

Monthly Review of Cat and Dog Welfare Programme, China

(October 2012)

“Dr Dog Fun Day” in Chengdu, Guangzhou and Shenzhen celebrate World Animal Day

To our animal friends, October was a wonderful month. Animals Asia launched a series of events which included “Sharing Love with Them” online photo contest, winning photo exhibition and “Cyclists Love Animals” and more, to celebrate this big day with animal lovers nationwide.

We held “Dr Dog Fun Day” & “Sharing Love with Them” online photo contest award ceremony in Guangzhou and Shenzhen and invited over 100 special-needs children to play with our lovely Dr Dogs. Children played games on the fun day and, in the “animal imitation show”, they made faces with “animal hats” which made volunteers burst into laughter. In the “sending garland to dogs”, they built a perfect teamwork with Dr Dogs, and saw much appreciation from their parents, spreading the message that “Dr Dog is always a good friend of children.” In the Shenzhen event, Dr Xiao Q’ s “elder brother” Mr. Chen Junliang, who was blind and now works as an psychological health care teacher in Luohu District Disabled Persons’ Federation, sang a song “You Are My Eyes” and won huge applause from the audience.



Meanwhile, “Dr Dog Walking Day” in Chengdu gathered over 200 guardians and their dogs. They collected stickers with “I” “❤️” “D” “O” “G” “S” in different places in the shortest time, and were accompanied by their dogs to show their determination of taking care of their four-legged friends for life.



We held award ceremonies in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Chengdu for the “2012 Sharing Love with Them” online photo contest. A golden retriever called “Bei Er” in Chengdu earned the overall winner of “We are happy together”. Bei Er’s “mother” Ms Shi said, “My baby will grow up healthily together with cats and dogs because we are a family!”. “The most creative photo” was selected in Shenzhen with the “Cover Dog” called “Ma Bella”. This lovely dog showed us the value of vegetarian promotion by the signs he wore around his body.



Since our “Dr Dog” programme was launched in 2004 in mainland China it has seen great support from all our volunteers and lovely dogs. During this time, our programme has gone through a journey of 9 years. Each Dr Dog has its own fascinating story and every volunteer has a touching moment in their volunteering experience.

We hope to promote and advocate the harmonious relationship between human beings and animals by celebrating the World Animal Day for many years to come.

University of Hong Kong – Animal Therapy Workshop

On October 5th 2012, Wendy Lam, HKU honorary lecturer, invited Animals Asia Dr Dogs to attend the "Introduction to animal-assisted therapy workshop" to graduate students/professors for the Master of counseling programme at University of Hong Kong.

Whilst Wendy showed the students how to utilize pet photography and Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) to help clients, the Animals Asia’s Dr Dog team was invited to share details regarding the work and mission of the Dr Dog programme in general. Our Dr Dog guardians also demonstrated the principles of “Using the proper way of approaching our canine friends”. The students then showed off their Dr Dogs’ photos taken from their smartphones and shared with the audience what they have learnt from the session about the guardians and Dr Dogs.

Special thanks to Dr Creamie, Dr Goldie, Dr Co Co, Dr Sausage and Dr Cha Cha.



“Dr Dog” and “Professor Paws” Event

During October, Animals Asia carried out a total of 19 Dr Dog visits reaching 1,250 people; 9 Professor Paws courses and 2 Care for Animals Presentations to over 380 people in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Hong Kong. Here are some selections:

Shenzhen Dr Dogs send love to a nursing home on Double Ninth Day

Double Ninth Day is recognised as a day for senior citizens in China. On this day, four of our Shenzhen Dr Dogs went to visit Nanshan Social Welfare Center. An elderly resident and Dr Dog Lajiao clearly enjoyed their second introduction and were clearly old friends as the sweet granny gave a big hug to Dr Lajiao when they met once again. When asked; “Granny, how can you remember her name since you two haven’t met for several months?” The elderly resident laughingly replied: “Lajiao is so special with a long, long mustache on her face!”

It was difficult for the elderly people to read Dr Momoco’s English name, so they created a new Chinese name for this lovely dog as “Mao Mao Gou”, which means “fuzzy dog” in Chinese. One of the elderly residents was a doctor when she was young and greeted Mao Mao Gou with the words; “Both of us are doctors!” which she said with big smile. Our Dr Dog team also sent flowers to all the elderly residents, wishing them a happy Double Ninth Day.

