cruelty involves a wide spectrum of expertise, such as evidence collection, production of proof and prosecution, veterinary inspections, toxicology tests, care and follow-up for cruelly treated animals, as well as the handling of animal carcasses. In light of this, the Police will continue to enhance their close cooperation with AFCD, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals (SPCA), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the School of Veterinary Medicine of the City University of Hong Kong, veterinarian associations and other stakeholders under the “multi-agency approach” framework of the Animal Watch Scheme (AWS) and seek assistance from relevant professional departments or organisations where necessary. Frontline law enforcement officers are empowered to enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and take prompt action to rescue the animals from persistent unnecessary suffering. Apart from that, the Police will also continue to enhance the capability of officers in handling cases of animal cruelty, foster their awareness of such acts and advise relevant policy bureaux based on their law enforcement experience.

13. Besides, in order to reinforce the investigation of cases of animal cruelty, the Police launched the AWS in 2011, inviting staff from AFCD and SPCA to share their experience in handling abused animals and help frontline officers keep abreast of relevant trend.

14. Also, the Police College has instructed officers about the crime of animal cruelty and the professional knowledge and skills required for the investigation of such cases in various training courses. The Police have also introduced relevant e-learning software as a learning platform for officers to enhance their knowledge and capability in handling the crime of animal cruelty.

15. Apart from calling the government hotline 1823 to report suspected animal cruelty cases to AFCD or the dedicated hotline (999) of the Police, the public may also report such cases to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals via its 24-hour hotline (2711 1000) so as to facilitate law enforcement officers in their work.

#### Regulating animal breeding and trading activities

16. The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), which has come into effect since March this year, aims to strengthen the regulation of animal trading, as well as dog breeding and trading activities through a licensing regime. Dogs are firstly covered in the new regulatory framework mainly out of the consideration that dogs are the most popular pets. Based on the number of convicted and investigated cases handled by AFCD in the past, the welfare of dogs is compromised more often than other species. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the regulatory framework as and when appropriate, and consider whether it is necessary to extend the coverage

of the regulation to other pets in the future.

17. To enhance the health and immunity of dogs for sale, the code of practice attached to the new licence stipulates that all dogs shall undergo a veterinary examination no more than 30 days prior to sale and must receive two vaccinations, in order to enhance the dogs' antibody level. A sick dog must be kept isolated and undergo appropriate treatment from a registered veterinary surgeon. It must be kept away from public contact until fully recovered. The licensee also has to advise a new dog owner to take the dog to a registered veterinary surgeon for a thorough physical examination within a few days for further advice on care, vaccination and deworming treatments.

18. In addition, the code of practice attached to the new licence also stipulates that the licensee must notify a new dog owner in writing in the contract if there are any guarantees (such as returning the dog) offered to the buyer relevant to the purchase of the dog and the circumstances under which such guarantees would be applicable.

#### Handling and adopting stray animals

19. We encourage members of the public to adopt animals which would help reduce the stray animal population and safeguard their welfare. AFCD will assess the stray animals caught. For those in good health, with gentle temperament and suitable for re-homing, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to Animal Welfare Organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons will be euthanised. In fact, a number of international animal organisations (including the World Organisation for Animal Health) endorse that where various measures have been implemented and yet the stray dogs caught remain high in number or not suitable for re-homing, euthanasia would be an appropriate and humane solution in the circumstances.

20. AFCD attaches great importance to the environmental hygiene of the animal management centres (Centres) and the health of the animals kept there. Each Centre is disinfected and cleansed on a regular basis. As the Centres are used for animal quarantine purpose, they are normally not open for visits by the public out of biosecurity considerations.

21. AFCD has been collaborating with AWOs to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. There are currently 16 AWOs under AFCD's re-homing scheme. They are all

non-profit-making AWOs with good track records and in different districts throughout the territory in providing animal re-homing service. AFCD's partnership with these AWOs to provide adoption services of animals received could provide more locations to service the public and better meet the current demands of the community. Detailed information on re-homing arrangements is available on AFCD's website to encourage the public to adopt stray animals through AWOs. AFCD will also enhance public awareness of the re-homing arrangements through regular publicity and education activities.

22. Noting that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit since 2011. AFCD has set aside \$1.5 million in 2017-18 to provide financial assistance to support AWOs, covering the cost of neutering service for animals re-homed, and for the improvement of animal re-homing centres, etc.

