

19/04/2017



Feral Cattle Care and Welfare Issues in Sai Kung
西貢野生牛隻關注及福利問題



TO: All members of the Animal Rights Subcommittee, Legco

致：立法會動物權益小組委員會會員

CC: AWAG (Animal Welfare Advisory Group)

Summary

Since 2009 and 2013 respectively, Sai Kung Buffalo Watch (SKBW) and Sai Kung Cattle Angel (SKCA), after a tumultuous beginning, have been working alongside the Agricultural and Fisheries Conservation Department (AFCD) cattle management team, to uphold the health and welfare of Sai Kung's feral, free roaming cattle. SKBW's co-founders have called Sai Kung home for over 25 years each, so conservation of these animals is as much a concern to us, as it is for others.

With a new year upon us and a new panel of legislators seemingly concerned about animals through the 'Animal Rights Subcommittee' - as well as recent media reports regarding concern for Sai Kung's cattle, we felt this an opportune time to communicate with you regarding the past, current and future welfare of the cattle in Sai Kung and our vision for their continued care and management.

There is deep emotional attachment to these animals by many - which SKBW and SKCA do understand. We obviously feel the same about these wonderful creatures. However, there is a point at which the anthropocentric beliefs of some of other individuals, end up being more about their feelings and beliefs and doing more damage than good. What makes us feel good - isn't always what is best for the cattle. This is not to say that over the last 8 years, we haven't all needed to learn and adapt to change. No decision made regarding the cattle is taken lightly. We know and appreciate the efforts of the AFCD Cattle management to consult experts, conduct research and learn from past experiences.

Others keep throwing around the term 'community' cattle. Yes, many in the community care about them and enjoy their presence, but can also see the reasoning behind having to relocate them at times and also understand the need to not humanise them with supplementary feeding, coddling and unnecessary human interference. Added to that, there are some in the Sai Kung community with interests in development of Sai Kung (which we do not generally support) and also those who do not like or appreciate the presence of the feral cattle. This is a reality. Development of Sai Kung is rampant, and while other individuals want to use the cattle to stop development, SKBW and SKCA disagree with making them a political 'pawn' and see a need to at times move some of the cattle to keep numbers within the village environments manageable but most importantly to keep them safe from abuse. We have had cases of cut tails, feral cattle being beaten with brooms and sticks, being shoo'ed away from village areas and being chased after by loosely owned village dogs, as well as being irresponsibly shoo'ed directly into high traffic roads. While efforts are made to keep herds together, this is at times not possible, mainly due to transport vehicles previously available being insufficient for multiple animals to be transported safely or when returning individuals to a herd puts them back into an environment where they have a high risk of injury or death.

To be clear, SKBW and SKCA do not want all the cattle moved from all over Sai Kung into the Sai Kung country park - but when the opportunity presents itself to place some cattle into the country park to manage the numbers within the villages, we do agree with this.

In regards to the cattle from the Nai Chung, Che Ha, Tin Liu and Kwun Hang herd(s), they were collected initially by AFCD's cattle management team due to injury. No other reason. Treatment in the field for these feral cattle has many complications which AFCD can explain further, but SKBW and SKCA insist that any and all cattle with injuries which could impact upon their life, be treated by qualified and registered veterinarians, most commonly from the AFCD cattle management team, as they have the most experience in Hong Kong working with these animals for a number of years now, are constantly updating their knowledge and skills in regards to managing the feral cattle and we are confident in their knowledge and skills to treat these animals.

Recently actions by certain individuals, feeding, touching, approaching, trying to spray treatments on and generally disturbing the cattle have caused SKBW and SKCA great concern. Whatever these people are used to doing with the cattle on Lantau and other parts of Hong Kong, is not what the Sai Kung cattle are used to, nor what they need. We feel that humanising the cattle will be detrimental to their long term existence and care and we hope to ensure that the cattle of Sai Kung can remain free-roaming, have reduced human and traffic conflict, reduced interference from perhaps well meaning people and we will continue to monitor the herds around the Sai Kung region. We wish to see those in the communities and villages of Sai Kung continue to enjoy the presence of the feral cattle near their areas, but also to ensure that the safety of the cattle is held paramount. Should some feral cattle need to be relocated or returned to an area different from where they were collected, SKBW and SKCA will continue to discuss these relocations with AFCD's cattle management team and do our best alongside the cattle management team to monitor any and all activities involving Sai Kung's feral cattle.

There is no doubt that animals 'rights' are an important part of animal management, however they are not the only consideration when managing a population of feral animals. Relocation is actually a method used worldwide. It is not an unusual or foreign exercise that is unique to this issue. Many species are relocated worldwide due to human - animal conflict or development, with the intention of keeping the relocated animals out of harm's way but to also ensure human safety and manage both animal and human interests. While relocation does have its issues, many of those issues do not apply to this case with regards to Sai Kung's feral cattle.

Every effort is made to observe and monitor feral cattle that are relocated. However with we believe over 600 head of feral cattle all over the Sai Kung region, it is virtually impossible to intentionally track every single animal. With the existence of a number of herds within Sai Kung country park, efforts are made to observe initial introductions of relocated feral cattle, their ability to source food, water and shelter in their new environment, whether they bond with others in the herds they are placed, their relations with their new herd mates and their general behaviour over the first few weeks. All relocated cattle thus far have been over the age of 3 months, at which point they are deemed by AFCD vets to be weaned and self-sustaining.

We would like to note, all 3 of us have full time jobs. We do everything out of care and concern for the cattle (and we don't mind doing it for free), as 8 years ago - no one was looking after them. We have done all this work in our spare time and now have a great network of community members in most Sai Kung villages who look out for the cattle and report to us if there is any issue. This is a system that has been working well. Previous AFCD / 1823 / police / SPCA would receive multiple calls about different situations (emergencies, traffic issues, injuries etc) and it was difficult for them to ascertain what the actual situation was. Now SKBW and SKCA, usually on the scene quickly, help at times to streamline the communications and relay directly to the cattle management team what the problem may be or what emergency equipment may be required (some cases require the vet to attend, some do not).

In a perfect world, the feral cattle would be able to remain and exist in all the village environments, completely in harmony with everyone in the villages, not having the land destroyed for housing development and not having to dodge heavy traffic between villages. But this is not the case. Sadly in Hong Kong, there is a severe shortage of land for everyone (animals and humans), so the idea of being able to build a 'sanctuary' to house all the feral cattle, does not seem like a reality that can be achieved and would bring its own set of issues and welfare concerns, but even if there was sufficient land mass available to cope with 1000+ head of feral cattle, we would have strong reservations about taking them from a free roaming existence and fencing them all into an area, taking away their ability to roam the vast distances they are used to and forcing them to subsist on a human produced diet (hay / grain). Freedom of movement is something that we believe plays a large part in their current health and welfare and we do not wish to see this taken from them. But by keeping them free roaming, their population has to continue to be humanely managed. We do not support a captive lifestyle for the feral cattle of Hong Kong. Finally, SKBW and SKCA, will never support the feral cattle being captured and held in captivity for consumption or production.

The future that SKBW and SKCA support....

- AFCD cattle management team continue to manage and care for the feral cattle of Sai Kung, with support from SKBW and SKCA.

- Classification of feral cattle as ‘wild animals’ under existing animal legislation, needs to be addressed, due to the lack of agricultural use for them over a number of generations now.
- Supplementary feeding of ‘wild animals’ to include feral cattle, wild boar and monkeys, to be made illegal territory wide and enforcement conducted, unless supplementary feeding is deemed necessary by a competent expert authority such as AFCD and other wildlife experts and conducted **only** by AFCD or their designated representatives, as the responsible Government body for animal management.
- Construction of Sai Kung cattle grid, should be expedited and completed as soon as possible.
- 2018 Survey to be conducted on feral cattle, as a follow up to the 2012 survey.
- Continue to use immunocontraceptive vaccinations and desexing surgeries on *some* of the cattle, as a method of population management.
- Increase Government funding for AFCD’s animal management and cattle management teams including increasing staff numbers and provision of appropriate equipment. This is critical. We do what we do by choice, but AFCD’s cattle management team needs more staff to enable us all to conduct more data gathering and help with the workload.
- No cattle shelters / sheds for Sai Kung.
- No confinement / captivity or fencing in.
- Continue requests for speed reduction measures such as fixed cameras on Tai Mong Tsai Roads and Sai Sha Roads, which we (SKBW and Friends of Sai Kung (FSK)) have been requesting for a number of years.

Sai Kung Country Park - History, Boundaries and Background¹

Sai Kung East (designated in 2013) and West Country (designated in 1978) Parks, occupy a vast area of Sai Kung and Tai Po Peninsulas. Covering a total of **7,494 hectares** of uplands and coasts, it has the largest number of bays and coves among all country parks.

Sai Kung East	30.12.2013 (revised)	4 494
Sai Kung West	03.02.1978	3 000

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_lea/cp_sa.html

1

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_cou/cou_vis_cou_ske/cou_vis_cou_ske.html



An area relevant to this report, High Island Reservoir is the largest reservoir in the territory, and the grandest man-made construction within the park. The east embankment of the reservoir is lined with a spectacular cofferdam with giant dolosse units, offset by striking rhyolite in hexagonal stacks. The reservoir commands a brand of beauty all of its own, enchanting both leisure travelers and geologists, as well as being a habitat for many plant and animal species.

A refugee camp was built near the reservoir (now known as Chong Hing Water Sports Center (CHWSC), which is currently under the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)) for hosting refugees and boat people from Vietnam. The area is now a flat piece of grassland that is grazed by cows. It has a pavilion that leads out of the strip of land².

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Island_Reservoir



The former refugee camp abundant of grass in July 2006. Cattle clearly visible. Now called Chong Hing Watersports Centre

*Notice the difference in abundance of tree and plant matter compared with today (below)
Credit - 'typhoonchaser'³*



Chong Hing Watersports Center in April 2014 - abundant with grass and trees

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Near_high_island_reservoir_land_for_refugees_chingming06.jpg

Currently the cattle are free to roam the entire 7,494 hectares of land available to them, but they have chosen some particular spots in and around the country park area, as part of their daily wanderings, not just CHWSC, which has been the center of the recent controversy.

Feral cattle will spend the majority of their day foraging and sleeping, according to surveys conducted in 2012. To be clear, the feral cattle are currently not forced to remain at CHWSC, all cattle who are seen at CHWSC are not all relocated cattle, so the idea that it is a cattle 'dumping ground' is false. There have been existing herds within the Sai Kung Country Park for a number of years.

The roads leading to CHWSC and the surrounding High Island Reservoir are restricted access, permit only roads (with the exclusion of taxi's), with a speed limit of 25km/hr and multiple speed bumps to reduce speeding. Added to this during peak times at the weekend, there are many hikers walking along both Man Yee Road and Sai Wan road, as well as the cattle, forcing drivers to slow down for both humans foot traffic and cattle traffic. Importantly, SKBW and SKCA have not recorded 1 single traffic related cattle death or injury along Man Yee Road since we began monitoring in 2009.

