

(Translation)

Our Ref :
Your Ref :

Tel : 3509 8927
Fax : 2136 3282

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Josephine SO)
(Fax No: 2509 9055)

24 January 2020

Dear Miss So,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene –
List of follow-up Actions**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 January 2020. Enclosed please find our responses to the list of follow-up actions on the subjects as follows:

Subject	Response
1. Handling illegal importation of cats and dogs	<u>Annex 1 & 2</u>
2. Issues relating to animal welfare	<u>Annex 3</u>

Yours sincerely,

(Amor WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.
Director of Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation
(Attn: Dr. HO Chin Ho, Kenny) (Fax No: 2152 0320)

Handling of Illegal Importation of Cats and Dogs

In response to public's views on the handling of an illegally imported dog from Thailand in March 2019¹, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a review of the handling of illegal importation of cats and dogs in which the ownership cannot be confirmed, making reference to overseas practices², and considering the current practice in Hong Kong for local stray animals. The updated procedures for handling these cases are set out below.

2. For illegal importation cases in which the ownership cannot be confirmed at the time of interception, AFCD would investigate and seek assistance from relevant persons, parties and / or government authorities of the countries / places of origin with a view to identifying the owners. The animals will be detained and kept by AFCD for a minimum of four days, with the feasibility of extension if additional time is required for confirming the ownership, conducting investigation and possible re-claims of animals by the owners. Nevertheless, subject to the Veterinary Officer (VO)'s assessment, in a situation where the welfare of the animals is severely compromised, e.g. severe illness, the above minimum of four days may not be applied and the animal may be euthanised.

3. If the owner could be identified during the investigation, similar procedures to the existing ones for handling cases intercepted at border control points with known owners (or persons responsible for the animals) and known sources would apply, and one of the following courses of action would be carried out –

(a) Repatriation of the animal

(i) If the owner wishes to reclaim and repatriate the

¹ Members may refer to the paper discussed at the meeting of 16 April 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1218/18-19(01)).

² AFCD made reference to the relevant practices adopted in some overseas countries (i.e. Australia, New Zealand, the United States, members of the European Union, Japan and Singapore) in handling illegal importation of cats and dogs. In most cases, illegally imported cats and dogs will be returned to the country/place of export, detained for further investigation or euthanised.

animal, he or she would be advised to contact the relevant veterinary authority of the country / place of origin on the repatriation requirements. AFCD would assist as appropriate to facilitate the necessary procedures and fulfilling the requirements.

(b) Release to the owner after fulfilling relevant import requirements

(i) If the animal is proved to be originated from a Group I or II country / place³, it will be quarantined until all import requirements (such as vaccination, microchipping and health checks) are fulfilled prior to release to the owner.

(ii) For an animal from a Group III country / place, the animal would be quarantined for at least 120 days and it would be released to the owner after fulfilling other import requirements (such as vaccination, microchipping and health checks) as well.

(c) Re-homing of the animal

(i) If the animal is surrendered and an AFCD's VO has considered that the animal has negligible risk of rabies infection during quarantine⁴, further assessment of the animal will be carried out. If its health, temperament and behaviour are considered suitable for adoption, upon completion of the measures to fulfill the import requirements as stated in paragraph 3 (b) above, an animal welfare organisation which is one of the

³ At the import control level, AFCD classifies export countries / places of cats and dogs into three groups in accordance with their risk of rabies. Group I includes rabies-free countries / places; Group II includes countries / places where rabies cases are few and the disease is under effective control; and Group III includes countries / places where rabies cases are reported and the disease is not under effective control. In general, countries / places which do not meet the criteria for Groups I and II (or their situations cannot be determined) will be included in Group III.

⁴ During the quarantine period, the animal will be observed for possible infection of rabies. The duration of observation is dependent on the Group it is originated from, which can range from several weeks for a Group I and Group II country/ place to at least 120 days for a Group III country/place or unknown sources.

rehoming partners of AFCD will be contacted for making the rehoming arrangement.

(d) Euthanasia of the animal

(i) Euthanasia will be considered if:

- the risk of introduction of rabies is considered very high or the animal is showing signs suggestive of rabies during the quarantine period;
- the health, temperament or behavior of the animal is not suitable for rehoming;
- no interested rehoming partners could be identified;
- the chance of successful rehoming is slim and it is impractical to keep the animal for a long period of time due to welfare considerations, or
- there are no suitable quarantine facilities for the animals.