23. Regarding the suggestion of introducing legislation to regulate animal shelters, the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) stipulates that any person who, by wantonly or unreasonably doing or omitting to do any act, causes any unnecessary suffering to any animal commits an offence. Also, it sets out the basic conditions required for animals in captivity and being conveyed or carried, protecting welfare of animals kept at shelters.

24. Under the "Capture-Sterilise-Relocate" (CSR) Programme, before deciding to relocate cattle to relatively remote locations in the same district, AFCD would first conduct on-site inspections to ensure that sufficient grass, water, woods and open ground are available at the target locations for cattle to consume, dwell and roam freely. Target locations also have to be distant from the urban areas, so as to prevent the relocated cattle from returning to the town and roads, thereby reducing cattle nuisance to the public and the occurrence of traffic accidents. Before implementation of the CSR Programme, there had already been wild cattle dwelling within the Sai Kung Country Park. Upon assessment, AFCD considered the vast site could satisfy the basic needs of cattle, hence suitable for cattle to stay. The relocated cattle could roam freely in the Country Park. There are edible plants and shelters in the Country Park, and would not be any food shortage and habitat issues. In 2018 and 2019, AFCD will commission a consultancy study again to thorough survey the number and distribution of stray cattle in Hong Kong, to evaluate the overall progress and effectiveness of the CSR Programme.

25. As for the study on installation of cattle grid(s) in the Sai Kung Country Park, AFCDD is consulting the departments concerned, including the Transport Department (TD) and the Highways Department, on the possible location(s), their technical feasibility, practicability, and impacts on pedestrians and other road users of the installation. According to TD, cattle grids are used in farms on private land in overseas countries to prevent cattle from going outside the farms. In view of the overseas experience in such designs, there are potential safety hazards to road users if they are installed on public roads. AFCDD will continue to liaise with departments concerned.

26. Moreover, the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs, commenced in 2015, will be completed in 2018. AFCDD will closely monitor the progress and consider the way forward after the completion of the trial programme.

#### Keeping dogs at construction sites

27. For the safety of the staff of construction sites and safeguarding the welfare of the dogs kept at construction sites, a code of practice has been established by AFCDD to lay down the control measures for such sites with dogs. The code of practice reminds those responsible for the dogs about the legal requirement that all dogs over five months of age should be microchipped, licensed and vaccinated against rabies. It also advises that, upon closure of a site or when the site is no longer compatible for dog keeping, the dogs must be re-homed or moved to a new location.

28. Pursuant to the powers under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), the Buildings Department is responsible for the enforcement of the safety and health standards for the planning, design and construction of buildings and associated works on private land. The Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) also sets therein the building design and construction standards for structural safety, fire safety and health aspects, and the control on the safety and quality supervision of building works on construction sites.

29. As the keeping of dogs on construction sites does not involve safety and quality supervision of building works on construction sites, this matter is not within the purview of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). Nevertheless, AFCDD and the Buildings Department will actively

promote the above code of practice to the construction industry and encourage compliance by all relevant parties, with a view to safeguarding the health and welfare of dogs.

### Pet food

30. To enable us to assess, whether and the extent to which the safety of pet food is a concern, AFCD will commission a study to test the safety of pet food available in Hong Kong's market shortly. The study is expected to take three years to complete.

31. In addition, the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) prohibits any person from applying false or misleading trade descriptions to goods in the course of trade or business. This Ordinance applies to general goods including pet food, while "trade description" covers information such as composition and place of origin. The public may report to the Customs and Excise Department on any suspected cases of false trade descriptions in relation to pet food.

### Increasing activity space in the communities for the integration of animals and human beings

32. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) all along adopts a proactive approach to address the demand of dog owners for more pet gardens. The number of pet gardens managed by LCSD in the 18 districts across the territory has increased from 19 to 44 between 2010-11 and July 2017. Dedicated facilities such as pet latrines and pet excreta collection bins, etc., are provided in pet gardens, some of which are also provided with pet playing equipment. At present, pet accesses are also provided in eight parks (including six venues provided with pet gardens) to meet the needs of the public. LCSD will consult the District Councils concerned and the local community on the provision of facilities in planning new park and actively respond to their demand for pet garden. LCSD plans to establish six new pet gardens in 2017 and 2018, and will continue to identify more suitable venues in the existing or planned parks for the provision of more pet gardens to cater for the demand of dog owners.