We recently requested new speed limit signs be placed along both restricted roads and this has been done. Road markings have also been repainted recently to make them clearer and we have in the past recorded and reported any vehicles observed to be driving in a dangerous manner, endangering not only pedestrians using the road, but also the cattle. The HK Police have (we were informed) issued warnings to the vehicles we reported.

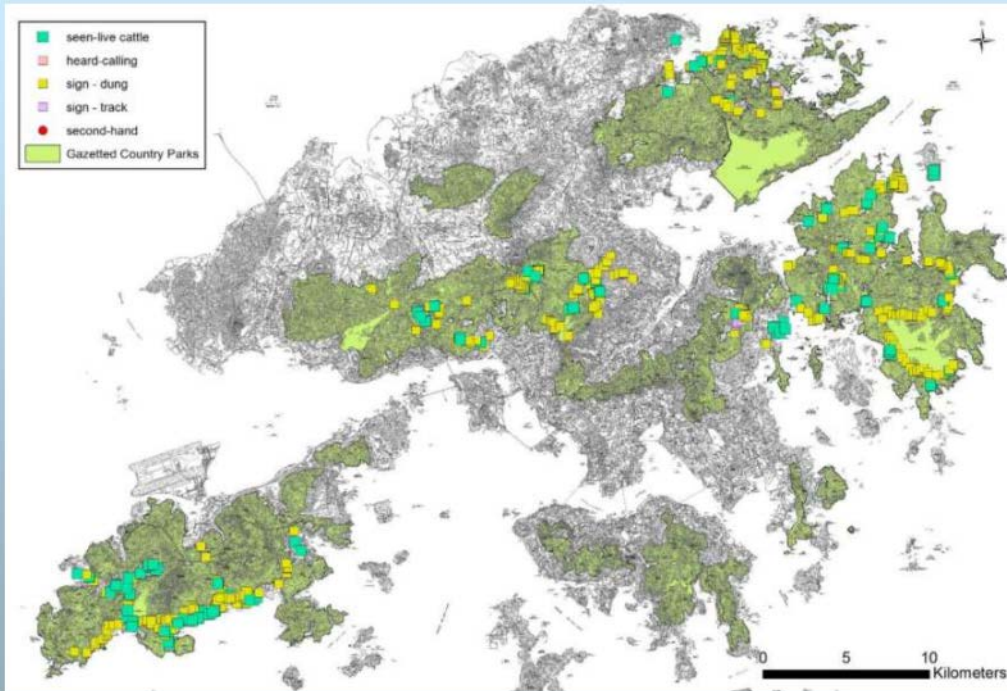
Overall, the traffic flow on both Man Yee Road and Sai Wan Road, is far reduced in comparison to Tai Mong Tsai and Sai Sha Roads, and is also void of heavy vehicle traffic, with the exception of the occasional heavy (and slow) vehicles.

AFCD also complete Plantation Enrichment Projects (PEP) from time to time and afforestation schemes at various locations, including CHWSC. The results of this are evident when comparing photos of the area over the years. We would be happy to support AFCD should they feel any further planting, afforestation or reforestation should occur at the CHWSC area - as it is important to only plant and introduce species of plants that are carefully selected for their suitability for the area and being mindful of the wildlife who may ingest such plants. We will not condone people just simply showing up and scattering random seeds in the area or trying to transplant grass from another area of Sai Kung.

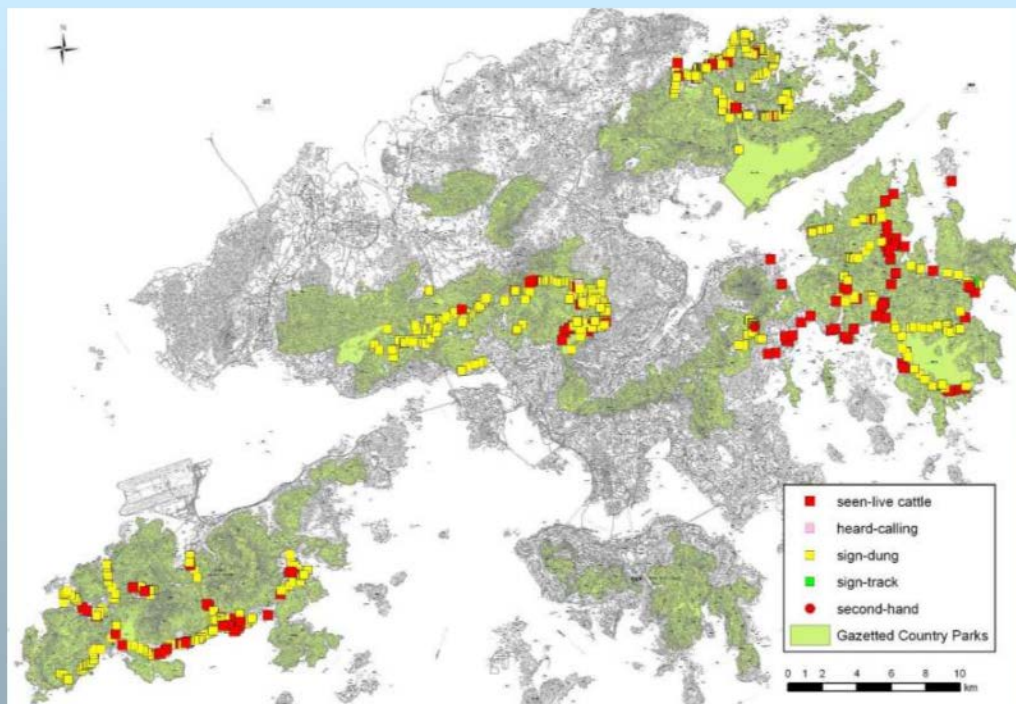
Cattle Survey - 2012 - Conducted by Ecosystems Ltd.

Distribution - note that even in 2012 - cattle were mainly distributed in or around Country Park areas, in both wet and dry seasons.

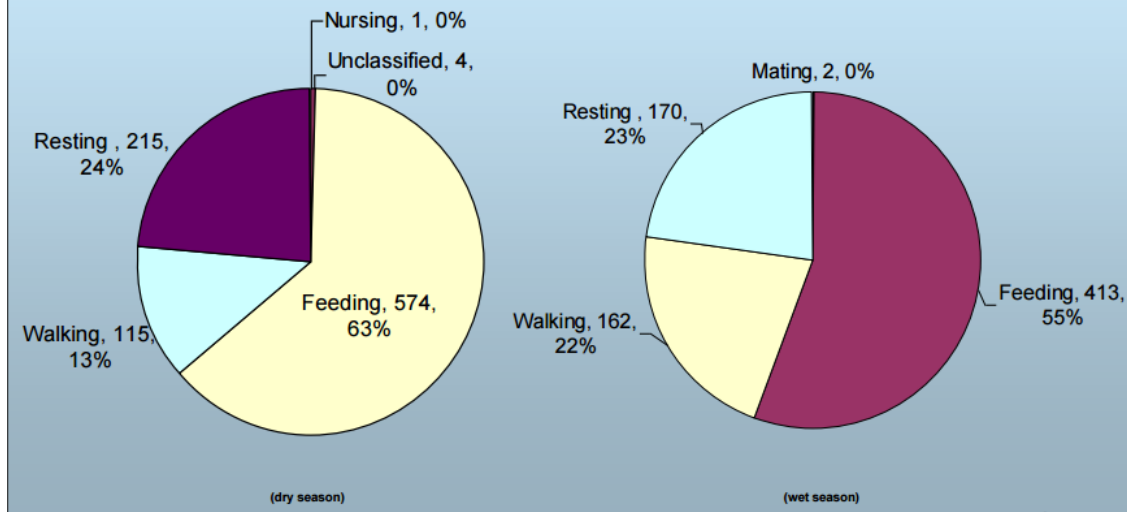
Distribution of Recordings of Cattle Sighting -Overview (Wet Season)



Distribution of Recordings of Cattle Sighting -Overview (Dry Season)



Activities and Habitat Use



There is no doubt that country parks play a vital role as areas for feral cattle and currently it is our viewpoint that their presence is also not detrimentally affecting the environment or the vegetation, which is something we have also considered in relation to the management and relocation of feral cattle.

The following outlines some of the highlights and difficulties, managing this feral cattle population, whom we care deeply about and wish to preserve within the bounds of Sai Kung, as they are an integral part of the area's history and much loved by many in our community.

1. Cattle Grid and 'Eco-pass' (牛路坑及生態道)

A group on Lantau (Lantau Buffalo Association (LBA)) have been continuously requesting Eco-passes for Hong Kong, to enable animals in general to pass major highways and high traffic area.

While SKBW and SKCA like the idea of these Eco-passes, the practicalities of actually constructing them in the Sai Kung region, would not work. Our roadways are not major highways with multi lanes of traffic for animals to navigate. Added to that, the need to put fencing and barriers, to guide animals to the eco-pass entrance, would be significant and there is simply not enough space roadside to do this and too many alternative places where animals choose to cross. It is simply not practical to fence off entire stretches of road / highway and doing this in itself could

also lead to further issues for the feral cattle (getting stuck on the wrong side of barriers and being unable to reach safety).

SKBW and SKCA would oppose the construction of Eco-passes in the Sai Kung region as quite frankly it would be a waste of public funds that could be better allocated to traffic control measures such as fixed cameras and rumble strips on the road to reduce traffic speed, instead of Eco-passes.



An example of an eco-pass - Credit - <http://graphics.straitstimes.com/STI/STIMEDIA/Interactives/2015/11/feature-ecolink-BKE-national-parks/index.html>



Rumble strips

What are cattle grids? How do they work?

Cattle grids are a type of barrier commonly used in other countries which are laid into the road surface to stop cattle from passing a point in the road, whilst still allowing vehicles to cross. They are generally not suitable for people to walk on, so normally they are combined with a gate if people need to pass the point on foot. Cattle grids will only be effective if the road where they are placed is the only point at which the cattle can gain entry to a certain area. This is the main reason why SKBW and SKCA have requested the location we have for the trial cattle grid, which we desperately hope can be constructed as soon as possible. If there are other known points for the cattle to avoid the grid, they will simply find another route to reach their destination. Thus, they would normally be used in conjunction with fencing or natural barriers. AFCD are currently exploring the use of cattle grids in suitable areas in Hong Kong, and are liaising with relevant departments to discuss their use. As they may also affect pedestrians and cyclists to some extent, the use of cattle grids must be examined in detail and relevant authorities consulted before it can be implemented on a public roadway⁴.

In 2016, SKBW and SKCA began a petition to see a cattle grid constructed within the Sai Kung country park to reduce the likelihood of cattle wandering back towards Sai Kung town and on major Sai Kung roads (Tai Mong Tsai Road / Sai Sha Road).

<http://www.supporthk.org/en/petition/request-installation-%E2%80%98cattle-grids%E2%80%99-protect-lives-feral-cattle-and-enhance-road-safety-all>

Over 3000 signatures from the online petition and during a street signature campaign were collected.

Friends of Sai Kung (FSK) and SKBW began email dialogue in 2009 in regards to cattle grids, with AFCD. This debate and discussion on cattle grids has been going on long enough and it is critical that the grid not be stalled any further.

