CCGL9052

Effectiveness and sustainability of cat TNR in HK

Ho Ka Yi 3035292559  Mo Lai Wa 3035288613  Chan Tsoi Lam 3035387706  Ling Sin Tung 3035344675
Outline

1. Stray cats in Hong Kong
2. TNR cats
3. Why TNR cats but not dogs?
4. Support from stakeholders
5. Benefits and results of TNR
6. Difficulties of TNR
7. Suggested solution
8. Conclusion
Number of street cats in HK

1. no data → the actual no. of street cats in HK
2. estimate the population from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA):

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<tr>
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<th>AFCD</th>
<th>SPCA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no. of street cats caught</td>
<td>1053</td>
<td>1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>no. of street cats euthanized</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>586</td>
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Life of street cats

- Disease: e.g. parasites
- Starvation
- Abuse by humans
- Traffic accidents
Case of cruelty to street cats

- Happened in July, 2017
- A serial cat killer killed five cats in three months in Aberdeen

Police are searching for a serial cat killer following the deaths of five cats in Aberdeen. The latest case involved an eight-year-old tabby named “Tiger Mother” which was found dead on Tuesday on a slope opposite Wah Lok House, Wah Fu Estate. There was a wound to its right hind leg.

It was the fifth dead cat found in the estate’s vicinity over the past three months, according to volunteers tending the animals.
TNR cats

- Cat Colony Care Programme (CCCP)
- by Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
- since 2000
- approved by government since 2002
Objectives:

→ reduce number of stray cats in a more humane way than euthanization

→ improve their quality of life (less diseases)

→ reduce nuisance caused by stray cats
TNR cats

- >59,000 TNR cat
- >1,000 registered volunteer carers
- >1,400 cat colonies (貓隻領域)
- 70% target neuter rate
- >1,000,000 unnecessary births prevented
An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total:

1 year: 12
2 years: 67
3 years: 376
4 years: 2,107
5 years: 11,801
6 years: 66,088
7 years: 370,092
8 years: 2,072,514
9 years: 11,606,077
TNR cats

**TNR procedures:**

1. Registered volunteer carers **catch** stray cats and bring them to SPCA

2. Neuter, health check, microchip, vaccinate, ear tipping

3. Returned to the original colony

4. **fed by** carers everyday
TNR cats

Male cat with right ear tipped

Female cat with left ear tipped
WHY TNR Cats but not Dogs?

- Public opinions
  - cat is less annoying
  - dog bark
  - dog is bigger

- Potential risks
  - Dog bite
  - cat run away
Support from stakeholders

- Animal NGOs
- Government
- Volunteers
SPCA — Services

● accepts applications for registered carers all year round

● runs a daily desexing clinic exclusively

● free desex

● provide a health check and preventative treatment
1. cat carer interviews
2. site visits
3. complaint investigations
4. arrange cat trapping and "catnip"
5. educational drives
6. meet with District Councillors
7. stakeholder meetings
Government

- Approved CCCP
- No funding:
  - 99% of SPCA CCCP program come from donation
- have support to TNR cow and monkey but not cat

99% revenue = donation
1. Daily feeding
2. Clearing left overs
3. Check if any cats missing
4. Provide post-op care when needed
5. Cats adoption day
6. Catching the animals and send to the desex clinic

Cat Society: 800
SPCA: 600 TNR volunteers
Interview with a volunteer from Passion Catizen (熱血貓民)

Their duties:
→ to monitor and prevent cat killing in their own field

Their opinions on TNR:
→ TNR is humane and effective way to control stray cat populations
→ The biggest problem is duplication of living environment of human and animals
Benefits of TNR

To Human
- Fewer stray cats
- Less smell
- Less noise
- Disease reduction

To Cats
- Less euthanization
Results of TNR in Hong Kong
Successful cases of TNR in other countries

University of Central Florida
- Cat population
- Adoption
- > feral cats less aggressive

London
- Original colony size remained stable
- Complaints eliminated

Florida
- Shelter cat impoundment in target area 66%
  (non target area 12%)

Control cat population
Control individual colonies of cats
Reduced shelter cat intake
Benefits of TNR

Stabilization

Modest reduction of colony size

Reduced cat turnover

Healthier cats

TNR is feasible in long-term reduction of free roaming cats.
Difficulties

- Finance
- Complain
- Day jobs
- Energy level
Difficulties of TNR (administration)

- High cost
  - e.g. vaccination, neutering

- Difficulty in distinguishing the types of cats

- Lack of volunteers
  - ~1400 helpers

- Public’s little understanding of TNR
  - e.g. our street interviewees

abandoned pet cats? stray cats?
Difficulties of TNR (Public opposition)

Strong opposition from some citizens who urge the government to remove all the stray cats from their neighbourhood.
Difficulties of TNR (Public opposition)

Why do citizens oppose TNR?

- hygiene problems by irresponsible cat feeders
- a source of nuisance
- deprive cats of their reproductive rights
Suggested solutions

Public opposition
- educate and publicize

Lack of volunteers
- raise awareness, recruit volunteers

Inadequate funding
- government support and subsidy
Conclusion

Cat TNR is effective

Continue implementation of TNR

Government should provide funding

Our petition: https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/hong-kong-government-should-provide-funding-for
We collected over 50 signatures!
THE END
Q&A