

Bimonthly review of the Cat and Dog Welfare programme, China

(January - February 2013)

Responsible dog ownership, public education activities launched in Luohu District, Shenzhen

The City Management Office of Luohu District in Shenzhen recently co-operated with Animals Asia to carry out a series of responsible dog ownership, public education activities. The launch ceremony was held in Dongmen, the most prosperous merchandise street in Shenzhen where an officer of Luohu City Management Office made a presentation about responsible dog ownership. Participants signed on the signature board and promised to be a responsible dog guardian. We also set up advice and veterinary consultation sections to offer advice about dog licensing and daily care, and to promote responsible and proper dog ownership. Games booths and leaflets about raising dogs proved popular and attracted a lot of interest.

The public education activity will be carried out in different communities of Luohu district.



Left: Game booth about how to be a responsible dog owner.



Right: A father shows his daughter information about dog care.

Special Dr Dog Visit: to celebrate the Spring Festival with paper-cutting

Chinese New Year is a family-oriented festival and Dr Dog in Chengdu, together with volunteers from Chengdu Hi-tech Zone Idoe Commonwealth Service Center, visited three homes for the elderly to bring that same spirit to residents. As our special guest friends, Dr Jill Robinson, Founder and CEO of Animals Asia, MD of Animals Asia, James Smillie and his wife, Cynthia, and renowned English actor Peter Egan, joined our Chinese New Year visit which was full of fun and warmth.

To add Spring atmosphere to the house, Peter kindly helped to paste up spring couplet greetings for the residents. Uncle Lei, a resident of the community, practices paper-cutting,

a traditional Chinese folk art. He taught us how to make paper-cuts and presented us with his works as a gift. Peter took his gift back to Britain and told us that he and his friends liked the paper-cutting very much. We also donated some rice and oil, traditional gifts to wish the elderly residents health and happiness!



Left: Our special guests learn paper cutting

Right: Peter made a Chinese word “Chun (Spring)” paper cutting



After the visit, Jill and Cynthia thought that Uncle Lei would benefit from a comfortable chair as there was just some simple furniture in his house. Our staff helped to buy an arm-chair with footrest as a New Year gift to him. We visited him again on 31 January to install the chair and he sent us a beautiful paper-cutting and said, “I don’t know how to express my thanks to you all. What I can do is send you the paper-cuttings as your New Year gifts.”

Uncle Lei, thank you so much! We are looking forward to visiting you again!

Photo: Uncle Lei tries his comfortable new chair
Media reports:

China News: <http://www.sc.chinanews.com/news/2013/0120/0441169102.html>

Huaxi Metropolis Daily: <http://www.wccdailly.com.cn/shtml/hxdsb/20130121/61803.shtml>

Anti-dog and cat eating activity in Chengdu - Wenxuan Book Mall

Winter is a disastrous time for cats and dogs because of so-called tradition and promotion by businessmen to use them in winter ‘warming’ dishes. Animals Asia carried out a special anti-dog and cat eating promotion in Chengdu, at Wenxuan Book Mall to inform the public about the cruel truth behind the meat trade and the probable damage to their health of such “dinners”.

We included a special Professor Paws activity attracting a lot of students and parents,

during which Jill Robinson, Founder and CEO of Animals Asia, shared the story of her dog Muppet. Muppet was adopted by Jill after he was rescued from a “meat truck” and no one could ever imagine that such a lovely dog was nearly killed for the dining table. Muppet’s story told us that dogs are our friends rather than food.

The kids learned knowledge about cats and dogs by playing games. One wrote on the signature banner, “If we love dogs, they will love us.” Another younger kid said, “I can’t write, but I can draw two hearts to show my love to dogs.” Thank you, to all the kind and enthusiastic children, the dogs appreciate all your love and care.



Jill shared the story of Muppet with the kids



Kids wrote down their wishes to dogs

Media reports:

SCOL: http://sichuan.scol.com.cn/cddt/content/2013-01/14/content_4588991.htm

China Daily: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/dfpd/shehui/2013-01/15/content_16121674.htm

Dr Dog and Professor Paws events

From January to February, Animals Asia carried out a total of 37 Dr Dog visits reaching 1,922 people; held 13 Professor Paws courses and 4 Care for Animals Presentations to over 1,940 people in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Hong Kong. Here are some selections:

Hong Kong “Meet with Jill 2013” Event

On Feb 23 2013, over 150 Dr Dog and Professor Paws volunteers from Hong Kong joined us to celebrate their hard work at our “Meet with Jill 2013” event. The event is our annual opportunity to thank the volunteers for all their help and devotion during the past year, and for Jill Robinson, our Founder and CEO, to catch up with the teams.

Over the past four years, the event has kindly been sponsored by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in recognition of the contribution of the Dr Dog team to the bank’s “Work-Life Balance Day”, whereby our canine therapists visit staff at various branches to offer some much appreciated stress relief.

The wonderful In Sai Restaurant in Sai Kung hosted the event, serving up their delicious vegetarian buffet lunch to kick off the proceedings. This was followed by a welcome

speech from Jill, who recapped the past year's achievement and shared with volunteers the forthcoming year's exciting developments.

She then thanked the volunteers for all their hard work, and encouraged everyone to continue to support our efforts to improve the lives and welfare of all animals across Asia.

