

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB198

(Question Serial No. 3009)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

As far as the planning of pet facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is concerned, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the numbers of "Inclusive Park for Pets" under construction and commissioned for use and the expenditures involved for each of the years since the implementation of the trial scheme of "Inclusive Park for Pets" by the LCSD in 2019?
2. What were the numbers of users of each "Inclusive Park for Pets" and the numbers of animal species having been brought into such parks since 2019? Please provide the details in tabulated form.
3. The original purpose of setting up "Inclusive Park for Pets" is to meet the public's aspiration for provision of sufficient recreation facilities and spaces for pet owners. However, there have been public concerns that the areas for various animals were not separated from one another, thus making weaker animals susceptible to the potential dangers of injury. In this connection, how many complaints and petitions have the Government received in total for the past 3 years?
4. Has the Government assessed the usage of "Inclusive Park for Pets" and put improvement plans in place in a bid to cater for the needs of various pets for outdoor spaces, while eliminating the potential dangers of injury to weaker animals? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the trial scheme of "Inclusive Park for Pets" by opening up 6 of its parks for use by members of the public with pets in January 2019. As the trial scheme was well-received, the LCSD has regularised the arrangements of opening up the 6 parks as "Inclusive Park for Pets", while making sustained efforts in identifying suitable venues for such opening-up. The

total number of “Inclusive Park for Pets” has currently increased to more than 100 across Hong Kong, with an anticipated further increase to over 150 by the end of 2023, thereby meeting the public’s demand. The numbers of the newly opened “Inclusive Park for Pets” for each of the past years since 2019 are tabulated below:

Year	Number of the newly opened “Inclusive Park for Pets”
2019	6
2020 ¹	0
2021	37
2022 ²	74

Note 1: There were no newly opened “Inclusive Park for Pets” in 2020 due to the epidemic.

Note 2: The Kai Tak Runway Park, opened up as “Inclusive Park for Pets” in 2019, was closed for public use in February 2022, and is converted into an anti-epidemic facility.

The concept behind the “Inclusive Park for Pets” scheme is to open up existing parks to the public to visit with pets. No fences will be provided for designation of pet areas, and the environments and facilities of such parks will be subject to minimal changes. To facilitate the use by pet owners, the Department will provide basic ancillary facilities such as dog excreta collection bins, hand-washing facilities and drinking fountains in light of the actual circumstances and needs. As this scheme will be implemented by the Department with the use of existing resources and manpower, and the associated daily costs are part of the overall operation of the venues, no separate breakdown for “Inclusive Park for Pets” is available.

2. Since most of “Inclusive Park for Pets” are open around the clock and members of the public are not required to make bookings or register for entering the parks, the LCSD does not hold statistical information on the number of users of, and the animal species having been brought into, such parks.
3. Pets gardens, specially designed for use by users with pets, are normally provided with fences and entrances with double pet gates to allow free movements of dogs. Separate areas for large/small pets are, if feasible, designated in some of such pet gardens having regard to the actual needs and environments, catering to the varying needs of the users and their pets. “Inclusive Park for Pets” allows the shared use of park facilities by existing users and those with pets in an inclusive environment. To keep in line with the concept of enabling the shared use of park facilities among different users, members of the public are required to keep their pets on a leash and under proper control in the venues so as to avoid nuisance to other dogs and users. Meanwhile, Users’ Code for “Inclusive Park for Pets” (the Code) will be displayed in the venues reminding pet owners to keep their pets under proper control to avoid nuisance to others. In addition, the LCSD will also step up inspections to the venue to urge observance of the Code by pet owners. In the past 3 years, no complaint/feedback regarding the non-separation

of the areas for different types of animals in “Inclusive Park for Pets” has been received by the LCSD.

4. The LCSD takes an open and proactive approach to improving the “Inclusive Park for Pets” scheme. Given the mixed views on this scheme among the public, the LCSD will examine the usage of “Inclusive Park for Pets” in a sustained manner, while achieving a balance with the public’s various practical needs and such issues as facility management, in a bid to ensure the shared use of park facilities by the public and their pets in an inclusive environment. In addition to paying heed to feedback regarding “Inclusive Park for Pets”, if any, the LCSD will give a balanced consideration as much as possible, while explaining to those who give feedback the implementation and operations of “Inclusive Park for Pets”, with a view to clearing the public’s doubts.

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