

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Animal Rights

**“Trap-Neuter-Return” Trial Programme for Stray Dogs
24- April-2017**



The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Concept

- Proposed by various AWOs as a method to control the stray dog population
- Stray dogs are caught, neutered and returned to their original habitat
- The number of stray dogs is expected to gradually decline



Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Concept

- It is however noted that so far there is a lack of scientific study in other places to prove the effectiveness of TNR in reducing stray dog population.
- AFCD is assisting two AWOs in carrying out a three-year trial programme in selected sites to assess the effectiveness of TNR as a mean to reduce
 - Stray dog population
 - Associated nuisance

- The TNR trial commenced on 16th January, 2015
 - Programme coordinators :SPCA, SAA
 - Monitoring and assessment: AFCD & Consultant
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Target

1. Catching at least 80% of stray dogs in the trial sites during the first 6 months of the programme
2. Achieving an average of 10% annual decrease in the population of stray dogs in the trial sites during the trial period; and
3. Complaints received should be matching with, or lower than, the territory-wide average during the trial period.

香港特別行政區
HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

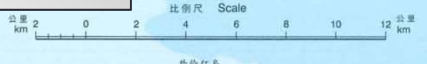


元朗大棠試點
SAA 保護瀕危動物協會
Society for Alternative Animal
Welfare

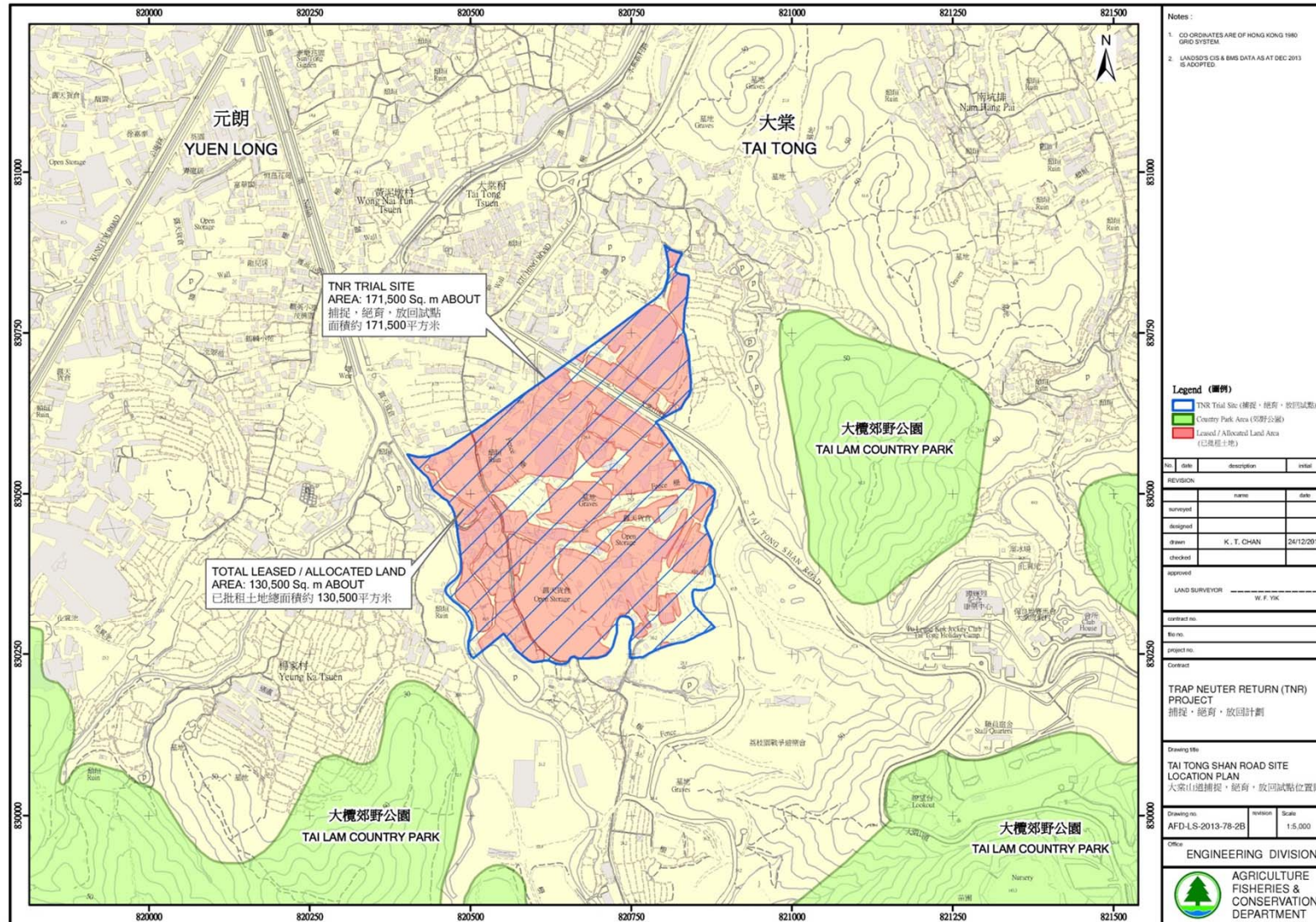
長洲試點
SPCA 愛護動物協會

圖例 LEGEND

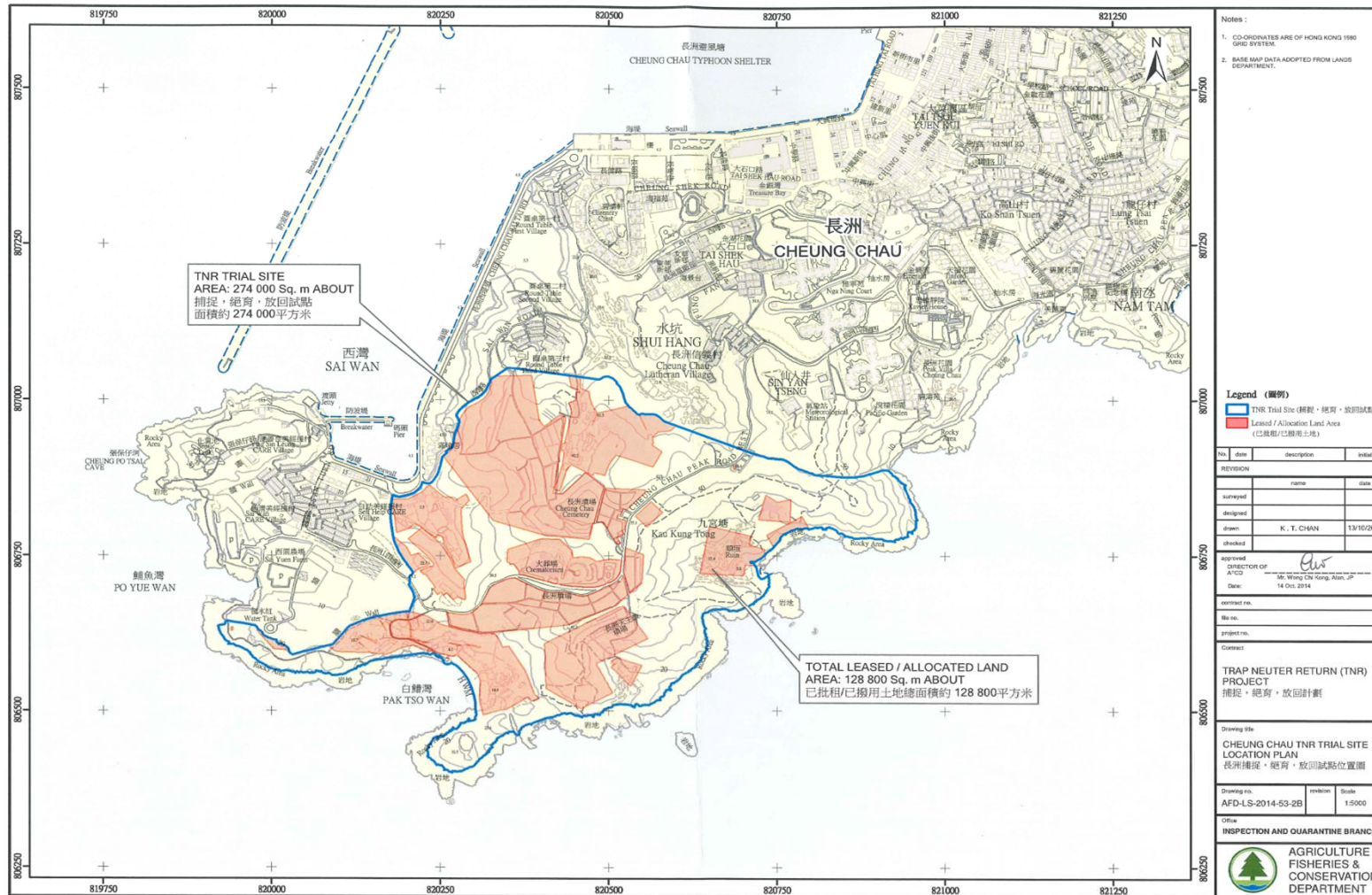
- 鐵路 Railway
- 輕鐵 Light Rail
- 興建中之鐵路 Railway under construction
- 公路幹線 Main Road
- 公路支線 Secondary Road
- 興建中之道路 Road under construction
- 已建區 Built-up Area
- 耕地 Cultivation
- 沼澤/沼林 Swamp/Mangrove
- 高度 (以米為單位) Height (in metres)
- 高度色階 (以米為單位) Elevation Tints (in metres)
- 水深顏色以米為單位 Sea depth in metres



