

(Translation)

15 May 2015

Clerk to Panel
(Attn.: Ms Alice LEUNG)
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax : 2509 9055)

Dear Ms LEUNG,

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Follow-up on Strategy Adopted by the Government
in Tackling the Issue of Stray Cattle**

At its meeting on 9 December 2014, the Panel discussed matters related to the strategy adopted by the Government in tackling the issue of stray cattle. The Government was requested to provide supplementary information after the meeting to set out the considerations of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in deciding whether or not fencing or cattle grids would be used to abate the nuisance caused by stray cattle to residents or road users in Sai Kung and Lantau Island. Our reply is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

According to overseas experience, cattle grids are commonly used in ranches to fence the cattle inside the ranches and prevent them from trespassing beyond the ranch boundaries. Cattle grids are also used on highways to prevent passage of cattle that may interrupt the normal traffic. In Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, cattle grids are commonly found.

In Hong Kong, for the purpose of enhancing the management of stray cattle that have been relocated to the countryside. Currently, AFCD is actively exploring the feasibility of using cattle grids to confine stray cattle to a particular location or to prevent them from entering a particular area. AFCD will take into account a number of considerations, including whether there is passage way nearby the selected location for the cattle grids from which the cattle can wander away, whether there are bypasses allowing pedestrians and other road users (including cyclists) to pass through, and whether there are spaces for installation of clear signage, etc.

AFCD is now assessing 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 will liaise closely with the relevant Government departments (e.g. Water Supplies Department, Highways Department, Transport Department, Lands Department and Hong Kong Police Force, etc.), relevant District Council, rural committees, local communities and animal welfare organisations to identify a suitable location for the trial and study the grid design. The Department will also address the technical and safety issues involved in installing a cattle grid at the trial location. These include the safety concerns caused to pedestrians and road users following the installation of the cattle grid and consequential arrangements to address the concerns. Upon the installation of cattle grids, the Government will have to provide public education, and conduct periodic inspection and maintenance.

We hope that the trial scheme will help complement the current "Capture-Sterilise-Relocate" programme by effectively keeping stray cattle in their relocated site. Drawing reference from the efficacy of this trial scheme, AFCD will deliberate the merits or otherwise of installing cattle grids or fences in other locations.

Yours sincerely,

(Alison Lo)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn.: Dr Thomas Sit)

Fax: 2311 3731