



Management of wild and stray animals

Figure 1 – Number of wild pigs handled under CCRP

Year	Captured	Received contraceptive treatment and/or sterilisation	Relocated
2017	17	3	12
2018	116	51	83
2019	271	109	206
2020	286	134	218

Figure 2 – Number of nuisance complaints and reports for assistance request

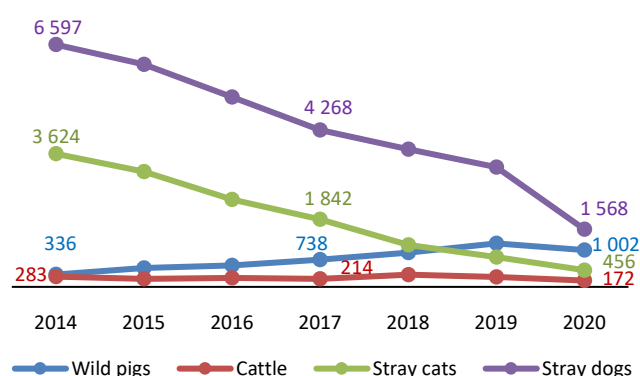


Figure 3 – Number of wild pig nuisance black spots

District	No. of black spots	No. of black spots with problems resolved or temporarily resolved since 2017 ⁽²⁾
Southern	19	13
Central and Western	15	10
Tai Po	9	5
Sai Kung	9	6
Wan Chai	8	6
Others ⁽¹⁾	32	15
Total	92	55 (60%)

Notes: (1) The "Others" category covers districts with six or less black spots.

(2) Relevant control measures have been implemented at the respective black spots and no complaints on wild pig nuisance have been received for some time.

Figure 4 – Number of cattle handled under CSRP

Year	Captured	Sterilised	Relocated/returned
2016	114	64	69
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80
2019	125	207	98
2020	65	61	58

Highlights

- Wild animals (such as wild pigs and cattle) and abandoned domestic animals (dogs and cats in particular) straying on the streets can cause nuisances such as noise, hygiene and safety issues.
- Reported cases of **wild pigs** scavenging for food in urban areas and hitting or biting passers-by have increased versus a decade ago. To address the problem, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") launched the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme ("CCRP") in late 2017 and regularized it in 2019. Under CCRP, wild pigs would be relocated to remote countryside and, when conditions permit, vaccinated or sterilised. AFCD has also deployed newly-designed litter containers which are more resistant to scavenging by wild pigs and other animals at suitable sites, as well as strengthened education to the public on no-feeding of wild animals.
- As more wild pig incidents were handled after CCRP's regularization in 2019 (**Figure 1**), the number of nuisance complaints received had bucked its rising trend (**Figure 2**). Though AFCD has so far resolved or temporarily resolved the nuisance problems at about 60% of wild pig nuisance black spots (**Figure 3**), there remained calls for stepping up implementation of CCRP.
- Meanwhile, **stray cattle** in the rural areas of Hong Kong is another issue. A survey conducted in 2018 indicated that there were about 1 140 such animals, which could sometimes cause traffic obstruction, affect hygiene, engender nuisance to nearby residents, or even damage crops in agricultural area. Similarly, AFCD has introduced the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme ("CSRP") in 2011 to control the stray cattle population through capturing, sterilising, ear-tagging (for identification purpose), and relocating the cattle concerned (**Figure 4**). Since 2017, AFCD has rolled out another initiative by deploying "herdsmen" at specific locations to herd away cattle that have been causing obstruction to traffic. These efforts together contributed to a gradual reduction of cattle-related nuisance complaints in the past few years (**Figure 2**). AFCD is now conducting another pilot scheme to collect data about the movement patterns of cattle to facilitate formulation of relevant measures to reduce related traffic accidents.

Management of wild and stray animals (cont'd)