SKBW, SKCA and relevant Government departments, have now all agreed on the **need** for a cattle grid, but the design, logistics and responsibilities are currently being explored. There is no doubt that a cattle grid at the location we have requested, would enable better management of the cattle in the Sai Kung region and needs to be constructed before another Summer sees more cattle deaths or worse yet a human fatality due to a traffic accident involving feral cattle.

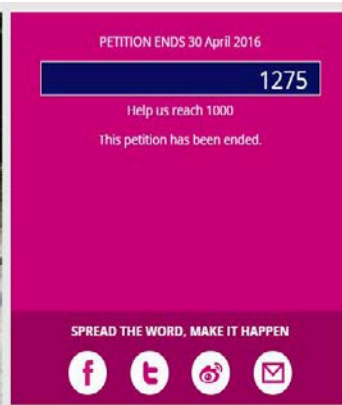
The purpose of the grid is not to trap cattle into an area. As previously mentioned the Sai Kung country park is over 7,000 hectares and the point at which we have asked for the grid, gives them access to a vast amount of this. When the grid is constructed, the cattle on either side of the grid will be monitored and SKBW / SKCA, as well as AFCD and we have offered to sit by the grid as often as possible night and day, monitoring not only the cattle, but to also help educate the public on its use and also monitor the traffic flow.

⁴ https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/QandA_for_handling_stray_cattle_and_buffalo.html



InstaMag 🐮 Cattle Meeting 🐮





According to the Administration, AFCD would assess the feasibility of putting in place on a trial basis a cattle grid in Sai Kung with a view to keeping stray cattle in the specified area. AFCD would liaise closely with different stakeholders to identify a suitable location for the trial and study the grid design. This trial scheme would help complement the Capture Sterilize Release (CSR) programme. Drawing reference from its efficacy, AFCD would assess the merits or otherwise of installing cattle grids or fences in other locations⁵.

2. Relocations (原區遷移)

How does relocation work? What stops the animals going back to the previous location?

Reasons for relocation of the Sai Kung feral cattle involves moving the feral cattle from one location where they have been causing some problems (usually in and around residential areas) or are at risk of injury or death, to rural areas or country parks where they can continue to live, free roaming. AFCD have already relocated many cattle particularly from around the Sai Kung area over the last few years. They

⁵ http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/fseh/fseh_awca/papers/fseh_awca20160509cb2-1425-6-e.pdf

are placed in a suitable habitat where they can find food, water and shelter. From our initial observations, some cattle do move significant distances and go to other areas after relocation, not always back to where they were caught originally. To obtain more information about their movements, a survey completed in 2012 used GPS tracking to accurately monitor movements of herds.

SKBW and SKCA have also observed that a large number of the relocated feral cattle do stay in the places where they are relocated to, with minimal observed impact to their existence. Some do migrate to other areas, but not all.

In Situ Vs Ex Situ

In 2013 - AFCD trialed a cross - district relocation of 21 cattle from Lantau to Sai Kung and 29 cattle from Sai Kung to Lantau. This would classify as Ex Situ.

Since then, a number of In Situ relocations have occurred within the Sai Kung region.

2 cattle passed away after the SK - Lantau cross district relocation, but we believe there was some underlying and unknown health issue with these cattle. Relocation itself cannot be completely blamed for their death. There is no scientific evidence to suggest as such.

Cattle (tag no.) relocated from Sai Kung to Shek Pik	Cattle (tag no.) relocated from Lantau Island to CHWSC
1, 4, 7 (with GPS collar), 9, 14, 20, 37, 38, 39, 40, 66, 80, 94, 103, 105, 109, 110, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 235, 239, 240, 341, 342, 343	3 (orange-tag), 7, 46, 68, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 129, 133, 134, 135, 285

SKBW and SKCA can say with confidence that the majority of the feral cattle relocated from Lantau in 2013 - can be regularly seen within the Sai Kung country park almost 4 years after their relocation. They have integrated well with the existing herds, and prove that relocated feral cattle, can and do adjust to new environments and herd mates.

Number	Sex	Location Last Seen	Notes
46	F		Dead
68	F	Chong Hing	
106	F	Chong Hing	

107	F	Chong Hing	
108	F	Chong Hing	
112	M	Chong Hing	
113	M	Long Ke	
115	M	Long Ke	
117	F	Chong Hing	
118	M	Chong Hing	
119	F	Chong Hing	
120	F	Long Ke	
121	F		Dead
122	F	Chong Hing	
129	F	Chong Hing	
133	M	TMT	
134	M	Chong Hing	
135		Chong Hing	
285	F	Chong Hing	

While In-Situ conservation is a nice ideal, there are instances where it is neither practical or safe for the cattle to remain or be returned to the areas where they have resided previously.

The Lantau cattle integrated and healthy, having joined the existing herd at Chong Hing in 2013 - should serve as an indicator to the ability of these cattle to adjust to relocation.

SKBW and SKCA will continue to support relocation of cattle within the Sai Kung region, as and when the need arises. We would not support any further cross district relocations.

3. Population Management

The Administration advised that the effect of sterilization on the control of cattle population would be seen in around 10 years and the number of cattle was expected to become stable or smaller by that time. Since many feral cattle were dwelling in remote and inaccessible rural areas posing difficulty for AFCD officers to catch and sterilize them, sterilization alone would not reduce the size of the feral cattle

population in Hong Kong. That said, AFCD would continue to monitor the population of stray and feral cattle and adjust the strategy as and when appropriate⁶.

SKBW and SKCA applaud the Government for utilizing these measures over culling, which is an accepted practice to manage feral populations in other regions, such as Australia and Europe.

Culling

Culling is a common method used to manage feral animal populations (including cattle) in areas such as Australia, Europe, South Africa and North America.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-29/millions-of-dollars-worth-of-cattle-culled-in-the-kimberley/8390812>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-17/kakadu-feral-animal-cull-buffalo-donkeys-pigs-horses/8363580>

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2014/05/01/editorials/wild-animal-population-control/>

Feral animals in other countries are shot, poisoned, trapped, hunted and persecuted in the name of 'population management', when there are other methods available, such as immunocontraceptive techniques and surgical castration.

SKBW and SKCA continue to support AFCD's current management of the feral cattle population in Sai Kung using immunocontraception, in conjunction with relocations and monitoring of the herds. We have absolutely no concerns that the current and future generations of cattle will 'die off' as others are suggesting.

4. AFCD work (牛隊工作)

The AFCD cattle team was formulated in 2011 and SKBW were in consultation with and working with the AFCD workers at the time, before the formulation of the cattle team. They have seen a number of staff changes, mainly due to the rotation of staff within AFCD to different departments approx every 3 years. With initial disagreements and all of us (SKBW and AFCD) learning how best to resolve conflicts and work as a team, there were some teething problems to begin with - but as we have all grown in our knowledge and dedication to these animals, and with the addition of SKCA in 2013, we feel that the cattle management team is going from strength to strength.

⁶ http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/fseh/fseh_awca/papers/fseh_awca20160509cb2-1425-6-e.pdf

The current cattle management team are dedicated to their work and do show genuine care and concern for the animals they manage. They have gone above and beyond to give quality care to injured Sai Kung cattle and respond quickly to all requests for assistance that SKBW and SKCA send to them, as well as any and all other requests for help. We would like to thank them for their past and present efforts for Sai Kung's cattle. We hope the Government can support their efforts with increased funding for the cattle management team to enable them to hire more staff and for essential equipment, vehicles and veterinary medicines to conduct their work well.



5. Cattle Sheds / Shelter (牛隻人工庇護所)

Lantau Buffalo Association (LBA) again, have been lobbying for the last couple of years for 'cattle sheds' on Lantau. SKBW and SKCA are completely opposed to this idea for Sai Kung's herds and will actively oppose any efforts to have any cattle sheds constructed in the Sai Kung region.

Feral cattle should not be housed, except under AFCD veterinary care and/or at a certified and approved zoological institution or exhibition. Only in severe weather (e.g. minus 10 Degrees C and much lower or extreme heat such as desert heat with no shade or trees) is there a welfare need to house bovines. On Lantau or anywhere in Hong Kong there is absolutely no need on weather grounds to house or confine cattle, assuming there are trees, shelter and water available.

They are feral cattle. They are in tune with their environment come rain or shine.

The house/shelters proposed on Lantau is an example of what should not be allowed to occur.

They are unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer funds, as the cattle in the Sai Kung region already have many natural places to seek shelter, such as under the numerous trees in the area and we will not condone the fencing in of cattle under the guise of 'protection'.

Added to that we feel the significant cost constructing shelters, could be better utilized in other ways to assist with cattle management and conservation. We also do not believe the Sai Kung cattle would freely and willingly use the shelters, and we would completely oppose having to employ someone to herd them into the shelters and lock them there overnight, to release them again in the morning. This behaviour would again make the feral cattle completely reliant on humans and constrict their current ability to roam where they wish to. We are also sure that the cattle will not remain in the same location each night naturally - so to have to corral them to the shelter location every day, would be troublesome and again restrict their natural behaviours.

Section of article by LBA on cattle shelters and sheds - SKBW and SKCA oppose any sheds for Sai Kung herds

開放式牛欄為何未落實?

何來說：「2010年中會已向政府提倡“在地式”原區中農管理概念，這包括需求政府收回已被鑑定為牛欄棲息地的農地作為永久保育，和在村區內為牛欄設原區牛欄，以改善漁業管理。開放式牛欄就是建議中的“在地式”管理所需之條件。牛欄是大型動物，受了傷或病不可能像其他動物可以隨時放入籠籠去診所求醫，身體結構亦不宜宜連車身，中農管理中心設在打鼓嶼，屬屬計算即時出動，最快都要需小時20分不到遠大嶼山，在傷牛的黄金治療時間祇有兩小時。有了這好的機會就渺茫，牛欄就可為每頭牛提供一條命途。

在2013至2015年，牛欄也花了2年時間與離島地政署共同努力，為大嶼島各牛欄的農地政府用地作牛欄設置，但地政署認為這個申請需要漁護署支持，於是2014至2015年間中會的申請文件，曾前後3次地政署遞交漁護署都被拒絕，漁護署的藉詞是：「目前沒有政策可以批准此計劃。」（但果爾場申請地他們都有支持先例。）」

盲目發展和理想之間的分野

談起發展，何來說：「盲目發展是指不問代價、不理會發展項目的長遠價值和影響、不檢討以往發展模式優劣、亦不理會社會的環境氣氛和需求的改變，包括現時社會和自然資源現狀所面對的危機，祇求挖地、機械化地重復舊模式生產。現時許多盲目的發展都祇是在重復過時的倒模複製，缺乏社會對創建思維和新原則執行能力。而理想發展則應是盲目發展我們已知失去社會價值和會造成破壞環境的做法，人口地區必須尊重生態保護原則，願意定時作出檢討再上路的發展模式。香港現時發展舊模式已失敗，不但浪費投資，人類更因缺乏新思維刺激而造成動力萎縮，繼續守著舊思維就會斷送香港的未來。」

「舊模式的發展是指不會變壞壞壞，而新的發展不應祇再重複我們已知道會破壞環境結局，或如何盡量去減低破壞。」

「此外，談起之前牛欄被推平的悲劇，而同時又需要有新發展，我們是否應尋求多方位的做法，要讓政府要在海路中興建一些有植物，能給動物自由過去另一邊棲息地的『動物走廊』呢？政府如有心做好環境和人類之間的共融，是有條件和能力的，祇恨乎政府願意不願意。」

Finally, (a) A shelter is a prima facie unhygienic creation. (You are concentrating excretory products in a relatively small location). To attempt to make it hygienic has significant manpower and environmental concerns. One reason cattle have legs is so that they can defecate in many different places. Nature if left to itself, is hygienic.