After the situation has been assessed by a VO, an additional VO's opinion will be sought before making the final decision of euthanasia⁵.

4. If no owner can be identified after investigation, the animal would be considered as "abandoned" and the handling of the animal will follow the procedures mentioned in paragraph 3(c) or 3(d) above.

5. We have consulted the Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG)⁶ about the changes made to the protocol for handling cases of illegal import of cats and dogs, and AWAG considered that they should result in improvement in terms of animal welfare. AFCD would implement the updated protocol accordingly.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
January 2020

⁵ If there are different opinions and consensus cannot be reached among the VOs, advice from Senior VO will be sought.

⁶ AWAG is a non-statutory advisory body established in 1997 to advise the Government on animal welfare and related matters.

Expenditure on animal euthanasia

The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department involved in euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)
2016-17	0.9
2017-18	1.0
2018-19	1.3

2. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure on euthanasia of illegally imported cats and dogs.

Issues relating to animal welfare

- (a) The number of complaints related to animal nuisance handled by each of the Animal Management Centre (AMC) in 2018 is tabulated as follows:

AMC	Number of stray animal nuisance complaints received
Hong Kong Island (AMC(HK))	592
Kowloon (AMC(K))	2 264
New Territories South (AMC(NTS))	628
New Territories North (AMC(NTN))	1539

They include complaints on noise nuisance, environmental hygiene and public safety issues caused by stray animals. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the breakdown of complaints by types.

- (b) (i) Currently, all partnering Animal Welfare Organisations (AWOs) as well as people adopting animals from these rehome partners, could take the animals adopted to the veterinary clinics engaged by AFCD for free sterilisation. According to AFCD's understanding, a lot of the private veterinary clinics have maintained a good working relationship with the AWOs and could provide other medical services apart from the neutering services. As some animals also need other medical work up or continuous treatment, the provision of the neutering services by these veterinary clinics may better meet the needs of the animals.
- (ii) The number of local registered veterinary surgeons has been increasing in recent years with the current total over 1 000 (as at mid-December 2019). There are around 140 veterinary clinics providing general and specialist consultation services in the territory. In addition, the Veterinary Medical Centre of the City University of Hong Kong provides veterinary services. According to the findings of a consultancy study on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong released by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in 2017, our vet-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio would drop in 2019 to 1:523, much lower than that in Singapore (1:2 543),

the United Kingdom (1:2 374) and the United States (1:3 072). The vet-to-pet ratio is a common indicator for assessing the overall situation of veterinary services: the lower the ratio, the greater the number of veterinary surgeons. Hence, there are currently sufficient veterinary surgeons and clinics to provide various services in Hong Kong. In addition, AFCD has been subventing AWOs in support of their work on safeguarding animal welfare, including the provision of veterinary services. In view of the above, the Government has no plan to provide public veterinary services in the new Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex (the Complex).

- (c) The information on the area size of key animal welfare and animal management and publicity and public education facilities to be provided in the proposed Complex is at **Enclosure 1**.

Regarding animal keeping facilities, the Complex will provide more than double the current number of similar facilities in AMC(K). In addition, two inoculation rooms for dog vaccination and a larger waiting area, as well as eight individual multi-purpose rooms¹ will be provided in the Complex. The temperature and humidity of the Complex can be regulated, making it more comfortable for the animals.

In the existing AMC(K), there is no proper exercise yard available for the animals being kept. In the Complex, both indoor and outdoor exercise areas will be provided to improve the wellbeing and temperament of the animals, with a view to increasing their chance of being adopted.

Besides, there is currently only one medical treatment facility in AMC(K), which will be expanded in the Complex with the inclusion of a veterinary surgical operation theatre and a X-ray room. A new special case detention facility will also be provided in the Complex for keeping court exhibits (e.g. animals involved in cruelty cases).

¹ There will be six individual multi-purpose rooms to be provided at AMC(K) and two for the Animal Management (Development).

