



**Life Companions — Understanding Animal
Welfare and Social Responsibility
From Care to Action, Building a Friendlier
Animal City Together**

The Hong Kong Foundation for the Prevention of Animal Abuse

(Target Audience: Students from Secondary 1 to Secondary 3)



Introduction:

Animals live alongside humans in this city; they are not only companions but also a mirror reflecting the level of civilization in society. As the younger generation, how can we understand animal welfare, recognise abusive behaviour, and engage in animal protection in a rational and legal manner? This handbook will guide you from knowledge to action.



Animal Welfare: More Than Kindness, It Is Science and Ethics

- Scientific definition of animal welfare: A healthy state in terms of physiological, psychological, and natural behaviour.
- Internationally recognised 'Five Freedoms':
 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
 2. Freedom from discomfort
 3. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
 4. Freedom to express natural behaviour
 5. Freedom from fear and distress
- Why is animal welfare relevant to you?
 - Ethical perspective: Animals have the capacity to feel and deserve moral consideration.
 - Social perspective: There is a correlation between animal abuse and societal violence.
 - Legal perspective: The Hong Kong Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) explicitly prohibits abusive behaviour.

Reflection and Discussion:

How do you think 'animal rights' differs from 'animal welfare'? Can you provide examples?



Abandoned Animal Issues: Systemic Challenges and Your Role

- **Root Causes of Abandoned Animals:**
 - Impulsive pet ownership, abandonment due to immigration, economic factors, and illegal breeding sites.
 - Lack of awareness around neutering leads to overpopulation.
- **Survival Challenges for Stray Animals:**
 - Disease transmission, traffic accidents, extreme weather, and human rejection.
- **Role of Animal Protection Organisations in Hong Kong:**
 - Sheltering, medical care, neutering, adoption promotion, and educational initiatives.
- **Systemic Changes You Can Participate In:**
 - Support the 'Adopt, Don't Shop' movement.
 - Advocate for the importance of pet neutering.
 - Engage in policy advocacy to promote more comprehensive animal protection legislation.

Case Analysis:

If your friend plans to abandon their pet due to immigration, how would you advise them and offer feasible suggestions?



Identifying and Reporting Animal Abuse

- Categories of Abuse:
 - Active Abuse: Beating, poisoning, using dogs to attack, etc.
 - Neglect: Long-term confinement, lack of food and water, failure to provide medical care, etc.
 - Psychological Abuse: Long-term fear, teasing, social deprivation, etc.
- Summary of Relevant Laws in Hong Kong:
 - Maximum penalty: 3 years imprisonment and a fine of HKD 200,000.
 - Reporting channels: Police (999) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (1823), The Hong Kong Foundation for the Prevention of Animal Abuse (2868 6893).
- Safe Reporting Guidelines:
 1. Ensure your own safety; do not confront directly.
 2. Record the time, location, individuals involved, and the condition of the animal.
 3. Take photos or videos as evidence (within legal boundaries).
 4. Provide clear information to enforcement agencies.

Scenario Exercise:

If you witness someone continuously kicking a stray dog in the park, how should you respond step by step?"



From Advocacy to Action: How Young People Can Participate in Animal Protection

- Suggestions for School Actions:
 - Establish an Animal Rights Society, organising talks, film screenings, and poster design competitions.
 - Invite animal protection organisations to share their insights at school.
 - Promote the campus as an 'Animal Friendly Area' (e.g., by setting up water stations and educational displays).
- Ways to Engage in the Community:
 - Participate in volunteering: Clean cages, assist with events, and become a foster home.
 - Donations: Food, towels, and medical supplies.
 - Skills contribution: Assist in designing promotional materials, filming short documentaries, and writing articles.
- The Power of Digital Advocacy:
 - Share correct information on social media.
 - Participate in petitions to promote policy reform.
 - Create educational content to reach a wider audience.

Action Plan:

Please write down one animal protection action you can complete this semester.



Our Commitment and Resource Guide

I am willing to be a 'Life Companion'

Commitment Declaration:

I understand that animals share this city with humans, and I recognise that treating animals well is the responsibility of a civilised society. I commit to:

1. Not participating in or encouraging any form of animal abuse or neglect.
2. Actively learning and spreading knowledge about animal welfare.
3. Speaking out for animals in a rational and legal manner.
4. Practicing respect and care for animals in my daily life.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Resource Guide:

- The Hong Kong Foundation for the Prevention of Animal Abuse
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department - Animal Management Division
- Recommended Reading: *Animal Liberation, Why Dogs Are Pets and Pigs Are Food?*

Conclusion:

True change starts with knowledge and is realized through action. May you be a gentle and steadfast light in the lives of animals.