



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref.: FHB/F 6/8/40/1

Fax No.: 2136 3282

10 January 2014

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Jove CHAN)
[Fax: 2185 7845]

Dear Mr Chan,

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to the visit to
the New Territories North Animal Management Centre
("AMC(NTN)")

I refer to your letter of 31 December 2013, requesting the Administration to provide written information in response to some enquiries and requests raised by Members during their visit to the AMC(NTN) on 23 December 2013. The following is our reply: -

- (a) The number of stray dogs and cats caught, the number of dogs and cats surrendered to Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD"), as well as the number of dogs and cats reclaimed by owners, re-homed and euthanized in the past year are set out as follows :

Year 2013	Dogs	Cats
Caught	4 626	2 866
Surrendered	1 871	222
Reclaimed by Owners	1 379	779
Rehomed	770	206
Euthanised	5 353	1 861

- (b) Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or cannot be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised. For animals which are assessed to be suitable for re-homing but cannot yet be re-homed, AFCD's current practice is to continue to detain the animal in its AMC until re-homing can be arranged. It is very rare for AFCD to euthanize animals in these cases. AFCD therefore does not keep statistics on this. We do not have information on overseas practice in respect of this.
- (c) Generally speaking, stray animals caught or abandoned animals received will first be sent to AFCD's AMCs for observation. During the observation period, veterinary officers on duty will closely monitor the animals' health and other conditions to ascertain their suitability for re-homing. Unclaimed animals will be passed to animal welfare organisations for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of a mild temperament.
- (d) The "guidelines on handling and catching stray dogs and cats" were already sent to you via email dated 24 December 2013. You have kindly agreed that the information should be for Members' reference only and should not be further distributed.
- (e) Stray animal management work is currently taken care of by 20 Animal Control Teams in AFCD, comprising 20 Field Assistants and 48 Workmen in total.
- (f) Field Assistants and Workmen responsible for catching stray animals have 15 years of working experience on average. Newly joined staff will be trained by the Team leader on the application of animal catching tools before field operation. They will also be provided with ample opportunities to practise the catching

strategy with teammates. In addition, they will be provided with the “guidelines on handling and catching stray dogs and cats” in which detailed instructions in respect of catching stray animals are set out. They are required to familiarize themselves with the guidelines and strictly adhere to them when conducting field operation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vinci Chan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn.: Dr Thomas SIT)
[Fax: 2375 3563]