



保護遺棄動物協會SAA Society for Abandoned Animals Limited

有睇上一期的朋友應該都知道SAA伍威權動物醫療中心於5月在元朗正式投入服務，為更多有需要的動物提供醫療服務。其他動物協會的資料你就聽得多喇，唔知你對保護遺棄動物協會（簡稱SAA）的認識又有幾多呢？

If you have read the previous issue of PetArte, you would know that the SAA Albert Wu Veterinary Center has announced its grand opening in Yuen Long during May, in the aim of providing professional veterinary services at a reasonable & affordable price. Basically, I guess you have heard of loads of animals welfare organizations, but how well do you know about the Society for Abandoned Animals Limited (SAA)?



97回歸之·動物遺棄潮

主腦阿Ei說：『SAA的前身是一間寵物美容店。1990年，我和Noel一心在跑馬地經營寵物美容店，其實一直都做得幾好，又識到很多熟客。直到1994至95年間，坊間對於回歸這個話題鬧得熱哄哄，到後期更加肯定了97回歸這個消息，從而掀起了一股移民潮。有部分我們的熟客也不例外，紛紛向我們打聽，看有沒有其他客人可以收留他們的寵物。個個都湧去移民，根本就沒有這麼多客人可以收容大量的被遺下來的動物，結果，我和Noel的家在最頂峰時期分別收留了約30隻狗和20隻貓。』

這個數字簡直令人嘩然，那麼你們的家從此變了收容所了嗎？『當然不。』阿Ei繼續：『後來我們見數目愈來愈多，於是便拜託朋友在元朗找來一個舊豬場，改建成一個迷你動物園，安置一班小生命。原本找當地的居民負責打理，但後來發覺這些工作都是不能假手於人，因此Noel便退下火線，全職管理狗場，而我則繼續做美容，賺錢以付狗場之資出。偶機遇下，重遇周慧慧小姐，她亦是非常有愛心之人，她聽了我們的情況後，決定和我們一起組織一個專為被遺棄動物而服務的協會。』

不殺·不棄

協會的宗旨是不殺不棄，怎樣才能做到你們的目標呢？『我們救回來的動物，獸醫都會盡全力去救，我們亦不會因為某隻動物是流浪或是誰人養的而不作施救。正如之前有義工發現一隻流浪狗被車倒在路中間，急忙把牠回來診所。當時，我們第一件做的事就是和牠做手術，直至情況穩定下來，才追查晶片，尋找主人等等的工作。在我們看來，拯救生命就是最大原則，亦是協會長期的目標。』阿Ei解釋說，『每一條生命對於我們來說都是好寶貴的，我們一方面不輕易地奪取動物之生命，同時間我們亦不會盲目地要牠們受苦。例如有些狗經獸醫診治後證實患了不可醫治的病（如癌症），為了讓牠們不需受到不必要的痛苦，我們才會選擇給牠們舒服地離開。』

HK 1997 – Homeless Year for Pets

The founder, Ei, said, "SAA used to be a pet grooming shop. In 1990 Noel and I opened the shop in Happy Valley, and the business went quite well. Until some time around 1994 to 1995, there were rumours about Hong Kong returning to the Mainland China, and then came the trend of emigration. Some of our customers also had plans for emigration, thus they frequently came to check out if there were other customers who might be willing to take care of their pets. Well, too many people emigrated, leaving behind numerous abandoned cats and dogs. At the end, Noel and I kept 30 dogs and 20 cats altogether during the 'peak season'."

These numbers were really surprising. And did it mean that their homes became the shelters for the abandoned animals? "Of course not." Ei continued, "As the number kept increasing, we found an old pig farm in Yuen Long with the help from our friend. We then redecorated it into a mini playground for these animals. Originally, we've found some locals to help with the cleaning, yet we felt that we couldn't just always depend on the others. Later, Noel quitted his own job and concentrated on the dog shelter business; whereas for me, I kept working at the pet grooming shop in order to balance the expenditure used at the dog shelter. And fortunately, we met Violet who decided to join our hands together to set up SAA after listening to our story."