The best part of the afternoon was the opportunity for Animals Asia staff and volunteers to meet and chat in a relaxed, informal environment, play bingo, participate in the general knowledge quiz games and lucky draws. Sharing in the fun, we had special guests from the University of Hong Kong, Dr Paul Wong, Rose Yu and Steven Lai plus Ah Kuen and Panda from Chinese Zion Church youth center. Anneleise Smillie (member of the Board of Directors of Animals Asia), our Financial Controller, Mr. Chris Chiu, and Mr. Jim Smillie, our Managing Director, together with Marnie Yau and Cassy Mak who coordinate Dr Dog, and who organised the event.

Last but not least, we take our hats off to our two fantastic MCs, Vincent and Esther, who flawlessly facilitated the event.

A huge thanks to all our amazing volunteers without whom Dr Dog and Professor Paws could not reach out to the Hong Kong community to the extent that they do.



Shenzhen Professor Paws, Muse of Art Kids

Professor Paws was invited to Shenzhen Ymm Children’s Art Education Center to hold an interesting “Care for animals” course. In addition to imparting knowledge about animals and playing with students, Professor Paws also became the day’s “Muse” for the children - acting as real-life models for their art class – and they produced different styles of paintings including cartoon images and realistic portraits. Little “painters” made friends with little “models”, filling the room with laughter. Even the school headmaster enjoyed playing with our wonderful Professor Paws who showed their enjoyment of the day through doggy smiles and wagging tails as if to say “This is the charm of Professor Paws, right?”



Left: Professor Duoduo, model and muse of the kids.

Right: Professor Paws in my eyes.

Professor Fanshu’s Lecture for Guangzhou Students

Invited by Guangzhou Youth Science and Technology Education Association and Hong Kong SPCA, Guangzhou Professor Paws held a “Care for animals” course for over 200 students and teachers from 10 middle schools. During the course, Professor Fanshu demonstrated on stage, how to make friends with dogs.

Everyone was very excited to meet the dogs, and if someone didn’t approach a dog in the correct way, other students would find the mistake instantly. For example, when a student touched Professor Doudou’s head without greeting, other students pointed out the mistake and showed him the necessity of asking for the dogs’ guardian’s approval. The teachers said our course was very useful and important for student development. Many students shared their opinions about cat and dog meat consumption and dog ownership, and we were delighted with their care for animals.



Left: Professor Fanshu shows how to make friends with dogs.

Right: "It's so comfortable!" Professor Doudou said.

Media reports: http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/cXj3oq_lZxs/
<http://v.gdtv.cn/html/ItemId57/2013-01-17/35643.html>

Guangzhou Dr Dog's New Year Visit to Shouxing Elderly Home

The Lantern Festival is the first important festival after Chinese New Year, when people eat sweet dumplings, and watch lantern and traditional shows to celebrate the day. Guangzhou Dr Dog and volunteers of Bayer Group carried out a New Year visit in Shouxing Elderly Home bringing New Year greetings to the residents and playing games with them.

Four lovely Dr Dogs' appearance attracted everyone's attention and the elderly residents couldn't wait to hold them. Holding Dr Maomao, Granny Liang was so excited and could not help crying. She told us she had lived in Vietnam in the past and raised six dogs, and Maomao brought back her good memories with these four-legged friends. Maomao stayed with Granny Liang quietly and kissed her, making her smile again. Dr Chen Baobao is a beautiful girl and an uncle asked if Baobao could be his granddaughter. Shouxing Mansion was surrounded by the New Year atmosphere and the residents had a lot of fun meeting our lovely professors.



Left: "Don't cry Granny Liang, Maomao will give you a hug!"

Right: Dr Chen Baobao and her "grandpa" looked deep into each other's eyes

Media reports:

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNTE5Mzg1Njk2.html

http://informationtimes.dayoo.com/html/2013-03/03/content_2168096.htm

A Wonderful Share in Chengdu Youth Space



Animals Asia was invited to attend a communication and sharing activity of Youth Space in Chengdu. As the only NGO representative, Animals Asia shared the development of our Professor Paws programmes in Youth Space and some other schools and organizations, receiving lots of

appreciation and support from all attendees. A teacher from Wuhou Computer Elementary School told us that students liked our Professor Paws course very much and later they sent us their DIY art works as a gift.

Letter to Headmaster of South China Normal University about killing stray dogs on campus

Recently, a news item titled “Security guard of South China Normal University killed stray dogs for a clean and harmonious campus” aroused great controversy among students and society.

Animals Asia was astonished by the news, which brought huge damage to the image of a national university. We understand the necessity of a proper campus stray dog management programme, but such cruel action cannot resolve problems of animal overpopulation and attacks on humans. Additionally, it would badly influence students and damage the reputation of the university.

Most campus stray dogs come from students’ irresponsibility and abandonment. We suggested that the university tighten guidance and supervision of students keeping animals in schools and hence, avoid irresponsible dog ownership. For the existing stray dogs, the university could send them to the newly built Guangzhou Dog Shelter or inform the Guangzhou PSB. Meanwhile, encouraging students and their parents, as well as teachers, to adopt these strays would be the best thing for the animals.

Animals Asia China Cat and Dog Welfare Team
Animals Asia HK Dr Dog and Pro Paws Team

Jan and Feb, 2013