

Animal conservation to be promoted here

By Kenneth Li

THE Urban Council is planning a territory-wide campaign to promote conservation of animals.

Under the campaign study tours will be organised to the Mai Po Marshes, the largest nature reserve in Hongkong.

Lectures will also be given on raising pets.

Mr Cheung Yiu-fai, the Urban Council's Amenities Officer, Zoological and Special Gardening, said the campaign was another bid by the council to promote the idea of animal conservation following the success it had in educating schoolchildren on the topic in the last academic year.

More than 11,000 students from 240 schools visited the Zoological and Botanical Garden last year under the auspices of the Urban Council and the Education Department.

"It's always been our aim to publicise and promote the preservation of animals, especially those on the verge of extinction.

"Our success in educating the children and the numerous inquiries we receive from residents about their pets have encouraged us to extend our service," Mr Cheung said.

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According to him, the Urban Council would seek help from the local branch of the World Wildlife Fund, which manages the Mai Po Marshes, to organise study tours for the public.

Mr Cheung said guests with a good knowledge of animals would also be invited to take part in the campaign.

"We hope the proposals, which are now being drafted, will be ready for approval by the end of this month and implemented next year," he said.

Mr Cheung said he was optimistic about the outcome of the organised student tours to the Zoological and Botanical Garden this academic year.

"We have predicted a 75 per cent increase in the number of student visitors," he said.