

New Taipei City Plans Long-Term Care Hospital for Pets

When we think of pets, we often picture playful puppies and kittens. But just like people, pets grow older and sometimes need special care. As our furry friends age, they might need more help with their health. This is called long-term care for pets. It includes everything from regular check-ups at the vet to special treatments for older animals.

Long-term care helps our pets stay comfortable and healthy in their later years. New Taipei City is planning something special for pets. They want to build the first long-term care hospital for pets in Taiwan. It will be in Baiji Mountain, Sanxia District (三峽區的白雞山). The Animal Protection Office hopes this hospital will get private businesses to join in pet care. The hospital will offer nursing, rehabilitation, brain exercises, and special devices for pets. The city already trains people in pet care, but they need a place with professional equipment to teach better.

The city also started a program in 2020 to certify places that take care of older pets. This new pet hospital plan in New Taipei City could mark a big step forward in animal welfare. It could not only provide essential care for aging pets but also inspire more dedication towards long-term pet healthcare. It could ensure our beloved animal companions receive the best support in their golden years.

Tamsui River Garbage Doubles in Three Years

It's the year 2023 and it's hard to believe people just throw trash into the rivers and oceans. But that is still happening. A local environmental NGO, recently released the results of a survey. The Society of Wilderness says the amount of garbage along the Tamsui River and its tributaries has doubled in the past 3 years.

How did they figure this out? The society asked 36 volunteers to collect data. They covered the entire Tamsui River basin, estuaries (河口) and nearby areas. They traveled just over 283 kilometers on bicycle and foot. They picked up as much trash as they could, and put them into 14-liter garbage bags. In total, they collected 56,617 bags of garbage. That works out to about 156 bags of garbage per kilometer. In 2020, it was 73 bags of garbage per kilometer.

This year, they also found that 80% of the garbage was concentrated (集中) along the river banks. And single-use plastic items took up almost 70% of the waste. This includes plastic bottles, containers, food packaging bags and disposable tableware. The SOW thinks the increase of the plastic garbage was due to the pandemic. During the pandemic, there was a huge demand for food delivery and takeaways. This led to the increase of single-use plastic waste.

When there is heavy rain or a typhoon, the garbage is brought downstream. This is a huge threat to the eco-system of the river, especially the Mangrove Conservation Area (紅樹林保護區). Garbage gets stuck in the mangrove forests very easily. The SOW suggested that we need to use less disposable items. Authorities aid they would continue to strengthen the promotion of waste reduction. And people really should think twice about dumping garbage illegally.

Taiwan Boosts Cellphone Recycling Rates

Do you know how many cellphones are sold in Taiwan every year? The number is 6 million. That means around a quarter of the population in Taiwan buy new cellphones every year. That's a lot of cellphones! But did you know that only 12-percent of old cellphones are recycled? The rest of the phones go into the incinerator (焚化爐) and landfills or owners just leave them somewhere at home. All these old cellphones are "e-waste".

E-waste is unwanted electronic products. They include cellphones, laptops, tablets and a lot more. Experts believe that in 2021, the world made more than 57.4 million metric tons of e-waste. Altogether, that e-waste weighs more than the Great Wall of China! And that number is growing every year.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment announced a new set of rules. Starting April 1st, 2024, companies that make or sell cell phones must set up recycling facilities. They must also give incentives (獎勵) for users who recycle their old cell phones. And they must help users delete personal data from their old cell phones. Experts say there are many reasons why people do not recycle their cellphones. Some people think there aren't enough rewards. Some can't find places to recycle their phones. And others are afraid that their personal data will be leaked.

But recycling old cell phones can help the environment. There are valuable metals that can be recycled from cellphones, including gold, copper and cobalt (鈷). If they are properly recycled, we can cut down the need to mine these elements from the Earth.

There are also mercury, lead and other poisonous elements in these devices. If they're not properly processed, they could damage the environment. The government hopes this new rule can help encourage everyone to recycle their cellphones.

Dubai to Build Giant Moon Hotel

Dubai is a city full of amazing buildings. It's home to the Burj Khalifa, the tallest skyscraper in the world. It's also home to The Palm, man-made islands that look like a palm tree.

Much of the city looks like a place from the future. And very soon, Dubai will be home to another building that is "out of this world". Dubai is getting ready to build a Moon resort.

A team of builders say they want to build something that looks like a giant moon. And it will be called "Moon". "Moon" will be 224 meters high.

So if you put "Moon" in Taipei, it will be almost half as tall as Taipei 101. The outside of the hotel will be made to look like the real Moon. It will have craters.

And the builders say it will be much more than just a hotel. Inside, there will be restaurants, spas, theaters, and more. All of these places will be space-themed.

Some will be made to look like the inside of a spaceship. The builders say it will be very luxurious. And for the star attraction...

The hotel will let visitors try out what it feels like to walk on the moon. It's a simulation.

The visitors will get some astronaut training. And they can explore a lunar colony. The builders want to get Moon ready to open in 2027.