

Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel Meeting December 9th 2014

1. The Tai O Community Cattle Group supports the efforts of the AFCD/ Animal Management (Operations)/ Cattle Team.

Since May, 2014 the Tai O Community Cattle Group has had excellent communication with the AFCD Cattle Team.

We are able to report cattle injuries directly to the team and get an immediate response.

The cattle team also keeps us updated on cows in their care.

If there is an urgent case after hours they arrive as soon as possible.

The team is well trained when it involves catching, releasing and monitoring the herds.

Dr Patrick Lau is an excellent veterinarian and I trust his decisions on and off the field. He also understands and values our concerns regarding the cows conditions. He is easy to talk to which helps us work together for the cattles benefit.

Dr Cathy Koon is also a trusted veterinarian who understands not only the cattle but the desires of the community regarding the cattle. She is also easy to communicate with on any cattle issue.

2. In regards to the Cattle team I would like to say that they are stretched to their limits dealing with all the cattle matters and we would like to see a Cattle Task Force set up which would include,

- i. Development Bureau (Civil Engineering Department, Development Department, Lands Department and Planning Department)
- ii. Security Bureau (Fire Services Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, Home Affairs Bureau, Environmental Dept and Education Bureau)
- iii. The Tourism Commission
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Having a Cattle Task Force in place would facilitate communication between departments and NGO's regarding all aspects of cattle management.

3. Issues involving roaming cattle and their management on roads and in restricted areas,
 - i. Cattle grids and/or gates should be installed in areas where cattle stray onto busy roads or to help keep them from leaving cattle safe zones (country parks). Our group has submitted a plan regarding the Shui Hau Herd on Lantau, Island that involves cattle gates and a cattle grid.
 - ii. A traffic Police unit its main function being to insure speed limits are enforced by drivers on South Lantau Road.
 - iii. A transport department team responsible for any issues arising on Lantau, Island regarding signage on curves and black spots. Also the issue of NLB drivers not posting their driver IDs, which makes it difficult for the public to report drivers that speed, drive carelessly and hit cows.
 - iv. Gates/fences that are people friendly to help keep cows out of public housing areas where the tenants feel the need to use force to chase them out. (Tai O)

4. Due to the hard work by NGO's on Lantau, Island and in Sai Kung regarding feral cattle we would like to have NGO's set up in the New Territories (Central and North) as cows and buffalo residing there need support.
5. The subject of cattle shelters has been brought up many times. The issue of not only land but responsibility for the cattle in this situation is tenuous at best. The herds need a large area to graze and have roamed the same paths generation to generation. The cattle are better wild avoiding people for their own safety.
6. We must all try to remember that although we love the cattle they are not domesticated or pets. Injuries must be understood on a more scientific basis than one would in regards to their pet dog for example. A broken leg is a death sentence when it comes to the cattle. Internal injuries from road accidents are many times impossible to treat. Although it can be tough we must remember that the AFCD cattle team veterinarians do what is best for the cattles welfare in every case.
7. We will continue to help and communicate with the AFCD cattle team as we have been doing. Our hopes are that more bureaus will understand the need for their help and working together will build an even better communication network to ensure the cattles welfare is protected.

Kathleen Marie Lee Daxon

Chairperson

Tai O Community Cattle Group