Tai Tong Shan Road (Yuen Long)



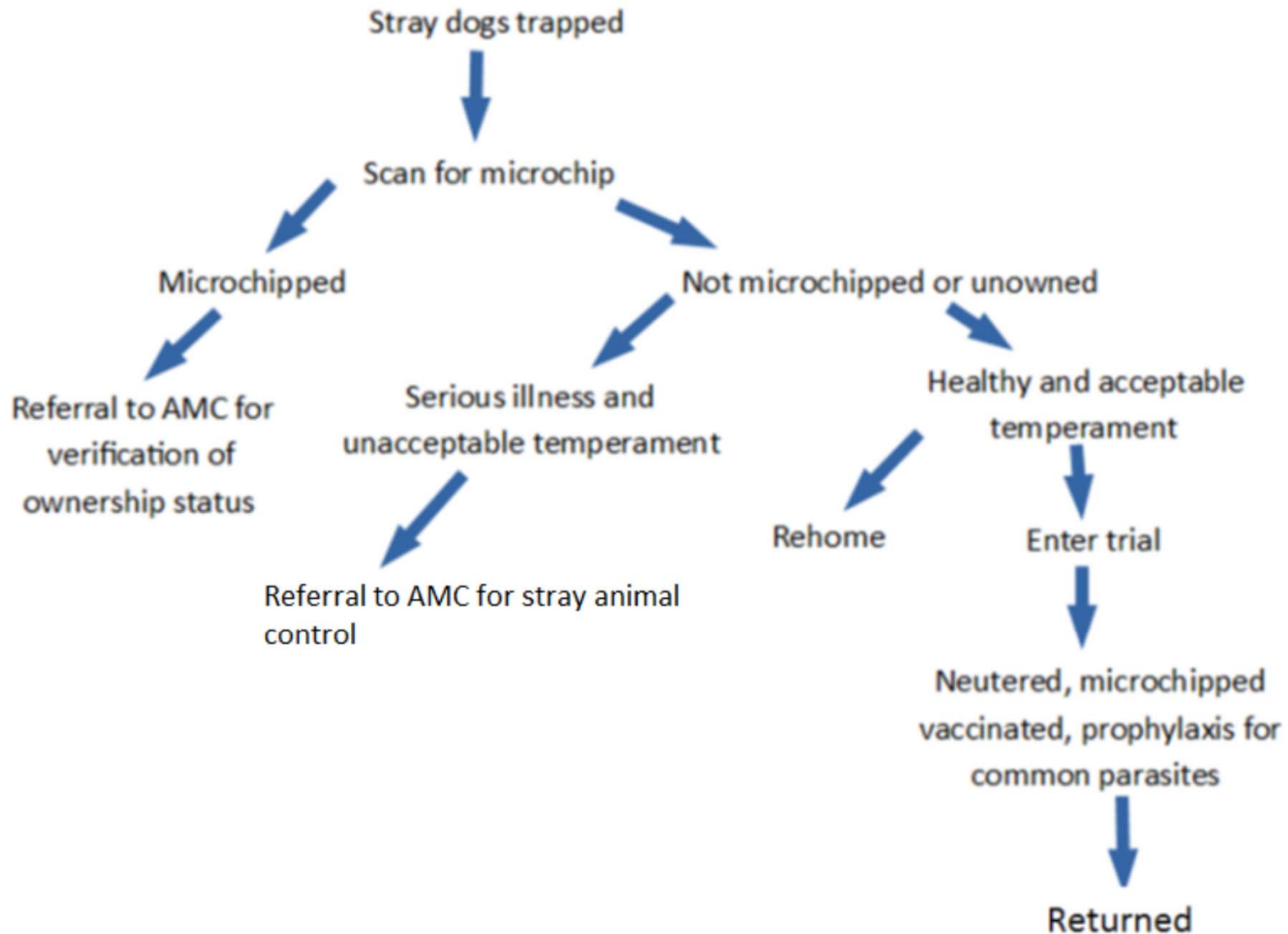
Cheung Chau South (Cemetery)



