LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap.167) **DANGEROUS DOGS REGULATION (EXEMPTION)**(AMENDMENT) NOTICE 2014

Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421)

RABIES (TNR PROGRAMME) (EXEMPTION) NOTICE

INTRODUCTION

Section 17(1) of the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167) provides that the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) may, by notice published in the Gazette, exempt any person or class of persons, or any dog or class of dogs, from the provisions of any regulation made under Cap. 167 whether generally or in a particular case (whether or not by reference to any purpose or any circumstances).

- 2. Section 47 and of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) provides that DAFC may, by notice published in the Gazette, exempt a person or class of persons or an animal or class, genus or species of animals from the application of any or all of the provisions in Cap. 421 generally or for any purpose or by reference to any circumstances. Section 51(3) of Cap. 421 provides that DAFC may in writing, in such cases as he thinks fit and for such period and subject to such conditions as he specifies, exempt any person or class of persons from the application of any regulations made under section 51.
- 3. DAFC may exercise the power to grant exemptions mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above where he is satisfied that public or animal health will not be endangered by such exemptions.
- 4. For the purpose of implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme for stray dogs, DAFC has made the following exemption notices –

- (a) the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014 for the disapplication of section 9(1) of the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Cap. 167D)¹ as set out at **Annex A**; and
- (b) the Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice for the disapplication of sections 22(1) and 23(1) of Cap. 421², as well as section 20(1) of the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A)³ as set out at **Annex B**.

(collectively referred to as "the Notices")

JUSTIFICATIONS

Management of Stray Dogs

- 5. The Government attaches great importance to animal welfare and management. Our policy objective is to ensure that animals and people co-exist in a harmonious way.
- 6. Under its stray dog management programme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will catch stray dogs in response to complaints of noise and environmental hygiene nuisances, potential danger to members of the public and dog biting incidents.
- 7. Stray dogs caught will first be sent to AFCD's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. Health conditions permitting, the animals will stay for four days. During the observation period, veterinary officers on duty will closely monitor the animals' health and other conditions to ascertain their suitability for re-homing. For dogs licensed and implanted with a microchip, AFCD will try to contact the owners for reclaiming their animals. For dogs not microchipped or unclaimed by owners, they may be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for re-homing if they are found to be

Section 9(1) of Cap. 167D requires large dogs entering or remaining in a public place to be under control through a leash.

² Section 22(1) of Cap. 421 prohibits a keeper of an animal from abandoning the animal without reasonable excuse. Section 23(1) provides that a dog must not be in a public place or a place from which it may reasonably be expected to wander into a public place unless it is on a leash or otherwise under control.

³ Section 20(1) of Cap. 421A provides that a person must not keep a dog over the age of 5 months except under and in accordance with a licence.

healthy and of a mild temperament. Animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons or cannot be re-homed by AWOs will be euthanised.

8. In recent years, AFCD has been strengthening its efforts in stray animal management through a number of new and enhanced measures. Through such efforts, the number of stray dogs euthanised has decreased in recent years. Relative to 2008, the figure in 2012 has dropped by 45%. Notwithstanding this, there are still concerns about the number of stray dogs euthanised as well as the propriety of the catching and disposal methods. There are suggestions that we should explore implementation of TNR in Hong Kong as an additional method to control the stray dog population.

The TNR Concept

- 9. Under the TNR, stray dogs are caught, neutered and then returned to their original habitat. Proponents believe that, through TNR, the stray dog population will gradually decline without resorting to euthanasia. From available overseas experience and data, however, the effectiveness of TNR in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance has yet to be scientifically proven.
- 10. In the above connection, two AWOs which have been advocating the TNR concept, namely the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and the Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA), have proposed and AFCD has agreed to facilitate the pursuit of an initiative under which a three-year trial TNR programme in selected sites will be carried out, with a view to ascertaining the effectiveness of TNR as a means to tackle the problems posed by stray dogs and associated nuisance. Outside the designated trial zones for the TNR programme, AFCD will continue to apply the catch-and-remove method to control the stray dog population in Hong Kong.

Details of the TNR Programme

11. A broad framework of the TNR trial programme is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Trial Zones

12. An appropriate trial zone should be one with an existing stable colony of stray dogs, with a reasonable size of initial stray dog population. To minimise the risk of rabies introduction, dog bites and traffic accidents caused by stray dogs in the trial programme, the trial zone shall not be set around hospitals, schools, homes for the elderly, busy roads or within 500 metres from the boundary with the Mainland. Based on the above criteria and in consultation with the stakeholders, including the relevant District Councils, two areas in Cheung Chau and Tai Tong have been identified as the trial zones for the TNR programme. Maps showing the exact locations of the two trial zones are at **Annex C**.