(b) Creating a location with a lack of hygiene is risk to the health of the cattle and to any humans nearby. This can already be observed at the muddy enclosures at a cattle 'holding' facility in Yuen Long.

(c) Confining the feral cattle into a captive environment would require trained or certified people to care for them. Feral creatures need more expertise to manage than domesticated pets.

6. Food and Water Supply (食物與水源供應)

There is a variety of natural nutrition available to the cattle within the entire Sai Kung region. The cattle over generations have existed with minimal human interference, sourcing by choice enough plant matter to sustain themselves. It is believed that this ability to source varied nutrition independently has enabled the feral cattle to build up a resistance to common bovine illnesses and is a contributing factor to the good health of the majority of the herds.

While the refugee camp area was artificially planted - the feral cattle have fed from this area without issue for numerous years and suffer no ill health from this varied diet, in the view of veterinary academics we have consulted with. The suggestion by others that the grass is 'unsuitable' for cattle to eat is incorrect. It is what they have been eating for many years. Added to that, the cattle don't only eat the grass at CHWSC. They have frequently been observed eating leaves from trees (Macaranga tanarius being one of them) as well as foraging around the area of CHWSC for other vegetation.



Chong Hing in Summer



Chong Hing in Winter



Fresh water source



Cattle drinking fresh water



Cattle drinking fresh water



Access to fresh water

There is a wide variety of nutrition available for the cattle at CHWSC and surrounding areas. There are seasonal variations but there has never been no food for them to eat - or cattle that are 'starving'. These cattle are adaptive and know how to source enough nutrition to deal with the seasonal variations.







There absolutely are seasonal changes in the vegetation at CHWSC, but also the entirety of Hong Kong. The natural cycle of plant and vegetation density between the 4 seasons, is not a unique event occurring only at CHWSC!

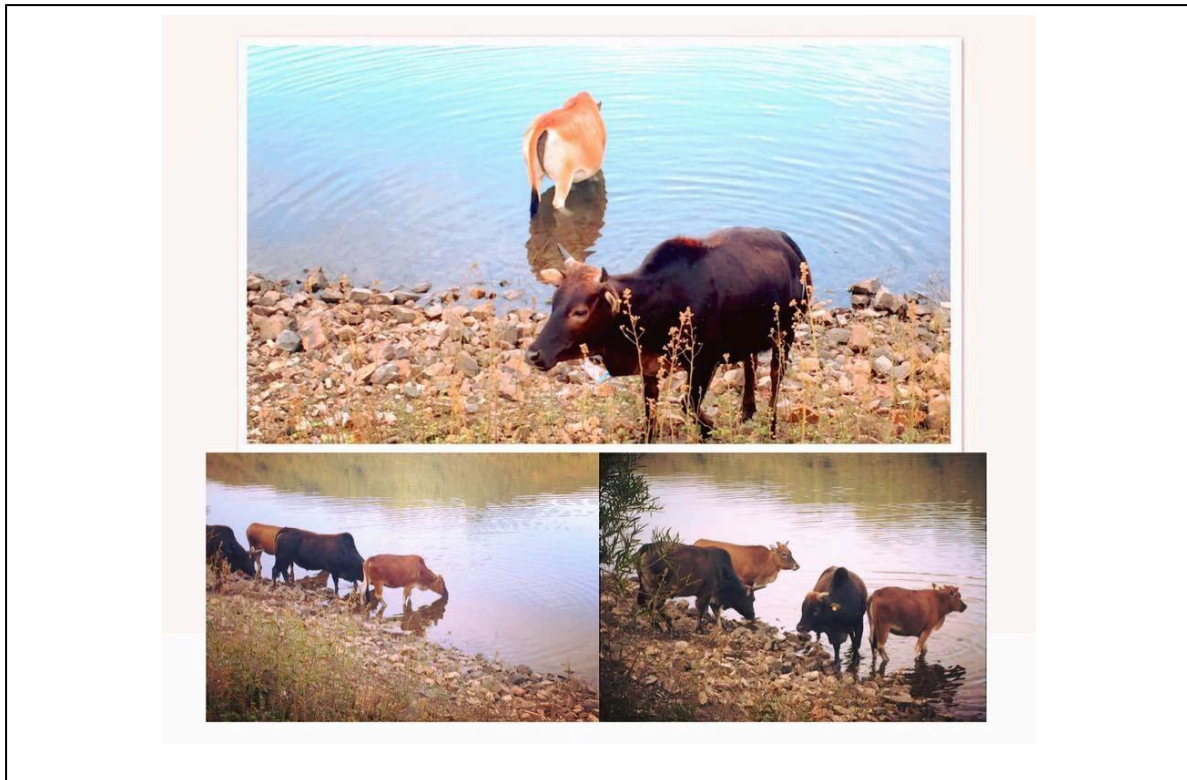
These variations are not an excuse to jump in with misguided beliefs that the cattle are starving and that bringing plastic bags of cut grass to them will make any difference. Doing this has in fact now encouraged some cattle to seek out plastic bags from bins, thinking there will be grass inside! We implore the 'feeders' to stop this behavior immediately as it is not helping the cattle in any way shape or form.

牛寶春夏天棲息地



牛寶秋冬季棲息地





The cattle prepare for this variation in vegetation by bulking up on the ample vegetation during the Summer and Autumn months, which sees them through Winter, as is normal for many species of animals.

As with many other species, the feral cattle do have fluctuations in their weight during this yearly cycle. None of this is unusual.

Added to that, as these feral cattle are neither artificially conditioned beef or dairy cattle, it is not a concern to see hip bones or rib bones, to a certain extent. Thin does not = starving. In fact due to their preference for walking quite some distance on a daily basis over a variety of terrain, being overweight or carrying significant amount of weight, could actually impact upon their joints / overall health and well-being. Veterinarians use what is commonly known as 'body condition scoring' (BCS) charts which are a recognised way to assess the condition of an animal's body from their physical appearance. There are numerous academic articles on BCS. AFCD do consult this system to monitor the health of the Sai Kung feral cattle.



An adolescent example of 'poor' body condition, during Summer



An adolescent example of 'good' body condition, during Winter

Feral cattle dung helps regenerate new growth

While others may not like this fact - the feral cattle are actually a part of the ecology within Sai Kung Country Park. The cattle sustain in part at least 2 species of birds, who in turn help the cattle by removing insects and ticks. We would also assume that they support a number of insect species too - through the production of dung. The dung from the feral cattle also plays a vital role in the regeneration of the different varieties of grass at CHWSC each year.



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*)



Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)



Grass growth around feral cattle dung



The feral cattle dung has a role to play in the ecology of CHWSC



At peak growth during summer



At peak growth during summer

7. Loading Capacity / Overgrazing

CHWSC is not overgrazed nor is the area incapable of sustaining the number of cattle that frequent it. In the almost 8 years we have been monitoring the area - we have never observed more than 60 cattle at one time in the area, with the highest frequency of cattle observed in the height of Summer. At other times of the year, numbers vary between 1 - 40 cattle.

What others are claiming is overgrazing, is actually just the normal seasonal variation of the vegetation level.

8. Supplementary Feeding Problems

One of our biggest concerns and issues at the moment is supplementary feeding, condoned and actively being conducted by LBA and other individuals. We have consulted with veterinary academics, who include wildlife experts, AFCD and SPCA and all are in agreement that this behaviour is a) unnecessary b) detrimental c) concerning d) a public safety issue.

SKCA tried to explain the reasons why we should not feed the feral cattle to the other individuals condoning this behaviour, and it fell on deaf ears. SKBW have repeatedly asked members of the public through our Facebook page not to feed the cattle in Sai Kung and numerous members of the public support NOT feeding them. KMB buses and PLB minibuses around Sai Kung and Hong Kong, carry 'do's and don'ts' education messages to the public, with feeding listed as the number one 'don't' and yet these other individuals continue to use their social media channels and the media to contradict this advice.



We were made aware by concerned members of the public as this feeding debate rages on, that recently water buffalo number 25 on Lantau island is suspected to have choked to death on 2 whole oranges some weeks ago now. This highlights the issue that members of the public being encouraged to feed the cattle, cannot be guaranteed to know what foods are appropriate or how to prepare them so that they are safe for the cattle to ingest. There is also the issue that feeding of inappropriate or irregularly eaten vegetation and plant matter or too much fruit / other items, could cause the feral cattle gastric problems, as was the case with a bull that kept coming into Sai Kung town in and ending up being fed so much fruit he vomited.



我叫芒果仔。🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

InstaMag
👉



Sadly this bull ended up vomiting as he was fed so much fruit in Sai Kung town.

Often on farms vomiting is due to serious disease problems in an individual in their chest near the diaphragm or in the digestive system. The problem is often life threatening. Another known cause of vomiting is poisoning or massive overeating.

Experts see the vomiting as additional strong evidence of the dangers of the public feeding bovines. The public can damage the cattle and possibly even kill them if they attempt this.



Supplementary Feeding - **05/04/2017** -
Sai Kung Waterfront Park



Feeding - **05/04/2017** - Sai Kung
Waterfront Park - Note cattle completely
uninterested - also the littering aspect
and hygiene issues of scattering food
around potentially attracting rodents and
other animals.



The plant matter left scattered on Sai Kung waterfront on **05/04/2017**, still there
and rotting on **10/04/2017**.



Fed cattle will return to places where they are fed - no animal will refuse an **easy meal** - but this behaviour is not always welcome.

Where is the human nature?

⚙️ · Rate this translation



👍❤️ 7

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

get grass.
I am also grateful for the assistance of the bull.
Cut Left 5 big bags of cow grass.
To the a, a,
The villagers of sai kung have also taken out 2 Bags
of leaf.
I don't know what to eat.
Let them make it.
Send them out of this place.
Back to mom!

⚙️ · Rate this translation



📅 💬 🔄 1 ☰

Bringing cut grass in plastic bags - the feral cattle will then associate plastic bags with potential food source.