33. As regards allowing passengers to travel on public transport with pets, according to the Transport and Housing Bureau and TD, public transport services have heavy usage in Hong Kong, which make up around 90% of all passenger journeys and carry over 12 million



passenger trips per day on average. There are at present no restrictions under our legislation for regulating different modes of public transport in respect of boarding by guide dogs accompanying the visually impaired for their journeys on public transport. Our legislation also let operators of public light buses, taxis, non-franchised bus and ferries decide themselves on whether passengers are permitted to board with their pets. As regards railway and franchised buses, the by-laws and regulations concerned prohibit passengers from boarding trains and buses with pets (other than guide dogs accompanying the visually impaired). As MTR and buses are respectively our underground and road-based mass carriers, their patronage is high and the space in their compartments is limited. They can be rather congested at times. In considering whether passengers should be permitted to board public transport with their pets, we have to balance the needs of different stakeholders, including considering the reaction of pets in a crowded and confined environment as well as the impact on other passengers.

34. In addition, conducting a trial scheme on franchised buses will involve legislative amendments, and the concerns of various stakeholders such as passengers, operators and frontline staff should also be taken into account. TD will continue to keep in view the views of the public and stakeholders on this issue so as to consider whether there should be any changes to the existing arrangements.

#### Publicity and public education

35. Publicity and public education are crucial for promoting animal welfare. AFCD has set up a dedicated team to devise, implement and fortify public education and publicity programmes for disseminating the message of responsible pet ownership. In the past year, AFCD held over 90 talks at schools to convey to students messages such as care for animals and protection of animal welfare. Moreover, AFCD also took part in six education and publicity activities co-organised by other voluntary groups. AFCD will continue to work with AWOs to strengthen its efforts in promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

36. The Education Bureau (EDB) has always attached great importance to values education. Among the seven priority values and attitudes, care for others, respect for others, responsibility and commitment can help students develop the appropriate values and attitudes towards animals. The topic 'protecting animals' has been included in the school curriculum. For example, the core elements in

General Studies curriculum at the primary level have already covered the learning objectives of ‘developing a caring attitude towards animals and plants’ and ‘showing respect and care for living things’. Ethics and Religious Studies at the secondary level helps students explore the ethics of animal experimentation etc. Moreover, schools have made use of different learning opportunities to provide students with life-wide learning experience so as to nurture students’ values and attitudes in related aspects. To support learning and teaching, related materials have already been uploaded to EDB One-stop Portal for Learning & Teaching Resources. EDB also organises professional development programmes jointly with related organisations and supports them to organise activities to disseminate the message of ‘care about animals and respect life’.

37. With the aim of encouraging pet owners to have their animals neutered, AFCD provides free neutering services for all animals re-homed, , including cats, dogs and rabbits, through its partner organisations; as well as financial support for AWOs offering pet neutering services at low costs or for free. AFCD will continue to step up the promotion of responsible pet ownership, which includes having pets neutered to reduce the risks of diseases of reproductive organs and unintended pregnancy.

38. In regard to the present state of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong, the report of a consultancy study on the development of the profession commissioned by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) was released on 2 May 2017. The study has provided an overview of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong. The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong has increased from about 400 in 2005 to over 800 in 2016, while the number of dogs and cats kept as pets has increased from about 297,000 to 511,000 during the same period. The study shows that the veterinarian-to-pet ratio, which reflects the overall situation of veterinary services, has improved. Apart from their basic veterinary qualifications, over one-third of the registered veterinary surgeons have veterinary post-graduate or specialist qualifications. Over three-quarters of the registered veterinary surgeons have experience of five years or more in practicing. A vast majority of the registered veterinary surgeons working in Hong Kong have indicated that they plan to practise in Hong Kong on a long-term basis. The study has also found that there are about 240 Hong Kong veterinary students at overseas universities, and about 60% of them intend to come back to Hong Kong for practice within three years of graduation. According to the findings of the consultancy study, there is no sign of potential shortage of veterinary surgeons in general practice in Hong Kong. The

full text of the report is available on VSB's website ([www.vsbhk.org.hk/eng/what\\_news.asp](http://www.vsbhk.org.hk/eng/what_news.asp)).

39. Moreover, local institutions, e.g. the City University of Hong Kong and the Open University of Hong Kong, offer programmes such as Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing/Higher Diploma in Veterinary Nursing respectively, so as to provide training for veterinary related healthcare professionals. Any person who are interested in veterinary nursing work may choose a suitable training programme according to his/her needs.

#### Animal facilities and hospice services

40. Regarding animal hospice services, just as in any other trade, such operators are required to comply with all relevant legislations and land lease terms. At present, we have no plan to impose a licensing regime on such services.

