

BRIEFLY

Pet project homes in on animal welfare

A campaign to promote care for animals will be launched next year. The aim is to improve community awareness of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, including the introduction of microchip implants for dogs.

In addition an Animal Welfare Advisory Group will be set up in response to thousands of dogs being dumped on the streets following the Housing Authority's efforts to reinforce restrictions on public tenants keeping pets.

Hindrance to cost more

The smooth operation of the District Court is to be boosted by increased penalties for hindering the legal process or being in contempt, to bring it in line with the Supreme Court.

Internet goal for schools

All public sector secondary schools will be assisted in gaining access to the Internet before the end of this academic year to enhance students' knowledge and skills in information technology.

Implant target aids deaf

A score of deaf children with profound bilateral hearing loss will be provided with inner ear implants each year. The Health and Welfare Branch said 20 children annually would be able to develop and improve their speech after receiving cochlear implants.

Academic help on China

About 50 senior departmental officers will be sponsored each year to attend university courses to better understand China. Other measures include seminars for directorate and administrative officers.

Look at racial problems

The Home Affairs Branch will conduct a study on racial discrimination in Hong Kong this year and consult the public on identified problems and possible solutions. Findings and recommendations will be given to Legco next year.