👍❤️ 7

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

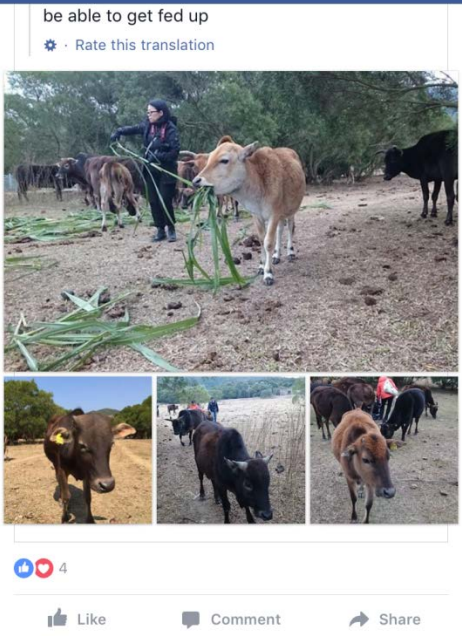


👍❤️ 4

1 Comment

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share





Many of these long strands of plant matter - were left over in the field at CHWSC - uneaten by the cattle



和西貢居民及義工到創興，
送新鮮草比這裡的被逐牛牛，
看見很多被捕捉的幼牛，
很孤單、瘦弱.....
食草被大牛用角撞開，
沒有母親在旁保護，
很痛心..... See more

The residents of sai kung and the volunteers are on their own.
The send of fresh grass is being carried out by cattle.
Seeing a lot of captured cattle,
Lonely, weak.....
The grass was hit by a big cow.
Without a mother's protection,
Very sad.....
When can I go back to my mother?
When will you stop capturing, exile such a cold-blooded plan!

Rate this translation



Buying hay from a horse stable - to feed to the cattle.

Monday at 23:29 · 🌐

見到創興西郊的黃牛，
似是當年被放逐至此的大嶼山牛，
好像認得我一樣，令人感傷，... Continue reading
See Translation



The cattle did not need to be fed here (above CHWSC) to move them off the road. The taxi's that frequent this road are aware of their presence and the road has a speed limit of 25km/hr.



Foreign plant debris uneaten by the cattle, left at CHWSC by the feeders.



Foreign plant debris uneaten by the cattle, left at CHWSC by the feeders.



Foreign plant debris uneaten by the cattle, left at CHWSC by the feeders.



Foreign plant debris uneaten by the cattle, left at CHWSC by the feeders.



Added to that, supplementary feeding of Hong Kong's feral cattle is bringing them into further conflict with humans. SKBW and SKCA receive a number of concerns and complaints from individuals who have had cattle raid their camping area, attempt to steal food as they are walking past, scavenge through bins and some people have been quite scared by this, as they are large animals. Not every person is as confident or comfortable (or willing to accept the risk / legal liability should there be

an injury) around these animals as we are. And by feeding the feral cattle, these other individuals are ignoring this fact.

Any 'conservationist' would understand the reasons why these feral cattle do not need supplementary feeding and professional vets and academics agree this behavior is detrimental to Hong Kong's feral cattle.

9. Rubbish Collection and Animal Proof Bins

(垃圾收集和動物防護垃圾箱)



Recently, SKBW's co-founders have been consulting with AFCD staff on the issue of rubbish management in the Sai Kung region, supporting their efforts to encourage FEHD to upgrade RCP's (Rubbish Collection Points) in a number of the local villages, to ensure there are sufficient bins to hold the rubbish created and also to encourage FEHD to put gates on the RCP's to keep wild boar, stray dogs and feral cattle from scavenging. AFCD is also working with consultants to design and hopefully implement animal proof bins in areas frequented by monkeys.

These efforts to tackle the issue of scavenging animals has come about largely due to individuals feeding wild and feral animals, not disposing of household waste appropriately or due to overflowing RCP's due to infrequent collection of rubbish.

We can request all the fancy bins in the world, but if people keep feeding and teaching the animals that humans = food, no bin will be able to change that.



Continuing issue of people feeding adult wild boar in Clear Water Bay. Despite multiple visits by AFCD, the feeders are ignoring the advice to stop. So who will be to blame when the boar are run over on the very nearby busy road? Or when someone perhaps gets gored if they try to feed?

10. Stray dogs at Chong Hing

There are currently NO stray dogs at CHWSC itself. An old video from 2013 has been doing the rounds again recently with LBA claiming that there is risk of dogs attacking cattle. This is not currently the case.

2 dogs were found by SKBW dumped at the sea wall in Oct 2016 during our frequent checks of the field. The dogs were subsequently trapped within days of being found with the help of a local Sai Kung NGO, desexed and are currently awaiting adoption at the SPCA.

SKBW will continue to monitor CHWSC for any additional animals to the area and take action with the appropriate people, should any more dogs be dumped in the area.





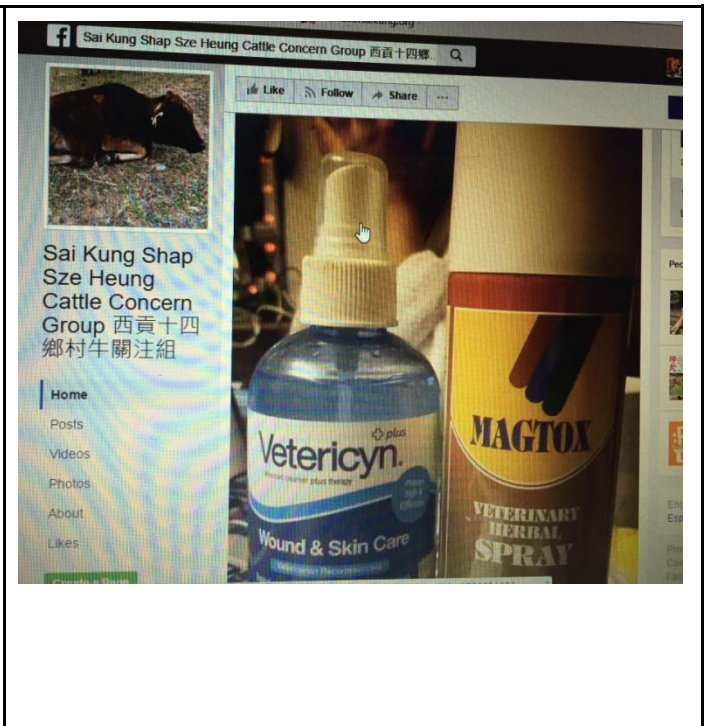
There are some dogs at the fishing village around the corner from CHWSC, but the owner of these dogs has been reminded to keep them away from the cattle by AFCD in 2014 and SKBW continuously monitors for any deviation from this reminder. 2 stray dogs who reside at the top of the road to CHWSC, are also monitored and never bother the cattle, remaining at the top of the road.

11. Public Safety

There is also an issue of public safety, especially during the Spring and Summer months, when the cattle are actively seeking and jostling for mating partners. The males have frequently been seen on Sai Kung waterfront in previous years having fights over dominance and rights to breed with females. This can be dangerous, especially during the weekends when the waterfront is packed with people and dogs. People have been knocked over after getting caught up in these displays at other places too. While these displays are normal behaviour, not every individual is confident, comfortable or willing to tolerate the feral cattle so close to them, especially when tensions are running high between them during mating season. Added to this in certain parts of Sai Kung, tourists and daytrippers continuously harass the feral cattle, particularly during the Summer months. Trying to capture the perfect selfie with the cattle, placing small children on the backs of the feral cattle, drunk individuals chasing them around. SKBW and SKCA respond to calls about this type of behaviour continuously and try to conduct education work with the individuals involved.

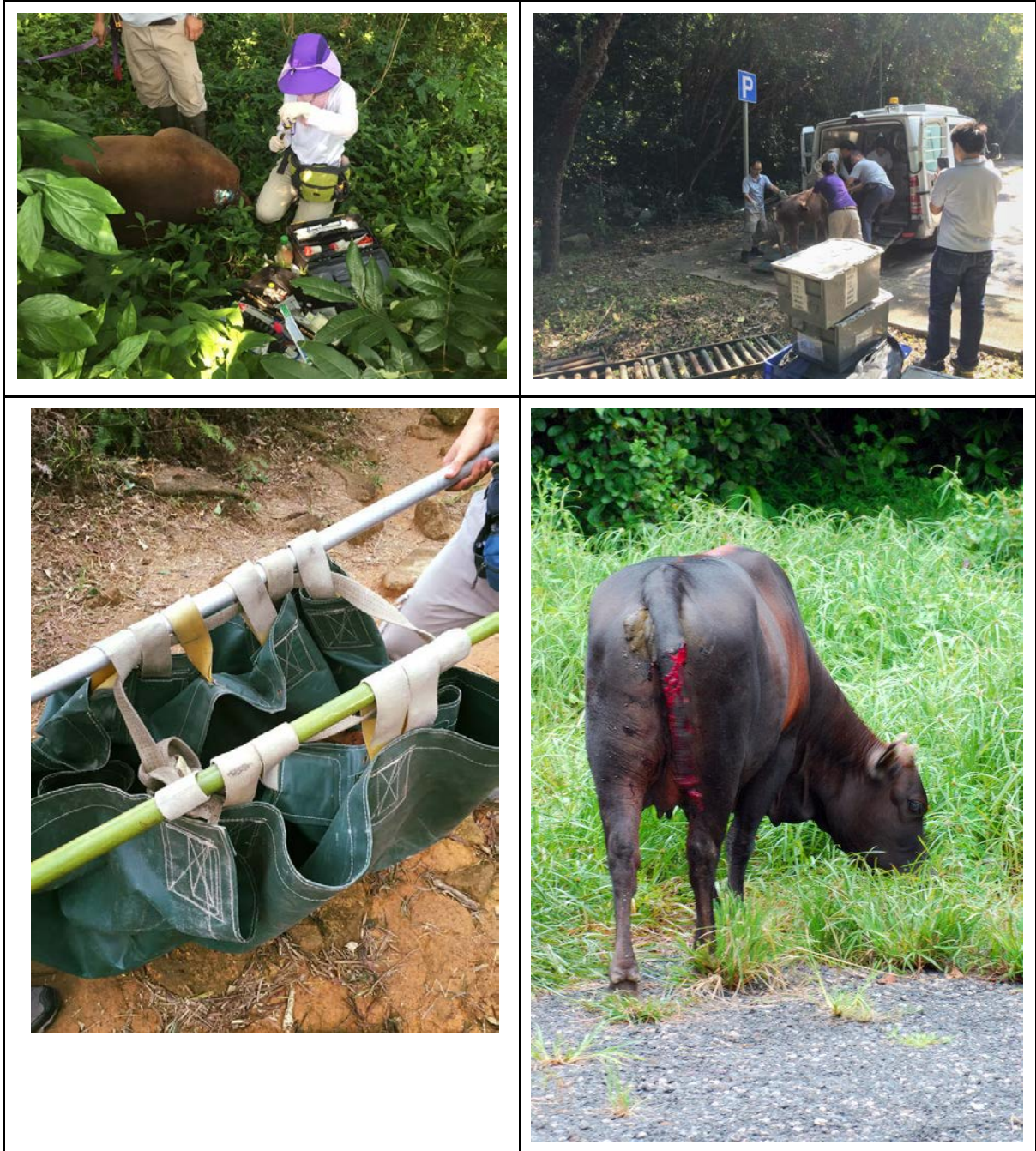
There is also the issue by the other individuals, encouraging people through their social media to get close to the feral cattle for feeding but to also administer sprays to small cuts and wounds! Not only is that highly irresponsible, but also highly unnecessary for minor wounds. We can also say with confidence from experience that the cattle detest the sound of sprays, so even we ourselves rarely resort to

