

AFCD staff patrol animal release hotspots

Subsequent to appealing to the public to think carefully before participating in mercy releases of animals yesterday (May 25), staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were sent today (May 26) to patrol hotspots where animals were often released in the past, including North Point, Tai Po and North District, and distributed education leaflets there. Same appeals were made to the people concerned.

The AFCD did not find any case involving animal cruelty caused by animal releases today.

Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to animals by releasing them improperly. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for three years upon conviction.

An AFCD spokesman reiterated that to safeguard animal welfare, members of the public must think carefully before participating in animal release activities and may also consider other options such as planting trees or participating in volunteer services with animal welfare groups and environmental protection organisations in lieu of animal release.

The AFCD will continue to patrol places where animal releasing activities are likely to take place, take enforcement action when necessary, and carry out publicity and education work.