Programme Coordinators and Carers

13. The trial programme will be run by SPCA and SAA, as the Programme Coordinators (PCs), under a set of agreed protocols with AFCD. The PCs will recruit volunteers and employees as carers to catch and feed stray dogs within the trial zones. Before participating in the trial programme, the carers must complete a training course organised by the PCs and approved by DAFC. The training course must cover animal nutrition, animal behaviour, environmental safety and dog catching methods. The carers will be responsible for the feeding and monitoring of the dogs under the trial programme. For better identification, they shall carry an identification card issued by the PCs when engaged in any activities relating to the trial programme.

Handling of the Dogs by the PCs

14. Stray dogs caught by the PCs in a trial zone⁴ will be transported to their designated veterinary clinic for medical and temperament

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⁴ The trial programme targets dogs in the trial zones, including feral and semi-feral dogs, irrespective of whether they are already in the trial zones at the start of the programme or move into the trial zones during the trial period. The PCs will catch the dogs by first developing a trusting relationship between the carers and the stray dogs through regular feeding. However, if the above feeding approach fails due to the feral nature of the dogs, the traditional catching method may also be employed by the PCs, including the use of catching poles and snares.

assessment. Those dogs selected to be kept in the trial programme⁵ will undergo a veterinary examination by a registered veterinary surgeon before they are released back to the trial zone. These dogs will be given prophylactic treatments against various parasites. They will be neutered, microchipped and given anti-rabies vaccination and other vaccines for the control of parvovirus infection, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis and leptospirosis. In addition to a microchip, a visual identification marker will be put on the dog before they are released to the trial zone.⁶

15. Upon their release to the trial zones, the carers will be responsible for the feeding and monitoring of the dogs under the trial programme. No excessive feeding by the carers will be allowed and they have to ensure that environmental hygiene of the location is not affected by their feeding activities.

Suspension / Termination of the Trial Programme

- 16. In order to safeguard public health and safety, the TNR trial programme will be immediately terminated upon the confirmation of the emergence of a rabies or zoonotic disease case in Hong Kong during the trial period where transmission by stray dogs plays a role in the disease epidemiology.
- 17. The trial programme will be suspended if any of the following conditions arise
 - (a) significant increase in the number of complaints concerning animal nuisance and animal welfare in respect of the trial programme; or

If the dog caught by the PCs is found with a microchip, appears to be well-socialised or is suspected to have an owner, it will be held in the PCs' facilities or referred to the relevant AMC until ownership status is verified. If a dog is confirmed to be owned, it will be returned to its owner. Unowned dogs will be rehomed if they are healthy and of an appropriate temperament. The aggressive ones may endanger public safety and will be euthanised.

It should be noted that the catching and neutering will be a continuous process in that new dogs, though of a small number, may enter the trial zones from outside. These, together with those already in the trial zone at the beginning of the trial but not yet caught and neutered, may continue to have offspring. The PCs are therefore expected to continue with the catching and handling of these relevant dogs throughout the trial period.

(b) fatal or serious accident(s) caused by one or more dogs of the trial programme.

During the suspension period, AFCD and the PCs will work together to derive possible remedial actions. If it is not possible to come up with feasible solutions to prevent future occurrence of these incidents, the programme will be terminated.

- 18. Depending on the seriousness of the matter, AFCD may also require the PCs to suspend the trial programme if
 - (a) there are procedural irregularities or non-compliance with the agreed protocol by the PCs; or
 - (b) the relevant District Council or local community groups have withdrawn their support to the trial programme.

During the suspension period, AFCD will make the best endeavour to work with the PCs and other parties to resolve issues. If mediation and remedial action fails, then the trial programme will be terminated. Upon termination of the TNR trial programme, the traditional catch-and-remove approach will resume in the trial zones concerned.

THE NOTICES

19. To facilitate the implementation of the TNR programme, the requirements under section 9(1) of Cap. 167D⁷, and sections 22(1) and 23(1) of Cap. 421⁸, have to be disapplied in relation to the release of dogs under the trial programme. Section 20(1) of Cap. 421A⁹ also has to be disapplied in relation to the keeping of dogs under the TNR programme.

Section 9(1) of Cap. 167D requires large dogs entering or remaining in a public place to be under control through a leash.

⁸ Section 22(1) of Cap. 421 prohibits a keeper of an animal from abandoning the animal without reasonable excuse. Section 23(1) provides that a dog must not be in a public place or a place from which it may reasonably be expected to wander into a public place unless it is on a leash or otherwise under control.