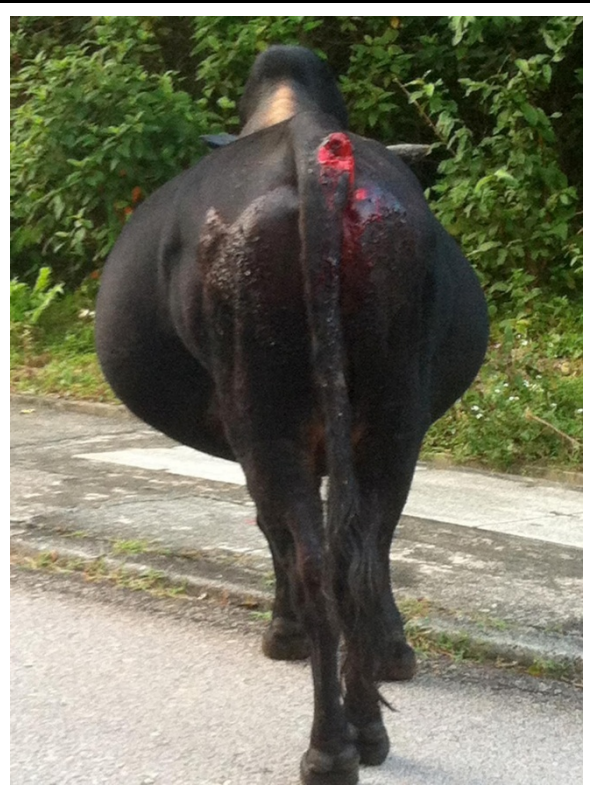
doing this! We monitor wounds and inform AFCD's cattle team, so that their staff can decide on the best course of action for any injuries under the instruction of qualified veterinarians, by either treating in the field by the AFCD cattle team vet or by capturing the feral cattle and taking them back to the cattle management farm for treatment under observation.

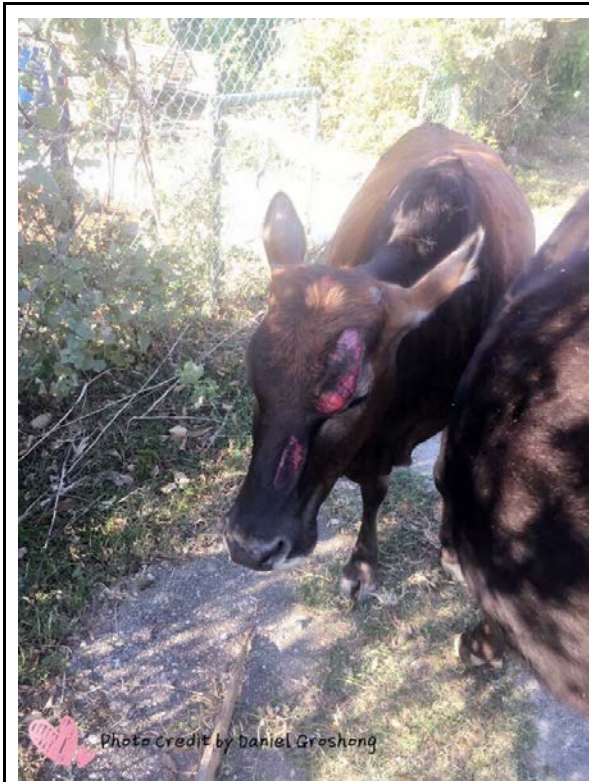


12. Veterinary Care(獸醫護理)

The AFCD cattle management team give the Sai Kung cattle excellent medical care and treatment. Every effort is made to treat their wounds and help them return to good health.







At times however and particularly in the case of broken legs or dislocations, it is generally not possible to fix these injuries. We know LBA claim they have fixed broken legs with the help of 'their' vet - but to be quite frank, we have heard other concerning stories about calves being left tied to poles in agony for days before dying anyway, because euthanasia on the advice of vets was refused.

Broken legs in large weight bearing animals give the animal a worse than poor prognosis. We know there have been some cases of cattle given amputations and prosthetic limbs and continuing to live in other countries (not Hong Kong) - BUT..... the **major difference** for those cattle and all the videos the others keep posting on their social media, is that they are **living in sanctuaries** and were born into a domesticated life, with paid staff and volunteers to give them round the clock care

and treatment. They were beef or dairy cattle, discarded from farms, rescued from slaughter houses and taken in by these sanctuaries. This is a completely different situation to the feral cattle of Hong Kong and both SKBW and SKCA respect the advice of the cattle team vets, when euthanasia is the only outcome.

Added to that, fixing broken legs would involve major surgeries, immobilizing the animal for months, then putting them back on their feet so to speak (if they don't get infections and die from that) and usually, putting them back on their feet, results in the legs re-breaking (as the animals have lost the muscle tone surrounding the broken leg and can no longer bear their own weight). Just typing all that - these other individuals have to see the welfare issues in the process described above. To immobilize our feral cattle for months on end to conduct painful treatments with the most minimal chance for recovery - SKBW and SKCA as well as registered and recognised veterinarians would never subject the feral cattle to such traumatic procedures. And sadly in Hong Kong - there is no place for feral cattle to receive such surgeries for free or be immobilized for months on end at, as well as vets willing to conduct such surgeries. Having witnessed numerous cattle suffering from broken legs and dislocations beyond repair - we will continue to respect the decisions of veterinary professionals in regards to the euthanasia of feral cattle suffering from leg breaks and major dislocations.

We have sat roadside cradling the heads of cattle for hours, cry at each and every loss, have had to listen to more cattle bellowing than we want to count as they are slowly dying in agony after being stuck by cars and each and every one of them stays with us for life. Euthanasia, while controversial and not an outcome taken lightly by anyone, is at times the only outcome for the feral cattle.

13. Transportation of Cattle

Originally, SKBW began when trucks such as the one in the 2009 picture below started showing up within the Sai Kung region to 'collect nuisance cattle'. When it was established collected cattle were being sent to slaughter, SKBW over many months began a dialogue, together with another organisation 'Friends of Sai Kung (FSK)', to stop this practice of capturing feral cattle and sending them to slaughter as a 'solution' to complaints.

<p>Old style slaughter trucks Vs Smaller Vans 2009</p>
--



2012 onwards



2017



The lack of appropriate vehicles in the past has been one of the major issues in regards to transporting multiple animals at one time. Cattle can be easily injured during transport, if vehicles not fitted with protective measures are used. With the addition of this new vehicle in March 2017- it is now hoped that more animals from the same herd can be transported together, if necessary.

14. Record Keeping (記錄保存)

SKBW have been keeping records of the feral cattle since 2009. SKCA, since 2013. While neither SKBW, SKCA or AFCD have the manpower to track individual cattle, every effort is made to record tag numbers and location, when the feral cattle are seen.

	A	B	C	D
1	Cattle Tag No.	Sex	Location / Re-Location	Remarks
2	1	F	SKM	Swapped from SK to Lantau
3	2	F	SKM	Now at farm
4	Orange 3	M		Swapped from Lantau to SK
5	4	M		Swapped from SK to Lantau
6	5	M	CH	From Yan Yee Road
7	6	M	CH	From Yan Yee Road
8	7	F		Swapped from SK to Lantau

The feral cattle are fitted with tags in their ears to help with this. The tags are a common method used worldwide for identification purposes of both domestic farm animals, captive animals and wildlife.





15. Public Education (公眾教育)

SKBW and SKCA have spent hours of our own time helping to educate the public on cattle matters in Sai Kung. We have also supported AFCD at public events by running booths and tables to distribute information in the form of leaflets and flyers. All of this is done for free.

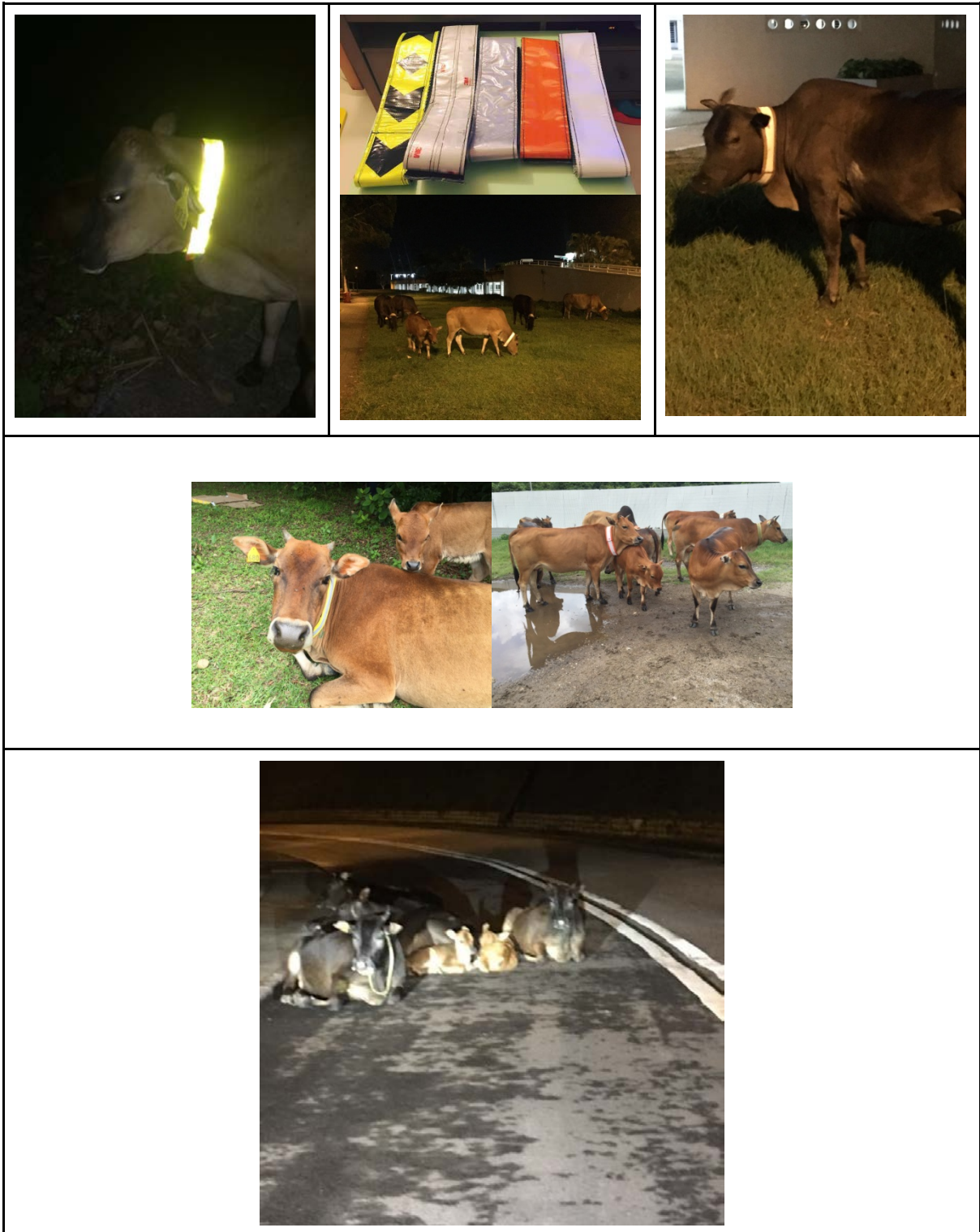






SKBW and SKCA have completed public education talks over the years in the region at the request of AFCD and have also made our own leaflets and flyers to give to visitors to the region helping them understand more about the feral cattle in our area, as well as answering questions and responding to queries on our facebook pages. We will continue to do these talks and help educate about how to enjoy but respect the presence of the feral cattle.