Inspiration from Guangzhou Deaf School Visit

Just recently three of our famous “mini” Dr Dogs went to visit Guangzhou Deaf School. Dr BiBi was previously a little shy, but made great progress on this visit and whenever students wanted to walk with him, he was obviously very happy indeed. His guardian Ms Chen shared photos of her 3 dogs with the students, which they liked very much. Dr Duoduo’s guardian Ms Huang advised the kids how to stroke and hug Duoduo and how to take care of this little dog. Then there was Dr Anna who was a stray dog before she was adopted by Grace. When students got to know that one of Anna’s eyes had lost sight when she was a homeless dog, they felt so sorry for Anna and treated her more tenderly..



After the activity, the teacher kindly suggested that we learn some basic sign language such as “wait”, “gently” and “touch” to more easily communicate with the students. Also he said he would be glad to be a teacher in our volunteer training or salon. The Dr Dog’s guardians and volunteers said that it was such a special visit joining the students with hearing problems. Even though they could not communicate

directly, they could interact through simple body language, and could understand each other very well.

Dog Wash event Hong Kong

"Animals Asia held its first Dog Wash event with the support of Whiskers and Paws. Students were encouraged to get together into groups in order to raise awareness and/or much needed funds for Animals Asia as a way of participating in this unique event. Students took on the role of ambassadors for Animals Asia by encouraging friends and family to sign pledges as well as holding various fundraising activities.

These activities led up to the dog wash where students worked together with the help of our dog volunteers to teach students to be gentle, compassionate and understanding of all dogs feelings.

Everyone had a fantastic time and the students especially appreciated the hands on experience with the dogs, with many of them asking when the next event would be!"



Shenzhen Professor Paws visit Standard Charter Bank

Standard Chartered Bank Shenzhen Nanshan Branch was surrounded by laughter in the afternoon of October 27th when four Professor Paws from Animals Asia joined hands with children and parents of Yang Mythos Education and paid a fun-filled visit to the children from Standard Chartered Bank's clients. During the same time, a photo exhibition as a follow-up activity of "Sharing Love with Them" online photo contest was conducted to show children the love between companion animals and human beings.



A mother explains the story of the "Sharing Love with Them" contest photos.

Letter to officials of Jiamusi City about dog management

The Government of Jiamusi city, Heilongjiang Province enacted their "Jiamusi City Dog Management Regulation (Tentative)" recently and we were informed that many citizens were dissatisfied with part of the terms. Following our review of the regulation, we highlighted several unreasonable areas and sent our suggestions to the Jiamusi Municipal Government and PSB. The letter advised; promoting the idea of being a responsible dog owner instead of limiting the size or breed of dogs; urging them to carry out public education programmes and expanding the dogs activity area; ordering a ban on selling dog fur and meat in order to protect these four-leg friends of people and the health of citizens; managing stray animals in a scientific and humane way instead of killing them.

We hope the relevant departments of Jiamusi city will take our suggestions into consideration and compile a more scientific and humane dog management regulation.

Hong Kong Social Welfare Central & Outlying Island Volunteer Sharing Ceremony 2012

On 13th October, we were invited by the Social Welfare Department to attend the Social Welfare Department's Central & Outlying Island Volunteer Sharing Ceremony 2012. Animals Asia's Alice, Helen and Jenö



shared their valuable experience as a volunteer, while the Dr Dog team explained to the public about the mission of Dr Dog and our Dr Dog guardians demonstrated the “Proper approach to our canine friends “.

Special thanks to Dr Maisie, Dr Candy and Dr Cha Cha.

Support to Animal Protection Groups

There were a total of 6 groups and 3 individuals applying for our public education materials this month which included: Animal Protection and Education Union of Northwest University of Politics and Law, Falv Environment Protection Association, Jiangxi Provincial Small Animal Protection Association, Xi’an TNR (Trap Neuter Release) Group and others..

Finally, Mr Gao Peng from Guilin city carries out an “Anti eating cats and dogs” and vegetarian promotion together with his mother very week. From the report they sent us, we could see their hard work and persistence which saw them making presentations, taking photos with passers-by, and sometimes even putting on eye-catching shows to attract others’ attention. Their passion and simple behavior moved everyone and we all send our thanks and congratulations – with a big well done Gao Peng! It’s people like you who promote the fact that everyone can be an ambassador of animal protection!



Gao Peng (in white) and his mother (in blue) promote the idea of animal protection.