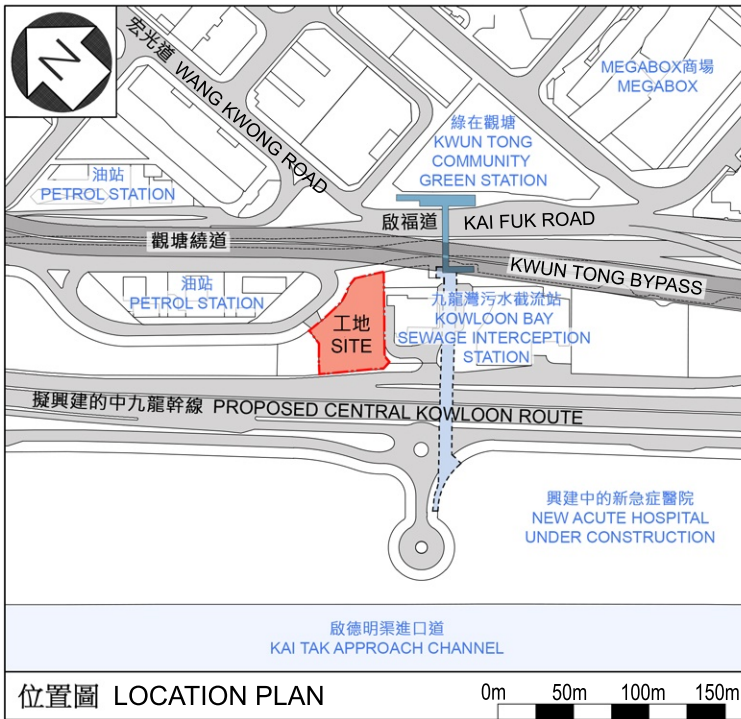
Currently, there are no library, classroom and exhibition facilities in AFCD premises for organising classes, seminars and programmes on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Dedicated publicity and public education facilities will be available at the Complex to enable AFCD to launch more varieties of publicity and provide more opportunities for participants to see and handle animals first-hand.

- (d) Please refer to the **Enclosure 2 to 11**.
- (e) According to the Development Bureau, as at end-December 2019, they approved an AWO's funding application for setting up an animal adoption centre at a vacant government site in Kam Tin, Yuen Long. The proposed animal adoption centre is targeted to operate in the first half of 2020 and keep a maximum of 50 stray animals at a time.

Enclosure 1

The information on the area size of key animal welfare and animal management and publicity and public education facilities to be provided in the Complex

	Key Facilities	Total Area (m ²)	
		Existing AMC(K)	The Complex
1.	Keeping facilities for quarantine dogs and cats	117	725
2.	Keeping facilities for stray dogs and cats, dogs and cats under rabies observation, and other small animals	387	980
3.	Keeping facilities for potential animals for adoption	Nil	345
4.	Inoculation rooms for dog vaccination	6	30
5.	Multi-purpose rooms	6	77
6.	Medical treatment facility	16	130
7.	Special case detention facility for keeping court exhibits	Nil	100
8.	Library and classroom for conducting publicity programmes	Nil	110



圖例 LEGEND

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY | 地面綠化
AT-GRADE GREENING | 車輛出入口
VEHICULAR INGRESS / EGRESS |
| 垂直綠化
VERTICAL GREENING | 天台綠化
LANDSCAPED ROOF | 行人出入口
PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT |
| 太陽能熱水板
SOLAR HOT WATER PANEL | 現有行人天橋
EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE | 無障礙出入口
BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT |
| | 擬興建行人天橋 (由其他工程承造)
PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE (BY OTHERS) | |

工地平面圖
SITE PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



圖例 LEGEND

工地界線 SITE BOUNDARY	動物管理設施 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES	機電房 PLANT ROOM
無障礙通道 BARRIER-FREE ACCESS	輔助設施 ANCILLARY FACILITIES	車輛出入口 VEHICULAR INGRESS / EGRESS
垂直綠化 VERTICAL GREENING	暢通易達升降機 ACCESSIBLE LIFT	行人出入口 PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT
地面綠化 AT-GRADE GREENING	暢通易達洗手間 ACCESSIBLE TOILET	無障礙出入口 BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT
職員範圍/辦公室 STAFF AREA / OFFICE	通用洗手間 UNIVERSAL TOILET	

