

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0507)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Rodent infestation is one of the serious environmental hygiene problems in the Hong Kong community. The Government has adopted various measures for rodent control, e.g. placing poisonous baits and glue traps, etc. However, some organisations have reported that cases of wildlife other than rodents, such as birds, cats and dogs, being trapped in glue traps are frequently found. As for the past 3 years, please advise this Committee of:

1. the expenditure involved in procuring and placing glue traps;
2. the number of cases relating to wildlife other than rodents being trapped in glue traps; and
3. whether guidelines have been drawn up to stipulate that glue traps should only be placed indoor.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has tried out progressively the placement of glue traps as an additional anti-rodent measure in 11 public markets since November 2022. As at end-February 2023, the expenditure involved was around \$630,000.
2. The Department has found no case of other animals being trapped in glue traps since the launch of the measure in November 2022.
3. The Department adopts an integrated approach in rodent prevention and control. Such approach is mainly premised on the recommendations and technical guidelines of the World Health Organization, which includes the elimination of the 3 survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages. The Department will, having regard to the actual circumstances of different environments, employ different disinfection methods to achieve better anti-rodent effects. Currently, the Department

only conducts trials on the placement of glue traps as an additional measure in those markets which have a more serious problem of rodent infestation to enhance the anti-rodent effectiveness. Glue traps will only be placed indoor after the opening hours of the markets. The Department has also drawn up internal guidelines, stipulating that its staff should monitor the use of glue traps on site and handle the rodents caught as soon as possible in a humane way. The Department will keep in view the trial use of glue traps. If the results are satisfactory, the Department will consider extending it to other indoor premises under the Department's purview (e.g. refuse collection points). Currently, there is no plan to place glue traps outdoor.

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