16. Reflective collars (反光頸圈)



In recent years, SKBW and SKCA began to trial some reflective collars provided to us by Tai O Cattle Community Group. They have been well received by many in our Sai Kung community and drivers have also shown support for this initiative.

The reflective collars are not put on still growing, juvenile cattle. They will also not be put on feral cattle in areas that are not deemed a high traffic risk or that we are unable to find on a frequent basis to check on the collars or remove / replace them.

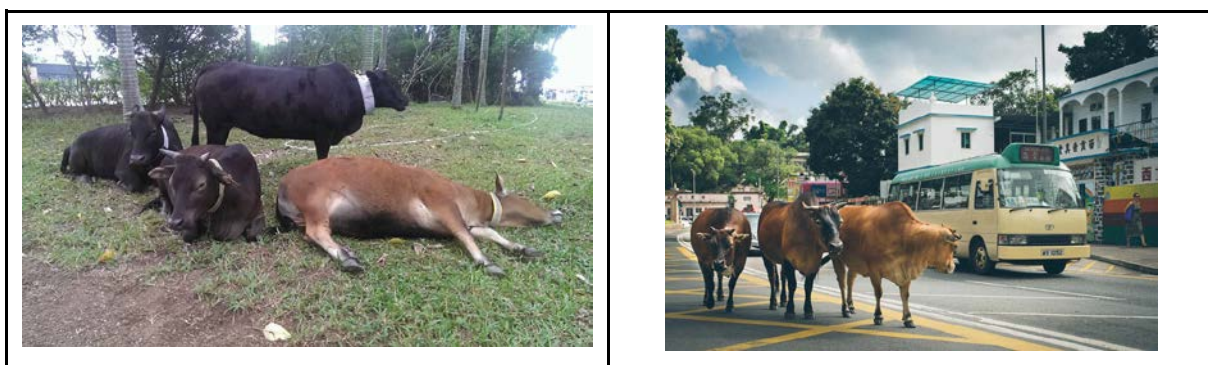
The reflective collars do suffer from wear and tear - we will either remove or replace as necessary. They are also only fastened by velcro, so should they become snagged on anything - we feel the cattle have the strength to pull themselves free - similar to a quick release cat collar.

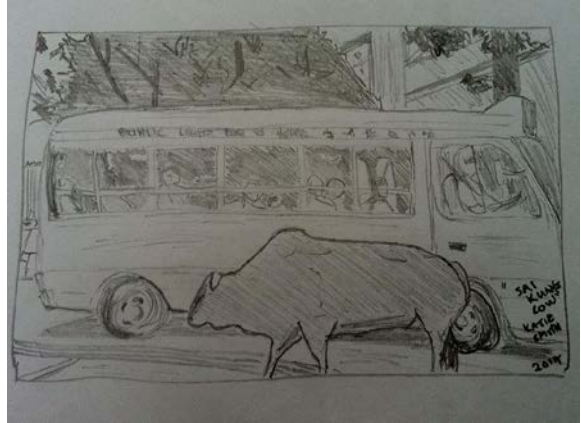
We continue to trial different styles of collars, sizes and materials, to ensure they are as safe as possible for the feral cattle.

Sadly, the other individuals to CHWSC removed some of our collars from the feral cattle and left them dumped in the field for us to find (which we did the following day). This behaviour - undermining the efforts made to make the feral cattle more visible at night, is completely unacceptable. Even though the collars were old - the yellow in them even without the reflection, does still show up under a car's headlights. So why they chose to remove them is concerning to us.



17. Community Network (社區網絡)







Small numbers (under 15 head of feral cattle) of feral cattle in Sai Kung town (at present only 4) are acceptable to the community, to police and drivers.





Good morning! Early wanderings through Sai Kung town. Note the public taking photos from a distance (good behaviour!)



Sai Kung Buffalo Watch and Sai Kung Cattle Angels operate 24 hour hotlines that anyone can call should they find any injured cattle or cattle in need of moving from roads.

We also operate Face book pages where members of the community can also report issues there.

We respond 24 hours, even in the dead of night should feral cattle be reported on the roads in the area.

We also respond 24 hours to traffic accidents / injury reports and have a good working relationship with the Sai Kung Police department too, who we work in conjunction with to herd cattle. The police help to keep us all safe and manage traffic and we move the cattle along to safer ground.

18. Controversies (爭議)

Che Ha / Kwun Hang/ Tin Liu Herd

This herd has grown in numbers over the years and last year, the herd numbered over 25 animals, ranging in age. The herd made international headlines when a large male was hit and not immediately killed by a vehicle, having walked into the road. SKBW were at the scene and the bull suffered for some time before finally passing away from his injuries.



<https://coconuts.co/hongkong/news/herd-cows-desperately-and-fruitlessly-tries-save-bull-hit-car-ma-shan/>

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/1874814/touching-scene-hong-kong-cattle-try-save-cow-hit>

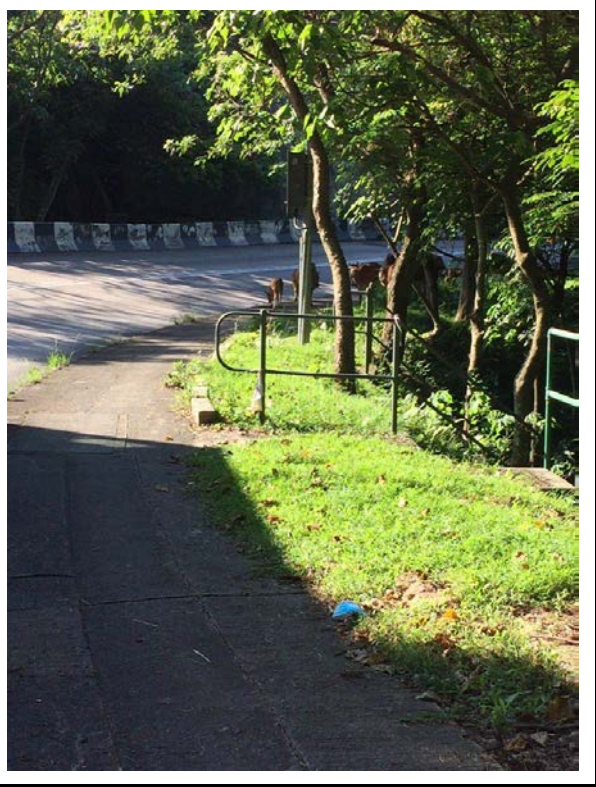
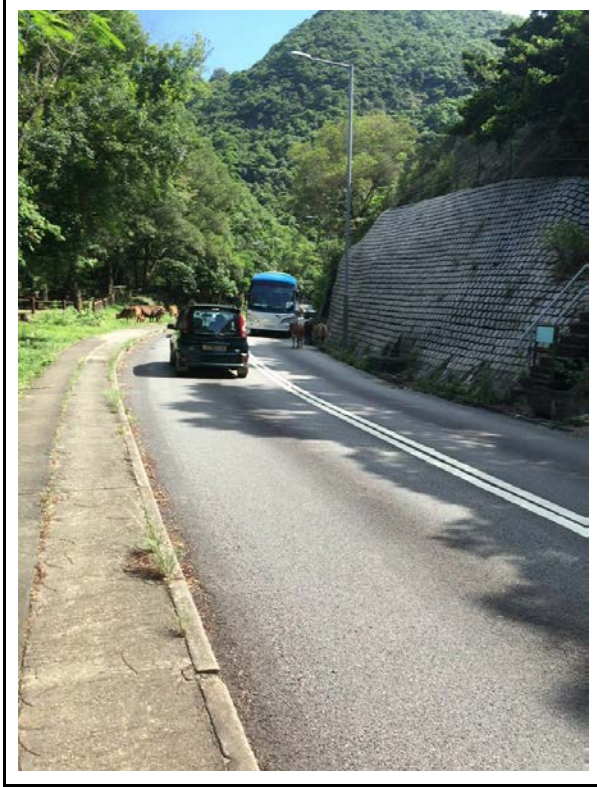
http://shanghaiist.com/2015/11/02/bull_killed_herd_mourns.php

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciChkWJfVNU>



Not only was there this incident, but SKBW and SKCA received and responded to multiple reports by concerned members of the public about the herd, moving between the villages in the area and putting themselves at serious risk on Sai Sha Road.







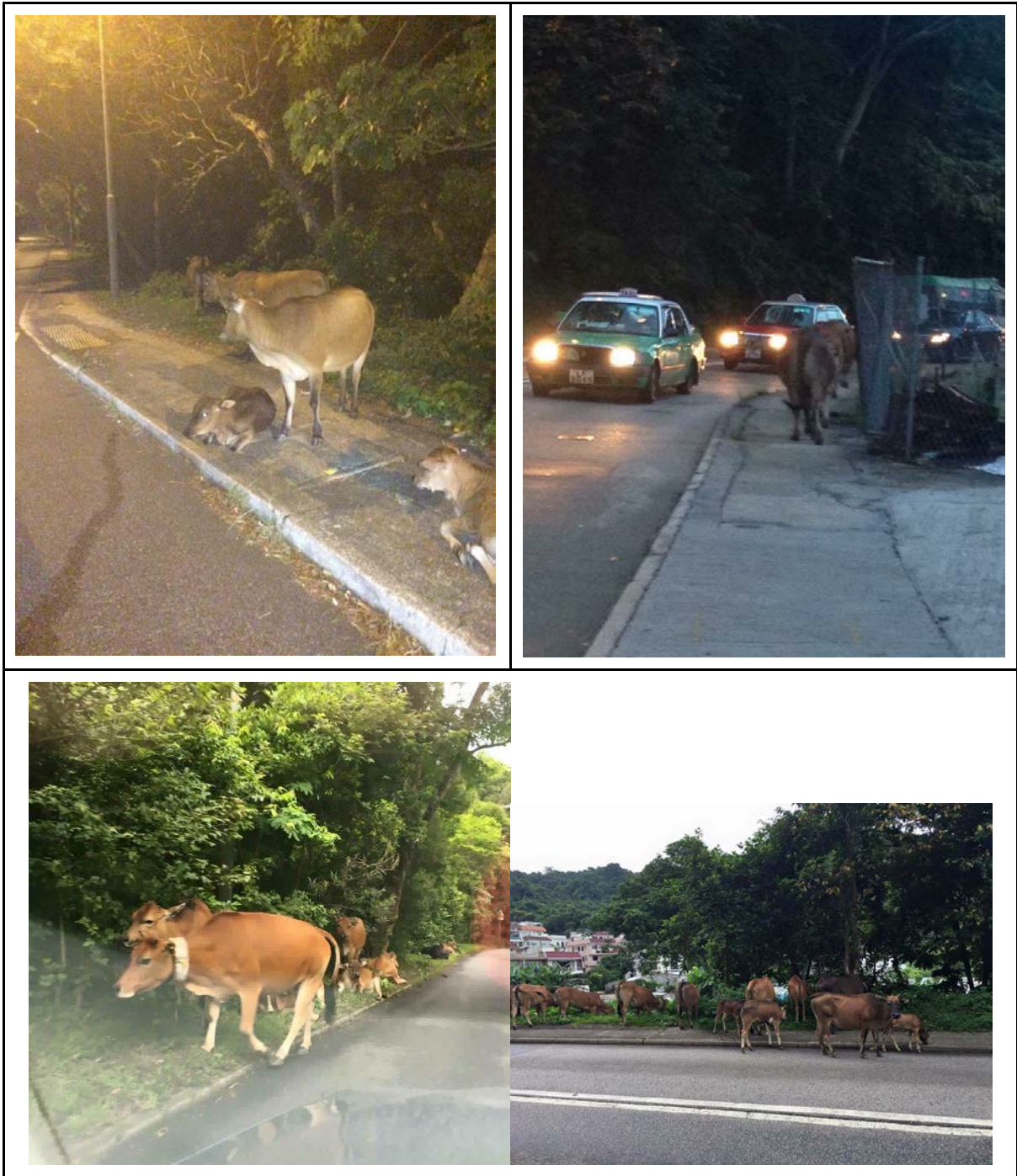
This herds proximity to Sai Sha road, particularly in Summer is a major concern and one of the reasons why the cattle taken for injury treatment, were brought back to CHWSC and not back to the roadside of Che Ha / Nai Chung / Kwun Hang.

