



## **Caring for Life, Practising Justice**

### **From Awareness and Reflection to Social Participation**

The Hong Kong Foundation for the Prevention of Animal Abuse  
(Target Audience: Students from Secondary 4 to Secondary 6)



### **Introduction:**

As a young person with independent thinking skills, how do you view the relationship between humans and other species? Animal protection is not only about emotional care but also involves complex issues in ethics, law, sociology, and public policy. This handbook aims to guide you in exploring the multifaceted aspects of animal protection and transforming care into rational and effective social action.



## **Animal Ethics: Moral Thinking Beyond Emotion**

Three Major Ethical Frameworks:

- **Animal Welfare Theory:** Focuses on the suffering and well-being of animals, advocating for humane treatment (e.g., Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*).
- **Animal Rights Theory:** Argues that animals have inherent rights and should not be considered human property (e.g., Tom Regan's viewpoint).
- **Ecological Holism:** Considers species value from the perspective of ecosystem balance.
- **Discussion of Ethical Dilemmas in Hong Kong Society:**
  - What is the moral boundary between food animals and companion animals?
  - How can we balance economic development (such as land development) with wildlife habitat protection?
  - Are the management policies for 'nuisance animals' (e.g., wild boars, stray cattle) ethical?

### **Reflection and Debate:**

Is "adoption over buying" a personal choice or a social responsibility? Please substantiate your viewpoint from both ethical and practical perspectives.

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## Law and Policy: The Legal Framework for Animal Protection in Hong Kong

- Analysis of Major Animal Protection Legislation in Hong Kong:
  - The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169): Components, enforcement difficulties, and penal controversies.
  - The Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance: How does it affect community animal management?
  - The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance: Protection and restrictions on local biodiversity.
- Enforcement Realities and Challenges:
  - Difficulties in gathering evidence, insufficient investigation resources, and analysis of prosecution success rates.
  - Responsibilities and collaboration mechanisms among relevant government departments (AFCD, Police, Environmental Protection Department).
- Directions for Policy Advocacy:
  - The necessity of promoting animal welfare legislation and comparisons with international cases.
  - How to push for systemic change through lobbying, research, and public education?
- Case Analysis:

Analyze a recent animal abuse case in Hong Kong that garnered social attention, evaluating its legal handling and social effects.

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## **Topic Exploration: From Animal Abuse to Public Health and Social Safety**

- Sociopsychological Interpretation of Animal Abuse:
  - Research on the correlation between animal abuse and violent crimes (such as domestic violence and serial violence).
  - The importance of early intervention and prevention.
- Systemic Thinking in Stray Animal Management:
  - The scientific basis and community controversies of the 'Trap-Neuter-Return' (TNR) programme.
  - The roles and tensions among the government, non-profit organisations, and the community in collaborative efforts.
- Intersection of Public Health and Animal Welfare:
  - Prevention of zoonotic diseases (such as rabies) and related animal management policies.
  - The global impact of illegal wildlife trade and local regulation.

### **Suggested Research Project:**

Design a small research project on the topic of 'Management of the Stray Cattle Community in Yuen Long/Lamma Island,' exploring policy, community opinions, and balanced solutions for animal welfare.

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## Advocacy and Action: How Youth Can Drive Social Change

- Four Pathways for Rational Advocacy:
  1. Research and Knowledge Production: Conduct surveys, write policy research reports, and create data visualizations.
  2. Public Education and Communication: Produce in-depth reports, documentary shorts, and plan social media advocacy campaigns.
  3. Policy Lobbying and Engagement: Learn to write position papers, contact Legislative Council members, and participate in public consultations.
  4. Innovative Social Services: Develop applications to connect adoption resources and design companionship programs for elderly pets.
- Organising and Mobilisation Skills:
  - How to establish an influential Animal Rights Society in school?
  - How to effectively communicate and collaborate with different stakeholders (residents, businesses, government departments)?
  - Basic concepts of event planning, project management, and resource fundraising.
- Self-Care for Activists:
  - Managing empathy fatigue and psychological adjustment when facing animal suffering.
  - Building a sustainable long-term mindset for participation.

### Action Blueprint Concept:

Please design a three-month animal protection advocacy project for your school or community, including goals, strategies, action steps, and evaluation methods.

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## Resources, Networks, and Your Commitment

### Title: Join the Movement for Change

#### Local Animal Protection Network:

- Major Organizations: The Hong Kong Foundation for the Prevention of Animal Abuse, etc.
- Research and Advocacy Organizations: University of Hong Kong Animal Law and Policy Project, etc.
- International Connections: World Animal Protection, International Humane Society, etc.

#### Extended Learning Resources:

- Books: *Animal Rights, Why Animal Welfare Matters*, etc.
- Documentaries: *Earthlings, The Meatrix*, etc.
- Academic Journals: *Animal Welfare, Society and Animals*.

#### Youth Activist Commitment:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that animal protection is a complex social undertaking that requires knowledge, strategy, and perseverance. I commit to:

1. Conduct independent thinking and judgment based on evidence and reason.
2. Actively learn relevant laws, policies, and ethical knowledge to enhance my advocacy skills.
3. Engage in dialogue with different viewpoints respectfully and constructively, seeking solutions.
4. Integrate care for animal protection with broader perspectives on social justice and sustainable development.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_