41. At present, FEHD provides some 450 dog latrines and 1,800 dog excreta collection bins in public places. Compared to the same period last year, the number of dog excreta collection bins has increased by more than 20. FEHD will review regularly and if necessary, increase the number of facilities and clean-up frequencies in the light of the actual situation.

#### Handling wild pigs

42. Wild pigs are widespread in Hong Kong and live in natural environment. However, if they can easily acquire food from human feeding or food remains in litterbins, they may become habituated to search for food in residential or public areas. While wild pigs are generally secretive and wary of human contact, they may become aggressive and attack humans if provoked or threatened. Therefore, their potential risk to public safety should not be underestimated.

43. In the past few years, there has been an increase of complaints about the nuisance of wild pigs in residential areas. For the areas where wild pigs frequent, AFCD will advise the relevant property management companies or Government departments to take preventive measures including the removal of the food sources of wild pigs and stop feeding them. Since wild pigs may pose threat to the safety of the public, AFCD will notify the Civilian Hunting Teams to arrange hunting operation as appropriate if the nuisance persists and preventive measures are not

effective. Therefore, AFCD considers that it is necessary to retain the Civilian Hunting Teams as one of the measures to handle the persisting wild pig nuisance. At present, hunting is generally adopted by countries around the world as an effective measure to control the population of wild pigs.

44. On the other hand, in response to different public opinions regarding the method of handling the wild pig nuisance, AFCD is adopting a “Sedate, Capture and Relocate” approach on a trial basis to cope with the problem. Besides, AFCD will introduce an immuno-contraceptive vaccine for mammals by the end of this year with a view to controlling the wild pig population in the long term. AFCD is consulting local and overseas experts in finalising the study plan. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the measures remain to be assessed.

45. To facilitate the control of wild pig population and reduce conflict between human and wild pigs, AFCD will review the procedures of handling wild pig nuisance cases. Local and overseas wildlife experts and ecologists will be invited to share experience and provide advice to establish a more comprehensive wild pig management action plan.

#### Strengthening the management of endangered species

46. The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species, and strictly regulates the trade of endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The legal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong is authorised and monitored through a license/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. Holders of the Licence to Possess must display their Licences at conspicuous position in the keeping premises in accordance to the conditions of the licence. AFCD will check the relevant goods and inspect the retail stores to ensure the regulations are followed by the traders. Regarding live animals, AFCD inspected about 600 shops in 2016, and about 230 shops in the first half of 2017 which is about 20% more than the same period in the previous year.

47. Public education and publicity have been a vital part of AFCD’s ongoing efforts in the implementation of CITES and the protection of endangered species in Hong Kong. Every year, AFCD organises a series of education and publicity events to enhance the publicity on the

relevant controls on endangered species, including disseminating information through media and the internet, organising various exhibitions, distributing leaflets and posters to traders, tourists and citizens, as well as giving specific advice to traders through seminars, circular letters and regular shop visits.

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Safeguarding animal rights”  
moved by Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
at the Council meeting of 28 June 2017**

**Motion as amended by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG, Hon Jeremy TAM,  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon CHAN Hak-kan**

That in view of our society’s growing concern over animal rights, this Council has passed legislative amendments to increase penalties for cruelty to animals, but animal cruelty cases still keep occurring; Hong Kong’s animal welfare policy lags far behind that of other places, and definitions in the relevant legislation are based on concepts in the early part of the last century; since the Administration has failed to implement an ‘animal-friendly policy’, there is insufficient animal-friendly space in the communities, resulting in the euthanization of more than 10 000 animals a year; to safeguard animal rights, this Council urges the Government to:

- (1) draw reference from the relevant legislation in other places to expeditiously enact legislation on providing comprehensive animal protection, with contents covering affirmation of the definition of animal cruelty, inclusion of the concept of ‘a duty of animal care’, and the classification of abandonment of animals (including non-mammalians) as an act of animal cruelty, and amend the Rabies Ordinance to make microchip implantation of all cats mandatory;
- (2) step up enforcement actions against unlicensed animal breeding facilities, enhance the inspection power of law enforcement officers, consult the public on extending the regulatory system for animal registration and breeding to cover cats and other animals commonly kept as pets, and draw up a timetable for further tightening the regulation of sale of animals;
- (3) study and follow other countries’ practice of establishing specialized teams of ‘animal police’ in the 23 police districts throughout Hong Kong to investigate animal cruelty cases, with a view to curbing animal cruelty;
- (4) comprehensively take forward the scheme of ‘Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return’ in various districts, enhance the transparency of handling stray animals by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, actively

pursue the setting up of a central animal adoption centre under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and consider providing funding as well as sites for non-governmental organizations to set up animal adoption centres, so as to minimize the euthanization of stray cats and dogs due to insufficient facilities and manpower;