No Killing or Abandoning

The motto of SAA is "No Killing or Abandoning". So, how does SAA achieve its target? "We all try our very best to save and cure the animals no matter where they come from. For example, one of our volunteers found a dog being hit by a car, and the dog was immediately brought back to our veterinary clinic. Upon its arrival, the first thing we did was the operation. Later we contacted its owner not until the dog's situation became stable again. In our eyes, saving lives is our priority, which is also the long-term goal for SAA." Ei explained to us, "Every single life is precious to us. On the one hand, we don't easily give up their lives. On the other hand, we don't want them to suffer too much. Only in the very worst case (say, the animals are having incurable disease like cancer), we'll let them pass away peacefully."





生命不單只是一份禮物！

生命原是天所賜的珍貴禮物，然而，都市人卻把其原意扭曲得不堪入目，再加上那些只識圖利的無良商人不斷地暗中洗腦，遺棄動物之數字可想而知。根據非正式統計，動物遭遺棄的高風期通常在大節日後，如聖誕節和情人節等。

既然問題嚴重，SAA又是如何面對放棄飼養寵物之申請呢？EI回答：「我們會仔細考慮主人棄養的原因，不會因為一句「唔想養」就接收其寵物。除非一些好合理既理由，如移民；主人本身的經濟能力不許可；或者是有其他因素直接影響到動物之生存機會。即使我們本質上是收容被遺棄的動物，但我們不希望給人們錯覺——飼養寵物是如此easy come, easy go的！相反，我們正正就是想SAA的各種服務糾正大眾的扭曲思想。除了直接的接收服務以外，我們亦會轉介輔導：很多時候主人放棄狗隻都是因為牠們有情緒問題、行為問題，針對此問題，我們可轉介個案給專業的犬隻訓練員，盡可能改變狗隻的行為，重新修補和主人之關係，從而達到雙贏的局面。」

動物也捐血？！

你捐我又捐，人類的捐血就聽得多了，動物捐血你又是是否聽過呢？保護遺棄動物協會自2003年開始，成立「動物捐血者」資料庫，招募自願的動物捐血者，支援動物醫療服務及為有需要的動物飼養者提供協助，使寵物因患病或受傷而需要輸血的時候，得到即時的治療。近年，以輸血拯救作治療動物已經成為獸醫學上重要的一部份。輸血治療廣泛被採用，是由於血液能提高體內氧氣的盛載量，有助控制及舒緩血液大量流失。另外，輸血亦可以幫助一些患有牛蚤高溫症，貧血病等動物。其實跟人類一樣，動物血液並沒有代用品，血液的來源有賴動物飼養者協助，自願及無償的動物血液捐贈服務，讓動物不會因為飼養者的經濟困難及血液供應不足而失救。



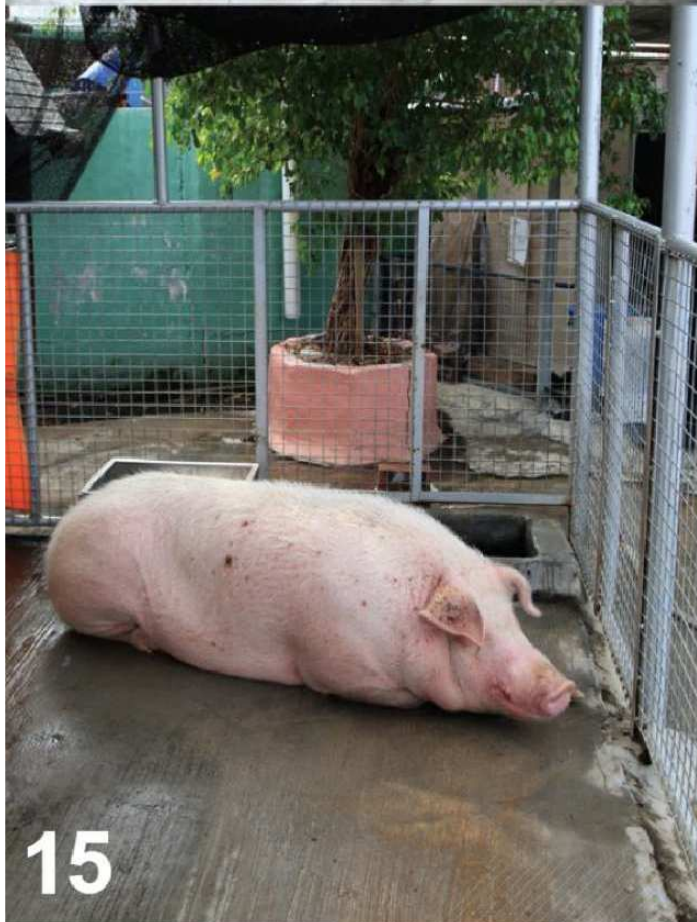
Life is Not Only a Present!

