

1. Do you agree that the current situation of Hong Kong about animal abuse is serious?

-how serious is it?

We do not have the figures of animal abuse for the whole Hong Kong. We can only give your figures of cruelty investigation by our Inspectorate from the SPCA as follows:

(Please refer to the Annual Review 2008/2009 p. 5) on our website:

<http://www.sPCA.org.hk/chi/about/annual.asp>

SPCA Inspectorate – cases Handled	2008/2009	2007/2008	2006/7	2005/6
Complaints of cruelty investigated	829	734	782	635

There is an increase in number of complaints from 2005 to 2009. This does not mean that the cruelty are becoming serious but instead this shows that people nowadays are more aware and concern to the well-being of an animal; and they are less tolerant for those who do not have respect for animals. Therefore there are more calls to our rescue hotline to report suspected abuse cases.

For the animal abuse cases, many animals suffered from serious illness, pain and injury or even death. Please refer to the news reported as follows for your references.

1) e.g. on April 29, 43 sick and sick and skinny dogs and cats were rescued from a shelter with the help of SPCA

http://hk.dv.nextmedia.com/template/dv_channel/index.php?fuseaction=dv15.player&mode=section&id=all&range=d&dv_iss=20100429&sort=promo&iss_id=20100429&sec_id=4104&art_id=13977959&av_id=13978217&page=1

2) Earlier on, there were also the news of five 2-month old kittens found with bodies covered all up by mud and clay and their skins all wounded.....

3) In another horrifying case, five cats were being thrown to their death from a building....

Not only we must stop animal abuse of the serious kind as the above cases, we should take note that sometimes, owners may have brought unnecessarily sufferings and tortures to their pets unintentionally. For instance, some owners like to have their pets dressed up in pet fashions, shoes, or wearing decorative items. But pets are not Barbie doll - dressing them up with pet clothes can only restrict or hinder them playing and moving comfortably and diminish their ability to regulate the body temperature. Also accessories, pins and decorative items may be hazard to them if ingested (please refer Pawprint Issue 75 p.16 "Haute Canine Couture: Pet Fashionistas!" to learn more about the issue). In such case, owners need to concern the comfort and natural behavior of their pets instead of dressing them up for attention.

<http://www.sPCA.org.hk/chi/news/pawprint.asp>

<http://www.sPCA.org.hk/eng/news/pawprint.asp>

2. Do you agree with animal genetic technology?

-is it against the nature?

- how would it help to protect them?

As said in the article "Cruel Business - The Trade in Non-human Primates for Experimentation", Pawprint 77 p. 18-9, "The SPCA would of course like to see the end of all experimenting on animals; however, realistically, that will not occur until sometime in the future."

"In the meantime, the SPCA believes that a line must be drawn clearly to ensure that all aspects of animal experimentation are humane."

The SPCA insists researchers should adhere the 3Rs principle:

Replacement

Methods which avoid or replace the use of animals wherever possible

Reduction

Reducing the numbers of animals used by improving design or methods

Refinement

Reducing the incidence or severity of procedures

- will there be any laws to punish people who against it?

All animal experiments must fulfill all relevant legislation and Codes of Practice in Hong Kong, including, but not limited to:

- Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance, Cap. 340,
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, Cap. 169,
- Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134,
- Antibiotics Ordinance, Cap. 137,
- Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Cap. 138,
- Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, Cap. 139,
- Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 187,
- Radiation Ordinance, Cap. 303,
- Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, Cap. 509, and
- Code of Practice for the Welfare of Food Animals, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

For more information, please refer to <http://www.legislation.gov.hk>.

Also, the Animal Welfare Advisory Group has issued a Code of Practice – Care and Use of Animals for Experimental Purposes, which provided general guidelines on animal experimentation.

3. Do you think that the government had done enough to protect animal?

-Is it enough?

-How do you think that the government can improve?

-set up laws?

We have laws for animal cruelty with the current maximum penalties of 3 years in jail and fine for \$200,000. This has been increased from the previous of \$5000 and 6 months to the present penalty.

However I believe the most important thing to do is to have more education in teaching public and individual to care and respect for all animals as well as to be a responsible pet owner. Law is to make to control those bad people, but more importantly it is individual should learn to have the right attitude and mentality for the love of animals.

For the work of the Government - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

with the existing laws and regulations in protecting animal welfare, please refer to <http://www.afcd.gov.hk>.

The works of AFCD include:

- 1) With the Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) to regulate and update on relevant animal laws;
- 2) Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership through education and media programmes;
- 3) AFCD re-home scheme which encourages the public to adopt abandoned or surrendered animals through approved non-profit making voluntary animal welfare organizations as SPCA.

Please also find the Laws and ordinance that protect animals as follows:

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Chap. 169).

Any person who break the law shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of HKD200,000 and imprisonment for 3 years.

- Rabies Ordinance (Chap. 421)

Owner should have the dog licensed by age of 5 months (i.e. have the dog micro-chipped and vaccinated against Rabies) or may be liable for a fine of \$10,000

- (please also refer to Question 2).....

4. What is your feeling towards the company or scientist in using animal as products or as experiment?

- **is it somehow essential?**

- **should we stop it?**

- **will it affect human?**

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The dilemma lies on this question is that while we do not want to see animals suffer being used as products or experiment, we would also recognize the need to use animals for purposes of advancing humane medicine or curing diseases or making many essential materials we use day by day.

Animal experimentation or use must be humane or such practice must instigate the world best animal care criteria; otherwise, cannot be justified and should not be tolerated. For instance, we should not support cruel business such as capturing wild primates for research (please refer to "Cruel Business - The Trade in Non-human Primates for Experimentation", Pawprint 77 p. 18-9) or the inhumane seal-hunting (please refer to "Sealed with a Club, Pawprint 76, p.3)

5. So you think that the people have increase their sense of animal rights?

- like 魚翅婚宴。人情七折 group in Facebook?

- are there more ways to increase it?

Yes, we see more people are now concern for the well-being animal, this is good news. But regarding to your question on animal rights, I want to share with you on the differences between animal welfare and animal rights and herewith is the link for your reference.

<http://animalrights.about.com/od/animalrights101/a/RightsvWelfare.htm>.

Through education and public campaign, we strive to promote compassion to animals and cultivate respect for animals among the public.