- (5) increase activity space in the communities for the integration of animals and human beings, including exploring the feasibility of providing more parks and leisure venues admitting animals, such as requiring the provision of dog parks when formulating development plan for new development areas, and permitting passengers to bring along their pets in pet carriers (bags or cases) when travelling on public transport, and consider conducting a trial programme on franchised buses first;
- (6) step up publicity and public education, including studying the inclusion of the subject of animal care in school curricula, and collaborating with community organizations to promote animal-friendly measures;
- (7) streamline the existing animal adoption procedure of requiring applications to be made via community organizations, so as to encourage people to adopt instead of buying animals;
- (8) expeditiously disband the two wild pig hunting teams under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department comprising civilian volunteers with arms licences issued by the Police, require that upon receipt of a report on wild pig nuisance, the staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department should only take the wild pigs back to the wild by tranquilization and leading, and expeditiously conduct a comprehensive study on the wild pigs in Hong Kong to give the public an understanding of the ecological information about wild pigs;
- (9) explore requiring safety supervisors of construction sites to be responsible for handling matters relating to the behaviours and welfare of the dogs kept on their construction sites, and strictly require contractors of construction sites to comply with the 'Code of Practice for Keeping Dogs on Construction Sites' issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department; and
- (10) expeditiously explore formulating a conservation programme for stray cattle, including ascertaining the habits of different cattle herds and the areas they frequent for the purpose of weighing the pros and cons of the 'Capture-Sterilize-Relocate' Programme for stray cattle, identifying

suitable sites for installing additional cattle grids, improving the soil of cattle relocation sites to facilitate their adaptation, and building additional cowsheds and cattle paths etc. to provide them with more effective protection;

- (11) set up an 'animal welfare fund' for application by non-profit-making or charitable organizations, so as to promote animal welfare-related matters;
- (12) increase the criminal liabilities for the act of abandoning animals, and explore imposing other penalties on offenders, such as requiring them to receive psychological counselling and attend courses on animal welfare, and forbidding them to keep animals for a period of time;
- (13) explore empowering frontline officers to take appropriate rescue actions on animals in danger;
- (14) enhance the training of frontline enforcement officers on handling cases of animal cruelty and their awareness of such cases, enhance the knowledge of prosecutors on animal welfare-related legislation to ensure the strict enforcement of the legislation;
- (15) actively encourage the public to neuter animals and adopt animals, refrain from using euthanization as a means to control the number of stray cats and dogs, and explore the enactment of legislation to regulate animal shelters to ensure their compliance with animal welfare requirements;
- (16) explore the enactment of dedicated legislation on deliberate acts of animal poisoning and actively examine the investigation and prosecution procedures on related offences, so as to ensure that offenders are brought to justice; and
- (17) ensure vendors sell healthy animals, and explore introducing a cooling-off period for the sale of animals;
- (18) increase the minimum penalties for animal cruelty cases to reflect the social concern about offences of animal cruelty;
- (19) improve the hygiene conditions in the animal management centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, allow Legislative Council Members, District Council members and animal welfare organizations to regularly inspect these centres, and increase the number of qualified animal adoption organizations;



- (20) set up a 'dedicated hotline for reporting animal cruelty', with the Police conducting proactive investigation into animal cruelty cases reported or disseminated by the public;
- (21) provide subsidy to the public to neuter the animals they keep and train up more veterinarians and related health care personnel;
- (22) amend the Road Traffic Ordinance to require that, apart from having to stop after their vehicles have hit any horse, cattle, donkey, mule, sheep, pig or goat, drivers must also stop their vehicles and report to the Police after hitting any cat or dog;
- (23) increase the numbers of public toilets for dogs and dog excreta collection bins in public places, and step up the frequency of cleaning these facilities;
- (24) step up publicity on endangered species and the relevant regulatory system, and require that animal traders must provide appropriate labels for distinguishing endangered species and provide buyers with points to note on keeping endangered species, so as to strengthen the management of endangered animals;
- (25) explore regulating food products for pets and imposing the requirement of affixing composition labelling on these products, so as to protect the health of animals; and
- (26) explore regulating animal hospice services through licensing.