Joint Forum Reply by NParks and AVA

Lianhe Zaobao, 14 May 2018, p16

[Forum Reply] Feeding wild pigeons is illegal; Surveillance by 100 CCTVs

We refer to You Wan Hua's letter supporting legislation against pigeon feeding ("Support for legislation to ban feeding of pigeons"; 8 May) and the article "Feeding pigeons at HDB blocks may be illegal in future" published in Zaobao on 5 May.

2   We would like to clarify that pigeon feeding in any premises or public place, including at HDB estates, is currently already an offence. Anyone caught feeding pigeons can be fined up to $500 under the Animals and Birds (Pigeons) Rules.

3   Pigeon feeding and littering of food are the main factors contributing to the growth of the pigeon population. As highlighted by the writer, pigeon feeding by residents and poor cleanliness of estates endanger health and cause disamenities. Leftover food from pigeon feeding may attract other pests, like rats, that carry diseases and pose a risk to public health. These pests can also potentially spread diseases to humans through contaminated droppings or via contact with diseased or dead birds. Pigeon droppings also dirty the environment.

4   Over the years, we have seen an increase in pigeon-related feedback. To address this, AVA has deployed around 100 cameras around the island at hotspots, which has allowed us to take enforcement actions against recalcitrant feeders. At the same time, it also serves as a deterrent to pigeon feeding.

5   We will continue to work closely with stakeholders such as Town Councils, government agencies, grassroots, and the public to manage pigeon-related issues. These measures include proper waste management, surveillance and bird management operations, public education against feeding and littering, and enforcement against pigeon feeders and litterbugs.

6   However, enforcement alone will not solve this problem. Members of the public can also play a part by not feeding pigeons, and by reporting pigeon feeding activities to AVA at our online feedback form at http://www.ava.gov.sg/feedback or through the OneService App (http://www.mnd.gov.sg/mso/mobile-installation.htm). These efforts will complement our surveillance and enforcement efforts.

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答复 喂食野鸽违法　百台电眼监控

谨答复《联合早报·交流站》于5月8日刊登游婉华读者的投函《支持立法禁喂野鸽》与《联合早报》于5月5日的报道《组屋楼下喂野鸽日后可能犯法》：

我们要澄清的是，在任何场所或公共地方，包括组屋区喂食野鸽已属违法行为。根据《动物与飞禽（野鸽）法令》，喂食野鸽者可被罚款高达500元。

喂食野鸽和乱扔食物是导致野鸽数目增加的主要原因。就如作者所强调的，居民喂食野鸽和组屋环境卫生条件欠佳，不仅危害健康，也会对日常生活造成不便。喂食野鸽的残粪可能会引来其他害虫及老鼠，这些带有病菌的害虫会对公共卫生构成威胁。它们可能通过受污染的粪便或接触患病或死亡的鸟类，将疾病传播给人类。此外，野鸽的粪便也污染了环境。

我们发现与野鸽相关的反馈逐年增加。为了解决这个问题，农粮与兽医局已经在全岛喂食野鸽的黑区，装置了大约100台电眼，这使我们能够对顽固的喂食者采取执法行动。同时，它也对喂食野鸽起到了阻吓作用。

我们会继续与市镇理事会、政府机构、基层及公众等利益相关者紧密合作，管理与野鸽相关的问题。这些措施包括妥善处理厨余、采取鸟类监察及管理行动、教育公众不要喂食和乱抛垃圾，以及对喂食鸽者和垃圾虫采取执法行动。

不过，单靠执法并不能解决这个问题。公众可为此尽一分力，即不喂食野鸽，以及通过农粮局的在线反馈表格http://www.ava.gov.sg/feedback或一联通（OneService）应用（http://www.mnd.gov.sg/mso/mobile-installation.htm）举报喂食野鸽的行为。这将有助于加强我们的监察和执法工作。

农粮与兽医局
动物管理署高级署长
郭瑞菁

Original letter

Lianhe Zaobao, 8 May 2018, p25

[Forum Letter] Support for legislation to ban feeding of pigeons

支持立法禁喂野鸽

游婉华

从报章上获悉有关当局或立法，日后在组屋楼下喂野鸽可能会受到法律制裁。这样的举措是及时的，也是给那些随意喂食野鸽者的当头棒喝。

本地有些组屋邻里野鸽为患，主要原因是居民喂食。当然，组屋环境卫生条件欠佳，也是原因之一。如果当局没有及时采取行动，阻止人们继续喂食野鸽，只会让鸽子数量不断增加。

有些居民家中有吃剩的米饭，为了不浪费食物，都丢到屋外喂鸽子。鸽子知道组屋楼下有"好料"，自然会成群飞来大快朵颐。鸽子填饱肚子飞走后，留下满地残粪，使得周遭环境肮脏不堪。有的居民在组屋区乱丢垃圾，例如把吃剩的食物连同包装丢在垃圾槽旁，自然也引来鸽子。因此，居民有责任保持组屋环境的整洁与卫生。

组屋邻里面临野鸽为患的问题，不仅会危害居民健康，也会对日常生活造成不便。野鸽的粪便是有害的。如果不小心接触到，发生传染病的可能性也随之提高。此外，鸽子多了，晾在户外的衣物很容易被鸽粪击中。

当务之急是劝请民众勿喂食野鸽，并说明其影响，教育民众保持组屋环境卫生的重要性。期待尽快修法严管公众喂食野鸽的问题，唯有通过法律严惩，才能达到改善环境问题的效果。

The writer referred to a recent report that it may become illegal to feed pigeons in housing estates in the future and agreed that this is a timely move to rein in the pigeon population. He cited the impact of pigeon feeding on public hygiene and health and said the priority now would be to persuade members of the public not to feed wild pigeons while amending the law to make it illegal to do so.