19. Traffic Accidents

While every effort is being made to make sure traffic accidents are reduced (speed reduction measures, cattle grid, relocations, reflective collars, evening patrols of the area) it is impossible to prevent them from happening completely, without fencing the cattle into a dedicated area, which Hong Kong doesn't have nor would we condone.







20. Sanctuary Vs Free Roaming Vs Captive Cattle (庇護與自由漫遊)

As previously mentioned, Hong Kong has a lack of land. Even if we did have more land available and land capable of sustaining the feral cattle herds, SKBW and SKCA disagree with taking all the cattle and subjecting them to a captive life, compared to the one they have now in Sai Kung.

We do also have strong concerns about captive life for these feral cattle, and as an example, we have been following a private individual's 'farm' in the New Territories for some years and have issues with the confinement of the feral cattle generally.

We have concerns about.....

- Food supply / Inappropriate feed.
- Not a one person job / lack of volunteers / long term, future crisis for over 100 head of cattle kept in unsuitable environment.
- Unchecked breeding. This has got to be dealt with. We highly recommend desexing of the cattle at this facility.
- Health issues left untreated due to refusal in the past to let vets access and treat ill cattle. We understand now (with some reluctance from the owner) that 1 vet is being occasionally allowed in on an irregular basis.
- Long term care of the cattle when owner is unable to care for them any further.

These cattle have been made completely reliant on humans and it is a disaster. There have been problems with volunteers quitting and therefore the cattle have gone unfed for days - so SKBW has been attending to help do the manual labour of distributing food to the cattle and 1 water buffalo at this facility. The environmental conditions of the place is dire. It is a mud pit and it's not even the rainy season yet. The cattle are also being allowed to breed which really needs to be stopped as the facility can't cope with the numbers as is - never mind adding more calves. There is also the issue of lack of qualified and registered veterinary treatment as the woman who runs the place has in the past refused to allow medical treatment of the cattle and has a severe distrust of most people who try to help.

This is exactly the kind of situation we wish to avoid for the rest of the feral cattle. Well meaning people taking them in, making them dependent and then eventually being unable to or struggling to care for them appropriately. The physical, environmental, financial, legal and medical responsibilities of caring for these animals if they are made into 'domesticated pets' is significant and SKBW and SKCA implore people to not go down this route.



Over 100 head of cattle kept in worrying conditions. Environmentally - the space is too small and barren for the number of cattle this lady keeps.
2nd April 2017



Conditions of the pens where over 100 head of cattle are being kept. We have serious concerns about the environmental conditions for these cattle come rainy season. Breeding is also a real concern at this facility.
2nd April 2017



One solitary water buffalo being kept at the facility.
2nd April 2017



16th April 2017



16th April 2017

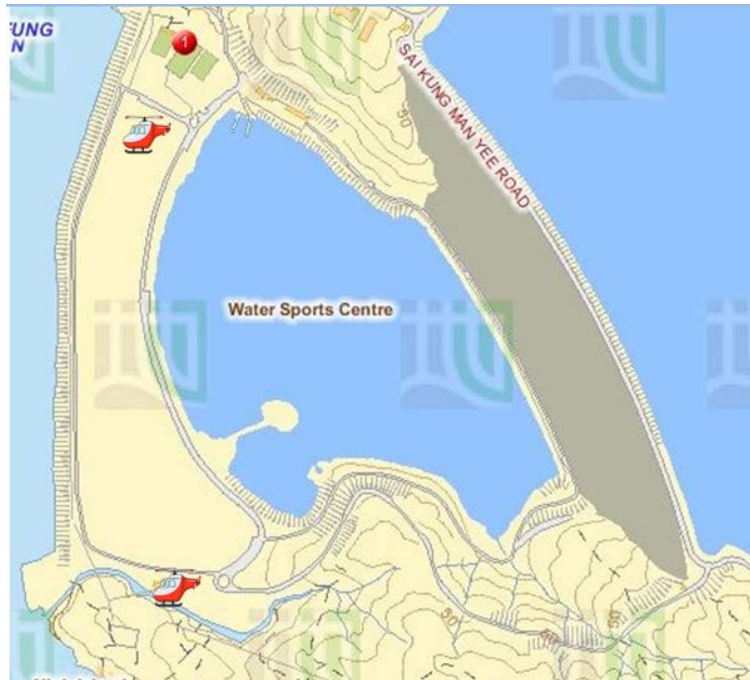
Dear all,
 We have an urgent "Emergency". The cow guardian (Ms. Yeung Yeung from World Animal Rights (Charity) Association Ltd in Sheung Shui is looking for someone to feed her cows today. Her bangladeshi helper has not come to the cow farm since yesterday, and more importantly her cows have not eaten since Thursday evening. Would any of you here be willing to go to farm and help her prepare the cow feed and feed the cows, she is too old now to carry stack of dried grass and large raw oatmeal bags and distribute them in plastic containers. I am happy to reimburse him/her all the cost involved.
 Please contact me [REDACTED]
 Thank you

21. Aging of Cattle

AFCD veterinary surgeons experienced in cattle management have estimated that the feral cattle in Hong Kong are weaned at 3 months of age, if not earlier. They are capable at this point of feeding themselves and sourcing their nutritional needs. This is important as we believe the other individuals have some difficulties ageing some of the cattle they post publicly about. Some they call 'babies' are in fact a year older or more. Some small frame cattle are also called 'babies', when they are in fact fully grown, but small in stature. Misleading the public like this is frustrating.

22. Helicopters at Chong Hing

Helicopters used by both the Government and private individuals and contractors, do complete occasional fly-bys, landings and equipment collections / drop off's at CHWSC.



In 2013, 2014 and 2015, Friends of Sai Kung (FSK) and Sai Kung Buffalo Watch (SKBW) repeatedly enquired with the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) about the landing of helicopters at CHWSC, when there was an existing helipad to use located at the top of the reservoir next to the Man Yee Road.

We continue to monitor the area in regards to helicopter landing and at present are satisfied that the occasions are rare and while loud, do not cause any lasting danger to the cattle (who migrate to another part of the field) or any people in the area. We have and will continue to also remind CAD to ensure their pilots are aware of the risk of 'bird strike' and distress to birds (particularly *Milvus migrans*), as the area is also a nesting site for dozens of black kites.



23. Messages from the public

From: Confidential

Date: 13 April 2017 at 7:08:22 PM HKT

To: skbuffalowatch@gmail.com

Subject: 8 years of management of Sai Kung's Cattle

Dear Sai Kung Buffalo Watch,

I am writing this in support of the excellent work that you do, together with the AFCD Cattle Management Team, to look after Sai Kung's beloved cattle herds.

What has been achieved by SKBW / AFCD in the past 8 years managing the welfare of the cattle in Sai Kung?

1. **Cattle numbers** have increased, a sure sign that they are prospering.
2. **Cattle health** - you only have to look at any of the herds wandering around Sai Kung to see that they are looking very good indeed: shiny coats, good body shape, bright eyed and showing general contentment. The cattle exhibit confidence and a sense of security in their demeanour.
3. **Education of the public** - this has been achieved through road signs, advertisements on the back of buses, a roadside march encouraging drivers to slow down for cattle, SKBW Facebook page, posts by SKBW on Sai Kung community social media pages, eg Sai Kung Marketplace, Sai Kung Traffic News, Sai Kung Buzz, and many meetings with various organisations behind the scenes to ensure the safety of the cattle. The success of the public education campaigns can be seen in the increasing numbers of people getting involved to support your work, community notifications of sick and injured cattle, fewer accidents, all of which immediately benefit the cattle.
4. **Monitoring and help for any sick / injured cattle** - it's a fact of nature that any species will have some sick members at any given time. As mentioned, the Sai Kung community has become increasingly involved and this has translated into quick notification of sick/injured cattle, as well as easier location of the particular cattle when the AFCD team arrive.
5. **Monitoring of cattle in potential danger** - Again with increased community involvement, cattle at risk on the roads have been moved off the roads and / or oncoming traffic has been alerted through bollards put on roads, cars flashing their lights, pedestrians waving, social media posts.
6. **Acceptance of and cherishing the cattle as an intrinsic part of Sai Kung culture** - all through the hard work of SKBW.

All of the above is obvious just to an ordinary member of the community, and I am sure that there is so much more that you have achieved that hasn't been listed above. The statistics and the evidence of the well-being of the Sai Kung cattle are more than enough evidence to counter any rubbish that other organisations are trying to impute, through politics, jealousy or whatever. Just provide them with the numbers over the 8 year period, and keep doing what you are doing!

*Thank you,
Confidential*

From: Confidential
Date: 8 April 2017 at 1:35:48 AM HKT
To: skbuffalowatch@gmail.com
Subject: Support for SKBW

SKBW has been doing a great job so far and it would be a shame to make changes. They are continuously on the watchout for the cows and communications & action is fast and efficient. The cows seems happy, healthy, freedom, plenty of greens, space to roam. Why change a good thing?

Thank you for your kind attention.

Should you have any questions or comments on this document or any of its contents, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Signed,

Ms. Karina O'Carroll, BA, MSc - Sai Kung Buffalo Watch (SKBW)

Ms. Carol Biddell - Sai Kung Buffalo Watch (SKBW)

Ms. Ell Tam - Sai Kung Cattle Angel (SKCA) 西貢護牛天使