地下平面圖
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 建築署



圖例 LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
|  工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY |  輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES |
|  天台綠化
LANDSCAPED ROOF |  暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT |
|  職員範圍/辦公室
STAFF AREA / OFFICE |  暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET |
|  動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES |  通用洗手間
UNIVERSAL TOILET |
|  公眾教育設施
PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES |  機電房
PLANT ROOM |

三樓平面圖
THIRD
FLOOR PLAN

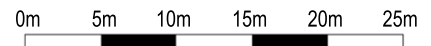
187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



註1: 五樓全層為九龍動物管理中心和動物管理(發展)科辦公室, 間格與四樓相若。
 REMARK 1: 5/F IS KOWLOON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DEVELOPMENT) DIVISION OFFICE WITH LAYOUT SIMILAR TO 4/F.



圖例 LEGEND

- - - 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY
- 辦公室
OFFICE
- 輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES
- 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT
- 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET
- 通用洗手間
UNIVERSAL TOILET
- 機電房
PLANT ROOM

四樓平面圖
FOURTH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
 啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
 BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
 SERVICES
 DEPARTMENT 建築署



A

動物管理(貓檢疫)設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(CAT QUARANTINE) FACILITIES

動物管理(狗檢疫)設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(DOG QUARANTINE)
FACILITIES

洗手間
TOILET

註2: 七樓全層為動物管理(貓狗檢疫)設施, 間格與六樓相若。
REMARK 2: 7/F IS ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (CAT & DOG QUARANTINE)
FACILITIES WITH LAYOUT SIMILAR TO 6/F.

0m 5m 10m 15m 20m 25m

A

圖例 LEGEND

--- 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY

通用洗手間
UNIVERSAL TOILET

動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

機電房
PLANT ROOM

輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES

暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT

暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET

六樓平面圖
SIXTH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



圖例 LEGEND

- 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY
- 動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
- 輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES
- 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT
- 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET
- 通用洗手間
UNIVERSAL TOILET
- 機電房
PLANT ROOM

八樓平面圖
EIGHTH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



動物管理(流浪狗)設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(STRAY DOG) FACILITIES



註3: 十樓全層為動物管理(流浪狗)設施，間格與九樓相若。
REMARK 3: 10/F IS ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (STRAY DOG) FACILITIES
WITH LAYOUT SIMILAR TO 9/F.



圖例 LEGEND

- - - 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY
- 動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
- 輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES
- 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT
- 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET
- 通用洗手間
UNIVERSAL TOILET
- 機電房
PLANT ROOM

九樓平面圖
NINTH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



A

動物管理(獸醫醫療)設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(VETERINARY MEDICAL)
FACILITIES

動物管理(狗狂犬病觀察)設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(DOG RABIES
OBSERVATION)
FACILITIES

洗手間/更衣室
TOILET/
CHANGING ROOM



0m 5m 10m 15m 20m 25m

A

圖例 LEGEND

--- 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY

暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET

動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

機電房
PLANT ROOM

輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES

暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT

十一樓平面圖
ELEVENTH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



動物管理 (瀕危動物) 設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
(ENDANGERED ANIMAL)
FACILITIES

獸醫化驗所設施及辦公室
VETERINARY
LABORATORY
FACILITIES AND OFFICE

洗手間/更衣室
TOILET/
CHANGING ROOM

註4: 十三樓全層為獸醫化驗所設施及辦公室,間格與十二樓相若。
REMARK 4: 13/F IS VETERINARY LABORATORY FACILITIES
AND OFFICE WITH LAYOUT SIMILAR TO 12/F.

