**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class:\_\_\_\_\_ ( )**

**ANSWER KEY**

**Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: April 10th, 2018**

**Call to protect Hong Kong’s animals after spate of poisonings and dog thrown from rooftop**

Animal-lovers in Hong Kong have demanded the government **crack down** on animal cruelty with new laws and a dedicated police squad to deal with **abusers**, after at least 13 dogs were poisoned in just over a week, 12 of them **fatally**.

Bottom of Form

More than 50,000 people signed a legislator’s **petition** for action after the **spate** of deaths, and the case of a dog killed by being thrown from the roof of a high-rise building.

The latest poisonings came to light on Saturday afternoon, when two dogs were found vomiting and suffering cramps in east Kowloon. Officers from the police and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) arrived and certified one of the dogs, a female, dead at the scene. Both were believed to have swallowed poison. Only two days before this case, [at least four pet dogs died in Fanling](http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/2140648/2-more-dogs-die-spate-suspected-poisonings-hong-kong), suspected of having eaten poisoned baits. And at the beginning of April, [seven dogs were found dead by poison](http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/2140075/two-dogs-found-dead-hong-kong-village-prompting-police) over three days in Tai Po.

On top of these cases was the death of a 10-year-old Japanese spitz that was apparently thrown from the top of a building in Cheung Sha Wan. His owner’s son, 23, was arrested for animal cruelty and [made his first court appearance on Friday](http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/2140631/suspected-hong-kong-dog-killer-denied-bail).

Democrat lawmaker Roy Kwong Chun-yu **launched** an online signature campaign calling on the government to **compile** a **comprehensive** animal protection ordinance and set up a special police team to handle animal cruelty cases.

Another speaker at the forum, Mark Mak, executive chairman of the Non-Profit Making Veterinary Service Society, criticised existing animal protection laws. “Animals are treated as goods, instead of lives, in our animal protection laws,” Mak said.

In 2006 the government raised the maximum penalty **stipulated** in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance from a fine of HK$5,000 and six months in prison to HK$200,000 and three years.

The government also pointed out in its defence that 13 of the city’s 24 police districts have assigned dedicated investigation teams to handle cases of animal cruelty. The force also launched, in 2011, an Animal Watch Scheme to coordinate investigations into animal abuse.

Mark Mak said, “The police needs professional **negotiators** and special investigators for business and computer crimes. Why don’t we need a special task force to investigate cases involving animals?”

*Adapted from South China Morning Post dated 8th April, 2018.*

**Questions to think about:**



* What do you think of this issue and the points raised?
* Why are the ‘rights’ of animals also important? / Why should we humans do

our best to protect animals? / What can animals do for us?

* Why do people have pets? What are some of the problems associated with people having pets? We now hear of ‘therapy dogs’? What do you think of this?

**I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning:** *Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Column A: Word from text** | **Letter** | **Column B: Meaning or synonym** |
| 1. crack down (phrasal verb) | **D** | A: spell out/demand/specify/list |
| 1. abuser (n) | **E** | B: with death as a result |
| 1. fatally (adv) | **B** | C: start something new/set in motion |
| 1. petition (n) | **J** | D: take severe measures against |
| 1. spate (n) | **H** | E: a person who treats someone else or an animal with violence and cruelty |
| 1. launch (v) | **C** | F: thorough/including or dealing with all or nearly all elements or aspects of something. |
| 1. compile (v) | **I** | G: a person, i.e. a go between who facilitates (helps) a discussion aimed at reaching an agreement |
| 1. comprehensive (adj) | **F** | H: a large number of similar things coming in quick succession/happening one after another |
| 1. stipulate (v) | **A** | I: produce (a list or book) by assembling information collected from other sources |
| 1. negotiator (n) | **G** | J: a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause |

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** *Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.*

1. The police (a) **compiled** a list of suspects before (b) **launching** a (c) **crack down** on drug traffickers. The police wanted to make sure they could get all the ring leaders before starting the huge campaign to bring down the drug lords.
2. The soldier’s wounds (injuries) were **fatal**. The doctors could not save him.
3. In kidnapping cases, the police use **negotiators** to help talk to the kidnappers and get to the stage where the kidnappers release the victims.
4. There have been a **spate** of robberies in our district of late. Many neighbours have reported cases of break-ins over the last two weeks.
5. When travelling, it is best to take out a (a) **comprehensive** insurance policy that covers all kinds of situations. However, be careful of the conditions it (b) **stipulates**, especially the exceptions, the accidents or situations the policy does not cover.
6. When Disney was about to open, students of some schools started a campaign against the serving of shark’s fin soup. They got as many signatures as possible on a **petition** to present to Disney, and it worked.
7. The couple lost the custody (care) of their children because of repeated **abuse**, in other words, causing physical and mental harm to them.

Come to the English Corner to enjoy drinks, snacks, conversation & games.