⁹ Section 20(1) of Cap. 421A provides that a person must not keep a dog over the age of 5 months except under and in accordance with a licence.

- 20. The Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014 adds new sections 3 and 4 to the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) Notice (Cap. 167F). Section 3 provides for the definition Section 4(1) provides that section 9(1) of Cap. 167D does not apply to a person who causes, suffers or permits a large dog to be released under the TNR programme. Section 4(2) provides that a large dog is released under the TNR programme if certain conditions are met. Firstly, the dog must be released within a trial zone by a person carrying an identification card issued by a PC to show that the person is an employee or volunteer of the PC and has completed a training course organised by the PC. Secondly, the dog must be affixed with an identification mark by the PC on the basis that it has been assessed as being suitable for release within a trial zone, and has been neutered and vaccinated against certain dog diseases. Section 4(3) and (4) sets out the supplementary requirements regarding training courses and the assessment of large dogs.
- 21. Section 3 of the Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice provides that sections 22(1) and 23(1) of Cap. 421 do not apply when a dog is released under the TNR programme. Section 4(1) sets out the circumstances under which a dog is regarded to be released under the TNR programme. They are similar to those as described in paragraph 20. Section 4(2) and (3) sets out the supplementary requirements regarding training courses and the assessment of dogs.
- 22. Section 5 of the Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice exempts a person from the application of section 20(1) of Cap. 421A if the person keeps a dog within the premises of a PC for the purposes of assessing the dog's suitability for being released within a trial zone and, if applicable, neutering and vaccinating the dog. A person will also be exempt if the person is issued with an identification card and keeps the dog with a view to bringing it to the premises of the PC for the above purposes, or to bringing it to and releasing it within a trial zone.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

23. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette 14 November 2014

Laying on the table of 19 November 2014

the Legislative Council

Commencement of the Notices 16 January 2015

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

24. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. The Notices will not affect the current binding effect of the relevant Ordinances.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 25. Views and opinions concerning the TNR trial programme, especially the identification of the trial zones, were collected from the respective rural committees, village representatives, mutual committees and incorporations of owners through questionnaires and local consultation forums. The Tai Tong trial zone, which is on private land, has received support from the landlord and tenants, and has been endorsed by the Yuen Long District Council. The Cheung Chau trial zone originally included two working areas, one on Tai Kwan Wan at northern Cheung Chau and the other at Cheung Chau Cemetery at southern Cheung Chau. As some residents of northern Cheung Chau had expressed concern about the implementation of the trial programme in Cheung Chau, SPCA (the PC for the Cheung Chau trial zone) has removed the Tai Kwan Wan working area from the trial and adjusted the boundary of the working area in southern Cheung Chau. Residents in southern Cheung Chau and the Islands District Council had no objection to the trial being rolled out in southern Cheung Chau. SPCA will continue to engage the stakeholders.
- 26. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in May 2012 and January 2014. The Panel was generally in support of the TNR trial programme.

PUBLICITY

27. The Notices will be published in the Gazette on 14 November 2014, and a press release will be issued on the same day. A spokesperson will be available to answer media enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

28. Enquires on this brief may be addressed to Ms. Hinny LAM, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 3, at 3509 7927.

Food and Health Bureau Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department 12 November 2014 Section 1

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Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014

(Made by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation under section 17(1) of the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167))

1. Commencement

This Notice comes into operation on 16 January 2015.

2. Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) Notice amended

The Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) Notice (Cap. 167 sub. leg. F) is amended as set out in sections 3, 4 and 5.

3. Part 1 heading added

Before section 1—

Add

"Part 1

Control of Large Dogs that have Passed Examination on Temperament and Obedience".

4. Section 1 heading amended (exemption from control of large dogs)

Section 1, heading—

Repeal

"Exemption from control of large dogs"

Substitute

"Exemption in relation to control of large dogs that have passed examination on temperament and obedience".