Carers

- Recruited and trained by the Programme Coordinators (PCs)
- Role: to feed, catch and monitor the stray dogs within the zone
- Ensure the environmental hygiene of the location is not affected by the feeding activities

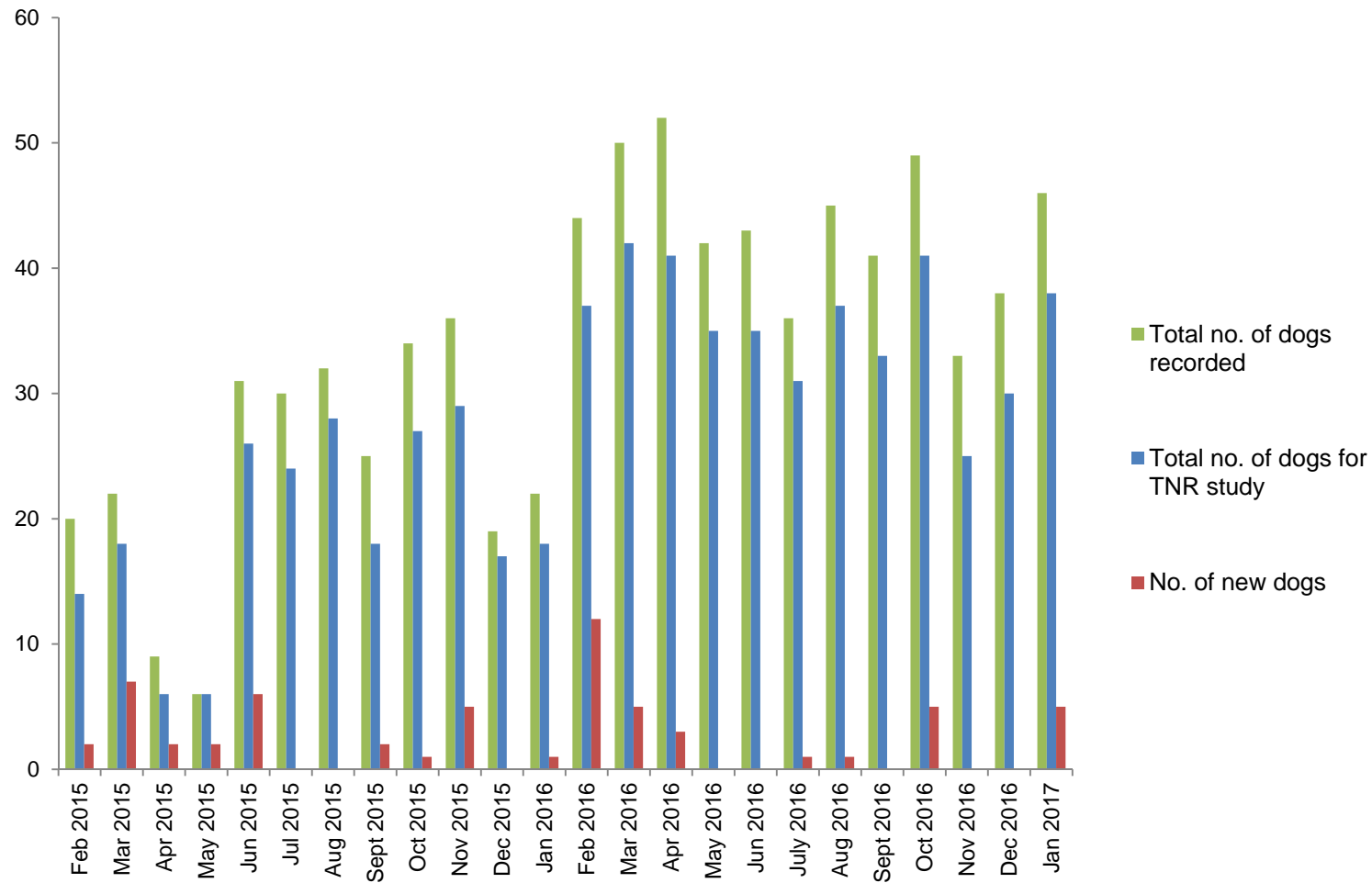




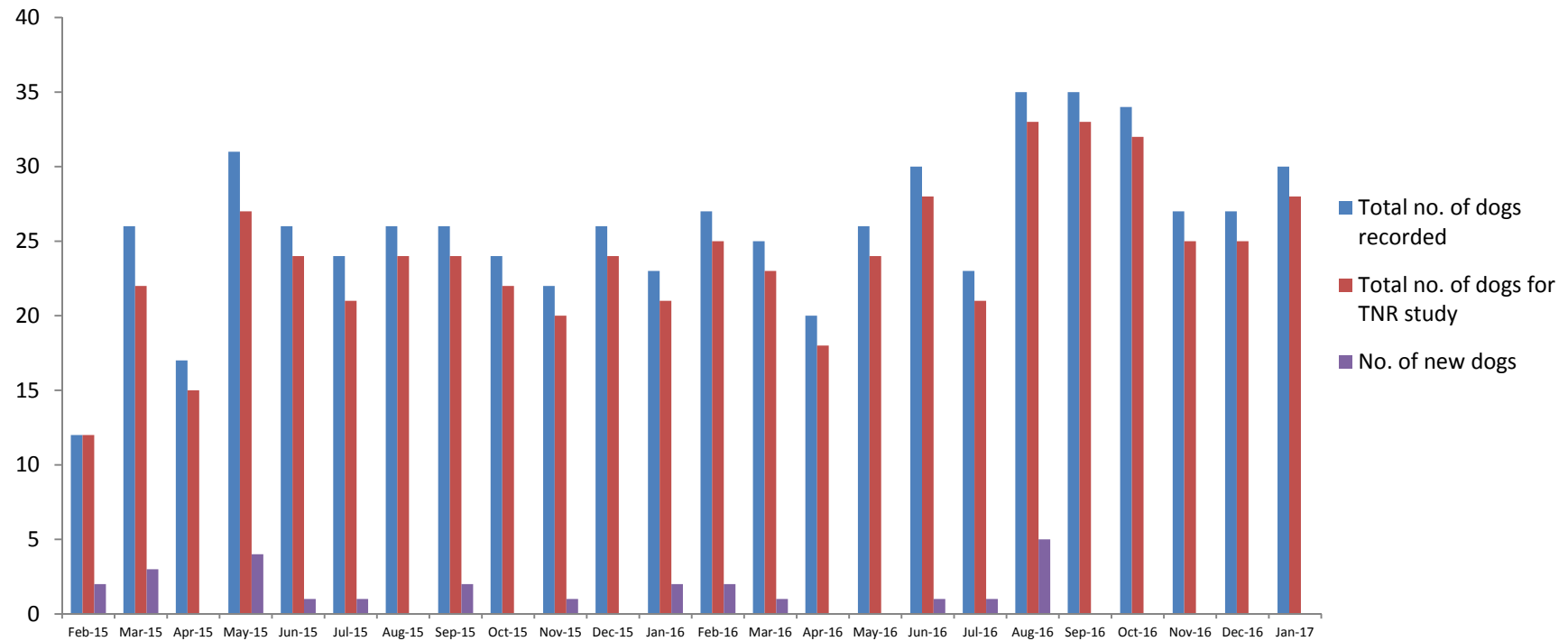
Initial findings

- It took the two PCs 10-11 months to achieve the target of neutering over 80% of the stray dogs in their respective trial sites (i.e. 4-5 months longer than expected) as it was difficult to capture some of the dogs that were more alert to the trap.
- This may have left a larger window for reproduction by stray dogs in the sites during the initial period of the study

Summary of population surveys in the Cheung Chau trial site from Feb 2015 to Jan 2017



Total number of dogs recorded in the Tai Tong trial site from Feb 2015 to Jan 2017



Initial findings

- The number of dogs recorded fluctuated from month to month
- No clear trend of change in the dog population over the first two years of the trial programme