0m 5m 10m 15m 20m 25m

圖例 LEGEND

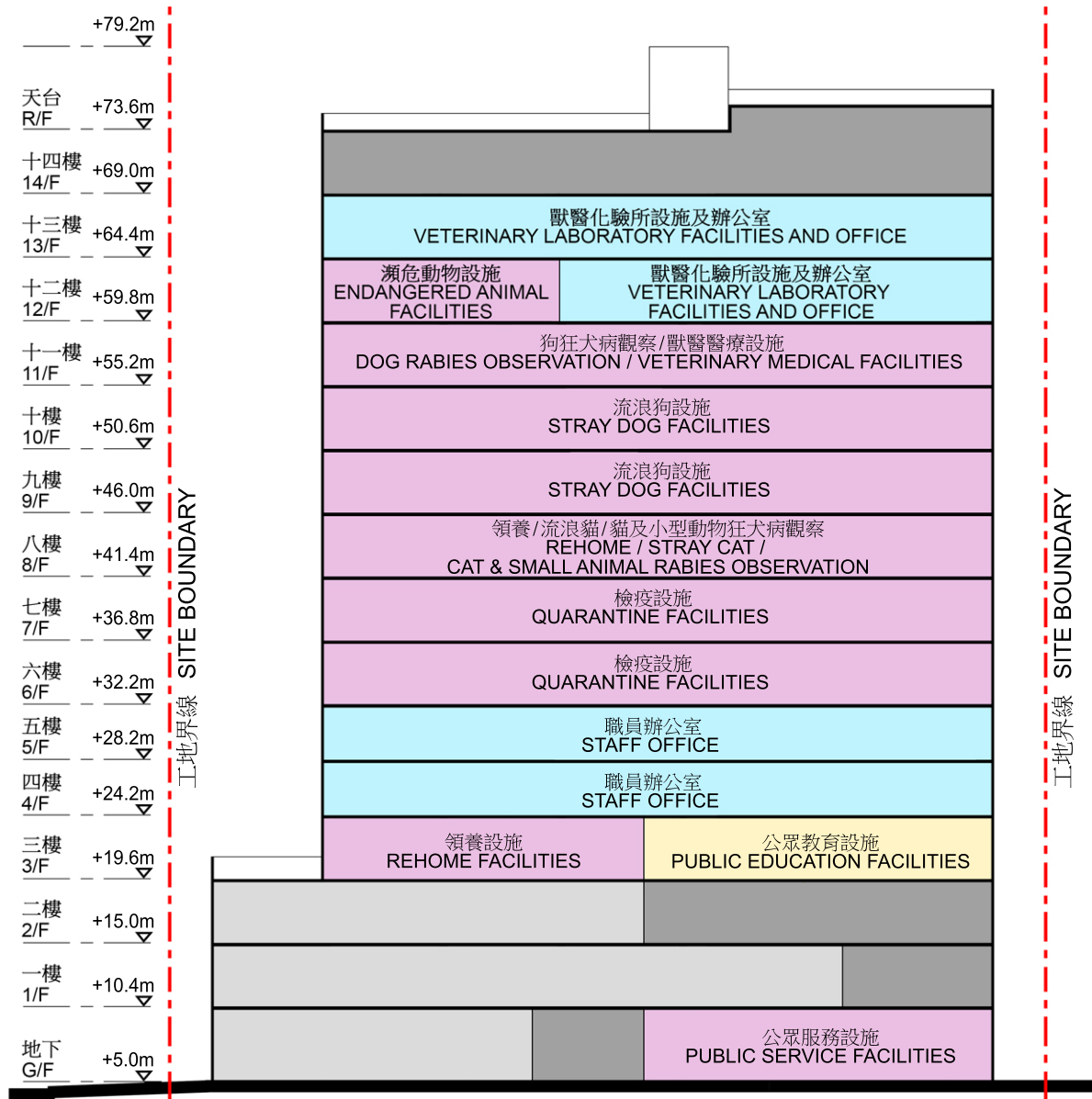
- - - 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY
- 獸醫化驗所設施及辦公室
VETERINARY LABORATORY FACILITIES
AND OFFICE
- 動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
- 輔助設施
ANCILLARY FACILITIES
- 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT
- 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET
- 機電房
PLANT ROOM

十二樓平面圖
TWELVETH
FLOOR PLAN

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



圖例 LEGEND

- - - 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY
- 職員範圍/辦公室
STAFF AREA / OFFICE
- 公眾教育設施
PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES
- 動物管理設施
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
- 政府車輛停車場/上落貨區
GOVERNMENT VEHICLE
CARPARK / LOADING & UNLOADING AREA
- 機電房
PLANT ROOM

剖面圖 A-A
SECTION A-A

187GK
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署