

Learning and Teaching Resources Related to Biology



資源網址

Theme	Is "mercy release" activity a rescue or a tragedy to the animals?
Abstract	A guided discussion on the problems brought about by "mercy release" activities so that students would learn to respect and care for living organisms and the environment.
Learning Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To help students understand what an inappropriate "mercy release" activity is. To help students understand how "mercy release" activities would affect the overall interaction between organisms and the environment (e.g. predation and competition). To help students understand the impact of human activities on the ecosystem and the need for conservation To cultivate positive values and attitudes values (respect and care for living organisms and the environment)
Related Positive Values and Attitudes	Respect lives / Care for animals / Empathy / Law-abidingness

Screen Capture Pictures or Content of L&T resources

**Is "mercy release" activity
a rescue or a tragedy to
the animals?**

Biology (S4-6)
Developed by the Science Education Section,
Education Bureau
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Read the following news related to the "mercy release" (Chinese version only):

大埔碗窰發現大批巴西龜死亡 懷疑被人放生

(香港電台 2021-02-24 新聞特寫)

香港樂龜關注組近期收到市民反映，在郊野發現大量巴西龜被人放生，昨日連同一班義工，去到大埔碗窰附近山澗，救起十幾隻龜，但有幾十隻已經死亡。

新聞天地記者訪問了關注組義工，她表示，過往都發現一些淡水龜被人大海，令到龜隻難以生存。她說，市民一般誤以為將龜放生，但其實害了牠們，因為龜隻未必適應環境。

News and photos retrieved from the following site on 19 August 2021.
https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/news-programmes/first-episode.htm?episode=EP08episode_20210819&utm_source=20210224000000

Video (1):
漁農自然護理署「放生前認清楚」系列 - 龜龜篇
(with English subtitle)

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgtRuxmyhrQ>

Video: AFCD YouTube Channel
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_CmhTn0dUw094Dn0N2Q3dA7e0u0)
Photo: AFCD Facebook
(https://www.facebook.com/afcdgzh/photos/2093814455928452/27949318234866/?type=3)

Discussion questions:

放生 真能給牠們幸福嗎?
Does Mercy release really give them blessing?

放生 會否對生態平衡帶來衝擊?
Does Mercy release disturb the local ecosystem?

Photo: AFCD YouTube Channel
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_CmhTn0dUw094Dn0N2Q3dA7e0u0)

Group discussion

- How does the released animals being harmed during the "mercy release" activity?
- What is the impact of "mercy release" activities on local habitats?
- Should people perform "mercy release" to animals they raised or purchased?
- What proper procedures should be followed before the animals can be released/reintroduced into their natural habitats?

Reference
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
(Boodiet) Good Fortune or Misfortune? Misconceptions about mercy release
https://www.kitqa.org/upload/conservation-resources/misfortune_28_AFB.pdf

Conclusion:

- Improper release of animals, including placing animals in an unsuitable habitat, might affect their survival as well as the local ecology.
- If the released species is an alien species or is incompatible with the local ecology, it could compete for resources with the native species and adversely affect the local ecology.
- Whether an animal should be released and is suitable for release, and whether the release location or environment is appropriate, require examination and science-based assessment by relevant experts, based on factors such as the species/individual's health condition, its adaptability for being released to the wild, the conservation needs of the species, as well as the impact on the local natural environment, etc.
- Therefore, we should not release animals on our own. We should respect and care for living organisms and the environment