Annex A

Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014

Section 5

2

5. Part 2 added

After section 2—

Add

"Part 2

Release of Large Dogs under TNR Programme

3. Interpretation of Part 2

In this Part—

Department (漁護署) means the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department;

major dog disease (嚴重狗隻疾病) means rabies, parvovirus infection, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis or leptospirosis;

programme coordinator (計劃統籌者) means—

- (a) the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) Trustees Incorporated, a corporation of trustees incorporated under the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306); or
- (b) the Society for Abandoned Animals Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) as in force at the time of the incorporation;
- registered veterinary surgeon (註冊獸醫) has the meaning given by section 2 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529);
- TNR programme ("捕絕放計劃") means a trial programme which—

- aims at assessing the effectiveness of the trapneuter-return mechanism in reducing the number of stray dogs within the trial zones; and
- (b) is implemented by the programme coordinators;

trial zone (試驗區) means—

- (a) the Cheung Chau trial zone, as delineated and edged blue on the map deposited at the Department's headquarters which was-
 - (i) signed by the Director on 14 October 2014; and
 - (ii) numbered AFD-LS-2014-53-2B; or
- (b) the Tai Tong trial zone, as delineated and edged blue on the map deposited at the Department's headquarters which was—
 - (i) signed by the Director on 14 October 2014; and
 - numbered AFD-LS-2014-53-1B.

4. Exemption in relation to release of large dogs under TNR programme

- (1) Section 9(1) of the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Cap. 167 sub. leg. D) does not apply to a person who causes, suffers or permits a large dog to be released under the TNR programme.
- (2) For subsection (1), a large dog is released under the TNR programme if-
 - (a) it is released within a trial zone by a person carrying an identification card issued by a programme coordinator to show that the person-

(i) is an employee or volunteer of the coordinator; and

- (ii) has completed a training course organized by the coordinator; and
- it bears an identification mark which is affixed by the coordinator on the basis that it—
 - (i) has been assessed, in terms of health and temperament, as being suitable for release within a trial zone:
 - has been neutered by a registered veterinary surgeon; and
 - (iii) has been vaccinated against each of the major dog diseases.
- For subsection (2)(a)(ii), the training course—

Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014

- must cover animal nutrition, animal behaviour, environmental safety and dog catching methods; and
- must be approved by the Director.
- For subsection (2)(b)(i)—
 - (a) an assessment regarding the health of a large dog must be carried out by a registered veterinary surgeon; and
 - an assessment regarding the temperament of a large dog must be carried out by—
 - (i) a registered veterinary surgeon; or
 - (ii) a dog trainer recognized by the programme coordinator.".

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Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

11 Novembr 2014

Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014 Explanatory Note

Paragraph 1

6

Explanatory Note

The TNR programme (*programme*) is a trial programme which aims at assessing the effectiveness of the trap-neuter-return mechanism in reducing the number of stray dogs within selected areas in Cheung Chau and Tai Tong (*trial zones*). The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) Trustees Incorporated and the Society for Abandoned Animals Limited (*programme coordinators*) will implement the programme.

- 2. Section 9(1) of the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Cap. 167 sub. leg. D) (Regulation) provides that large dogs entering or remaining in a public place must be under control through a leash. Section 5 of this Notice adds a new Part 2 (new sections 3 and 4) to the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) Notice (Cap. 167 sub. leg. F) to provide that section 9(1) of the Regulation does not apply to a person who causes, suffers or permits a large dog to be released under the programme (exemption).
- 3. The new section 3 provides for the definition of terms. The new section 4(1) provides for the exemption. The new section 4(2) provides that a large dog is released under the programme if certain conditions are met. Firstly, the dog must be released within a trial zone by a person carrying an identification card issued by a programme coordinator to show that the person is an employee or volunteer of the coordinator and has completed a training course organized by the coordinator. Secondly, the dog must be affixed with an identification mark by the coordinator on the basis that it has been assessed as being suitable for release within a trial zone, and has been neutered and vaccinated against certain dog diseases. The new section 4(3) and (4) sets out the supplementary requirements regarding training courses and the assessment of large dogs.

Section

2

Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice

(Made by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation under sections 47 and 51(3) of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421))

1. Commencement

Section 1

This Notice comes into operation on 16 January 2015.

2. Interpretation

In this Notice-

Department (漁護署) means the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department;

major dog disease (嚴重狗隻疾病) means rabies, parvovirus infection, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis or leptospirosis;

programme coordinator (計劃統籌者) means—

- (a) the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) Trustees Incorporated, a corporation of trustees incorporated under the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306); or
- (b) the Society for Abandoned Animals Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) as in force at the time of the incorporation;
- registered veterinary surgeon (註冊獸醫) has the meaning given by section 2 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529);
- TNR programme ("捕絕放計劃") means a trial programme which—

- (a) aims at assessing the effectiveness of the trap-neuterreturn mechanism in reducing the number of stray dogs within the trial zones; and
- (b) is implemented by the programme coordinators;

Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice

trial zone (試驗區) means-

- (a) the Cheung Chau trial zone, as delineated and edged blue on the map deposited at the Department's headquarters which was—
 - (i) signed by the Director on 14 October 2014; and
 - (ii) numbered AFD-LS-2014-53-2B; or
- (b) the Tai Tong trial zone, as delineated and edged blue on the map deposited at the Department's headquarters which was—
 - (i) signed by the Director on 14 October 2014; and
 - (ii) numbered AFD-LS-2014-53-1B.