Figure 5 – Number of dogs and cats received by AFCD

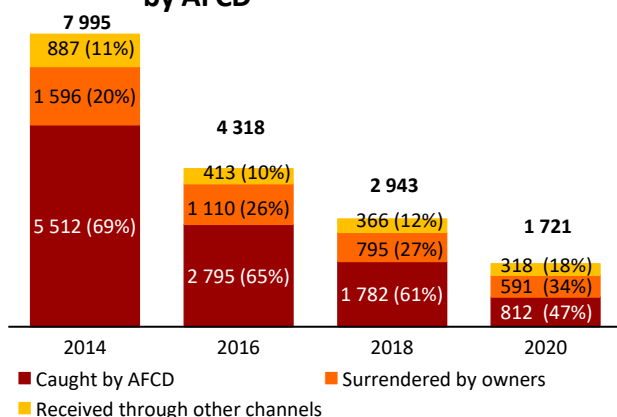
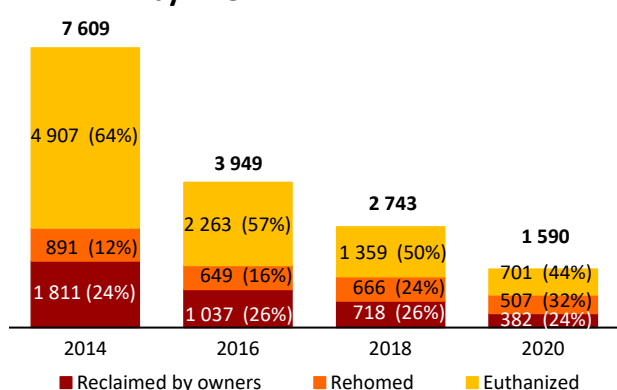
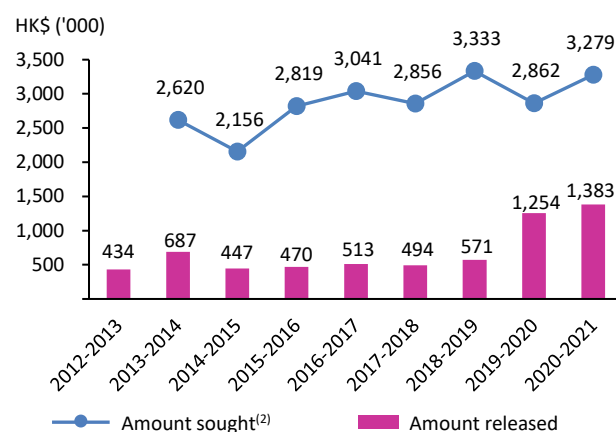


Figure 6 – Number of dogs and cats handled by AFCD⁽¹⁾



Note: (1) The animals received in a year may not be handled in the same year. Hence, the total number of animals received may be different from the total number of animals handled in a specific year.

Figure 7 – Subventions provided to AWOs⁽¹⁾



Notes: (1) Subventions are released on a reimbursement basis based on approved applications submitted in the previous year.

(2) Figure in 2012-2013 is not available.

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Highlights

- **Stray dogs and stray cats** are generally feral animals, abandoned or lost pets. To address stray animal issues as well as safeguard animal welfare, AFCD has enhanced its public education efforts on, among others, promoting responsible pet ownership and advising against abandonment of pets in the past few years. Related promotion and education expenditure amounted to HK\$22.0 million in 2020-2021, up from HK\$10.7 million in 2016-2017. As more people became aware of the responsibility and commitment required for pet ownership, the number of dogs and cats received by AFCD, including the stray dogs and cats caught, as well as those surrendered by their owners and received through other channels, had reduced noticeably by 78% between 2014 and 2020 (**Figure 5**). Added to this, complaints received by AFCD about nuisances related to stray dogs and stray cats drastically reduced by 76% and 87% respectively over the same period (**Figure 2**).
- For animals received by AFCD, arrangement will be made for animals with implanted microchips to be reclaimed by their owners. Unclaimed animals with good temperament and health condition will be rehomed or transferred to the partnering animal welfare organizations ("AWOs") for neutering and adoption, while the remainder may eventually be euthanized. Even though the proportion of dogs and cats rehomed had gradually increased from 12% in 2014 to 32% in 2020, the proportion of euthanasia cases was still considered high at 44% in 2020 and continued to be a concern among AWOs and other stakeholders (**Figure 6**).
- Meanwhile, AFCD has provided subventions to eligible AWOs since 2011 to support their work in promoting animal welfare and animal adoption on a project basis. In 2020-2021, about HK\$1.4 million were granted to 11 AWOs, up notably from around HK\$0.4 million granted to 3 AWOs in 2012-2013 (**Figure 7**). Nonetheless, the total grant remained well below the amount sought for by AWOs. Besides, recurrent expenditures of AWOs such as rentals are not covered by subventions. In order to further improve animal rights and minimize euthanasia on healthy stray animals, stakeholders believe that there is a need for AFCD to consider beefing up financial assistance to AWOs (including subsidies to cover their recurrent expenditures), setting up more rehoming centres and providing public animal adoption services.

Data sources: Latest figures from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Environment Bureau, and Food and Health Bureau.

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