Life is a gift from God; however, people seem to misinterpret or distort its meaning. From the fact of the increasing number of abandoned animals, we can clearly see that. According to the statistics, the peak seasons for abandoning pets are some festive holidays like Christmas or Valentine's Day.

As the problem is getting worse, how come SAA still accept and take care of the abandoned animals? EI answered, "indeed, we'll take serious considerations before accepting the owners' applications. For example, it's unreasonable to dump their pets to SAA just by saying 'I don't want it'. We'll only accept the offers in case the owners have encountered financial difficulties, health problems or restrictions at their residence to which they could no longer continue to raise their pets. Even though the nature of SAA is to take care of the abandoned animals, we don't want to send out the wrong message - that pets are easy come, easy go! On the contrary, we provide a wide range of services to educate the public. At the same time, we offer counseling services. Let's say, some pet owners gave up their dogs because of certain behavioral or emotional problems. For such cases, we'll refer them to some professional dog trainers, in the hope of correcting the dogs' behavior and re-building the relationship between the pets and their owners."

Animal Blood Donation

Nowadays, human blood donation is common, but have you ever heard about animal blood donation? Starting from 2003, SAA established the Animal Blood Donors Databank to recruit voluntary non-remunerated animal blood donation to save animals in need and to provide backup support for veterinary clinics and pet owners. In recent years, using blood transfusion to cure an animal has become an important part in the medical field. Blood transfusion has been widely employed in use because blood can increase the oxygen holding capacity inside the body, helping to control and soothe huge blood loss. Also, blood transfusion is helpful to animals suffering from low protein or anemia. Like human beings, there is no substitute for animal blood, and the supply of blood relies on the voluntary, non-remunerated donors which ensure animal patients be rescued in emergency.



規管失效

當一眾協會都從不同的途徑教育大眾的時候，我們社會上的規限卻未見完善，雖然現有法律規定寵物需要植入晶片，可惜當中仍存在很多漏洞，Noel對此亦有同感：『好多時，我們的義工救回來的貓狗都並非流浪一族，大部分都已經植入了晶片。但是，最大的問題是即使牠們有晶片，但都未必找到所屬的主人，原因在於登記的名字多數是pet shop名，萬一其結業了，寵物就像無主孤魂。最初制定這個規定的原意是改善對狗隻的管理及控制，然而，由實際情況所得，缺乏仕面考慮的政策完全無助提升主人的責任感。』

家庭教育好重要

『身教也十分重要！』Noel補充說，『曾經有一家四口到我們協會申請領養，在冷靜期的多次探訪中，兩位家長都表現得好有愛心，還不時教導兒女一些對待動物的正確態度。因此，我們相信他們能好好照顧所領養的狗狗。怎料，不到一個月，一天早上我們收到某獸醫診所的電話，說有人留下HK\$150和一句說話，叫醫生將隻狗人道毀滅。於是我便找那家人問個究竟，但事主竟然發脾氣話：「隻狗好有問題，佢唔適合我地。」原來一句相處唔到就可以隨意捨棄一條生命，可想而知他們下一代的價值觀會是何等「正確」！』Noel說。



Loss of Control

When different animal welfare associations are trying to educate the public about microchipping their pets, there seems to be a loophole on such issue and even the law is not powerful enough to control over it. Noel agreed by saying, "most of the abandoned animals were microchipped already. However, the main problem is that they're all registered under the name of the pet shop. Just in case the pet shop has closed down, the pets can never find their owners again. The original idea of setting up this law was to better manage the dogs in the society. However, from the current situation in Hong Kong, there's no doubt that the policy is a total failure."

Family Education

"It's always important for us to set a good example for the younger generations!" Noel continued, "There was once a family who came to SAA for adoption. The parents showed their unlimited love and care to the pets during their first few visits, and even taught their kids the correct way of treating animals from time to time. Just because of this, we believed that they could take good care of the dog. Unfortunately, we received a call from the vet in less-than-a-month time, saying that someone has left \$150 to euthanize their dog. Getting in touch with the family again, the "owner" explained to us, "there're some problems with the dog, thus it's not suitable for us." Simply because you couldn't get along well with the dog, meaning that you have to give up its life. Well, you can see how 'good' their moral values are!"