3. Exemption from provisions on abandonment and control of animals

- (1) Section 22(1) of the Ordinance does not apply to a keeper of a dog when the dog is released under the TNR programme.
- (2) Section 23(1) of the Ordinance does not apply to a dog when the dog is released under the TNR programme.

4. Release of dogs under TNR programme

- (1) For section 3(1) and (2), a dog is released under the TNR programme if—
 - (a) it is released within a trial zone by a person carrying an identification card issued by a programme coordinator to show that the person—
 - (i) is an employee or volunteer of the coordinator; and

- (ii) has completed a training course organized by the coordinator; and
- (b) it bears an identification mark which is affixed by the coordinator on the basis that it—
 - (i) has been assessed, in terms of health and temperament, as being suitable for release within a trial zone;
 - (ii) has been neutered by a registered veterinary surgeon; and
 - (iii) has been vaccinated against each of the major dog diseases.
- (2) For subsection (1)(a)(ii), the training course—
 - (a) must cover animal nutrition, animal behaviour, environmental safety and dog catching methods; and
 - (b) must be approved by the Director.
- (3) For subsection (1)(b)(i)—
 - (a) an assessment regarding the health of a dog must be carried out by a registered veterinary surgeon; and
 - (b) an assessment regarding the temperament of a dog must be carried out by—
 - (i) a registered veterinary surgeon; or
 - (ii) a dog trainer recognized by the programme coordinator.

5. Exemption from requirement on licensing of dogs

(1) Section 20(1) of the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421 sub. leg. A) does not apply to a person keeping a dog under the TNR programme.

(2) For subsection (1), a person is keeping a dog under the TNR programme if—

Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice

- (a) the person keeps the dog within the premises of a programme coordinator for the purposes of—
 - (i) assessing its suitability for being released within a trial zone; and
 - (ii) if applicable, neutering it and vaccinating it against each of the major dog diseases; or
- (b) the person is issued with an identification card referred to in section 4(1)(a) and keeps the dog—
 - (i) after it has been captured within a trial zone, with a view to bringing it to the premises of the programme coordinator for the purposes specified in paragraph (a)(i) and (ii); or
 - (ii) after it has been affixed with an identification mark referred to in section 4(1)(b), with a view to bringing it to, and releasing it within, a trial zone.

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Conservation

11 November 2014

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Explanatory Note

This Notice is made in connection with the TNR programme (programme) which is a trial programme aiming at assessing the effectiveness of the trap-neuter-return mechanism in reducing the number of stray dogs within selected areas in Cheung Chau and Tai Tong (trial zones). The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) Trustees Incorporated and the Society for Abandoned Animals Limited (programme coordinators) will implement the programme.

- 2. Section 22(1) of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) prohibits a keeper of an animal from abandoning the animal without reasonable excuse. Section 23(1) of that Ordinance provides that a dog must not be in a public place or a place from which it may reasonably be expected to wander into a public place unless it is on a leash or is otherwise under control. Section 3 of this Notice provides that sections 22(1) and 23(1) of that Ordinance do not apply when a dog is released under the programme.
- 3. Section 4(1) of this Notice provides that a dog is released under the programme if certain conditions are met. Firstly, the dog must be released within a trial zone by a person carrying an identification card (*identification card*) issued by a programme coordinator to show that the person is an employee or volunteer of the coordinator and has completed a training course organized by the coordinator. Secondly, the dog must be affixed with an identification mark by the coordinator on the basis that it has been assessed as being suitable for release within a trial zone, and has been neutered and vaccinated against certain dog diseases. Section 4(2) and (3) of this Notice sets out the supplementary requirements regarding training courses and the assessment of dogs.
- 4. Section 20(1) of the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421 sub. leg. A) provides that a person may only keep a dog over the age of 5

Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice

Explanatory Note	
Paragraph 4	

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months under and in accordance with a licence. Section 5 of this Notice exempts a person from that provision if the person keeps the dog within the premises of a programme coordinator for the purposes of assessing the dog's suitability for being released within a trial zone and, if applicable, neutering and vaccinating the dog. A person will also be exempt if the person is issued with an identification card and keeps the dog with a view to bringing it to the premises of the programme coordinator for the above purposes, or to bringing it to, and releasing it within, a trial zone.