- The wide range in counts may be due to a number of reasons including weather and seasonal effect, extra food supplies during festive periods and movement of dogs in and out of the areas during the study period, etc.

Initial findings

- The number of stray dog complaints was found to have increased in the Cheung Chau trial site but decreased in the Tai Tong trial site

Number of Complaints Received Annually		
	Cheung Chau	Tai Tong
Feb 2014 to Jan 2015 (i.e. before the commencement of the study)	19	14
Feb 2015 to Jan 2016	39	8
Feb 2016 to Jan 2017	27	1

Preliminary Observations

- The stray dog population in the two trial sites did not show a trend of reduction. This might be due to-
 - difficulty in recording accurately the number of dogs in the sites;
 - new dogs entering the areas;
 - the number of dogs died of natural cause is small during the relatively short period of study when compared to the average life span of dogs (around 10-12 years for pet dogs)
 - the improved health condition of stray dogs under the caring of and medical treatment given by the PCs.
 - Moreover, the number of stray dog in the Cheung Chau site may have even increased if new puppies found in that site were not rehomed by the concerned PC.

Preliminary Observations

- The complaint numbers due to stray dogs could be subject to a number of factors and might not necessarily be related to TNR.
- For instance, according to the Consultant and PCs, the increase in complaints in the Cheung Chau trial site might be a result of increased amount of nuisance to the nearby residential area caused by dogs attracted to the area by the dog food supplied by the concerned PC and other people in the vicinity.
- The decrease in complaints in the Tai Tong trial site, on the other hand, might be a result of relocation of some dogs to a nearby shelter by the concerned PC from time to time having regard to the health condition of the dogs during the study period.

Preliminary Observations

- Premature to draw any conclusion at this stage as the effectiveness of the programme will need to be further assessed when more data is available.
- AFCD will closely monitor the progress and consider the way forward upon reviewing the Consultant's assessment after the trial programme is completed.

END

