

Press Release

15 August 2023

## **“MTR x International Dog Day – Let’s Get to Know Dr Dog” MTR Travels with Animals Asia’s “Dr Dog” on 26 August**

The MTR Corporation strives to promote social inclusion under “Go Smart Go Beyond” and apart from providing caring services to passengers, the Corporation also supports caring for various needs in the community. The MTR Corporation is organising the “MTR x International Dog Day – Let’s Get to Know Dr Dog” event on 26 August this year, allowing Dr Dogs from Animals Asia Foundation to travel on the MTR with volunteers. The event aims to raise public awareness of Dr Dog, a dog-assisted therapy programme to support people in need, and thank the dogs for their service to the community.

International Dog Day happens on 26 August and the Corporation is making special arrangements for that day this year to allow, for the first time, dogs other than guide dogs to travel on the MTR. About 20 volunteers and their Dr Dogs from Animals Asia Foundation will travel on MTR rail lines<sup>1</sup> on that day. The Dr Dogs will be put into pet bags or backpacks before they enter MTR stations with no body part exposed during the trips. The volunteers and their Dr Dogs will use the last car of trains during their journey. Volunteers will wear red T-shirts for easy identification on that day.

“The Dr Dog programme has a history of more than 30 years and we would like to thank the dogs and their guardians for their service and care to the community as well as raise public awareness about Dr Dogs. To ensure smooth railway service and safety of dogs in the railway system as well as taking into consideration the needs of different passengers, participating Dr Dogs and volunteers will follow special travel arrangements on the day of the event,” said Ms Annie Leung, General Manager – Marketing & Customer Experience of the MTR Corporation.

The Corporation encourages passengers to support the “MTR x International Dog Day – Let’s Get to Know Dr Dog” event and give a smile for encouragement to Dr Dogs and volunteers if passengers see them. Passengers should refrain from petting the dogs. Passengers who are allergic to animals or do not feel comfortable travelling with dogs can travel on train compartments other than the last car on that day.

The Dr Dog programme under Animals Asia Foundation was founded in 1991. Volunteers bring along Dr Dogs and regularly visit hospitals, elderly homes, support centres for the physically-handicapped, orphanages and schools, etc. to provide comfort, companionship and assistance to people or underprivileged groups facing hardship. Under the Dr Dog programme, visits have been made to more than 690,000 members of the community so far.

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<sup>1</sup> Excluding Light Rail, MTR Bus, Airport Express, Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau stations on the East Rail Line and High Speed Rail (Hong Kong Section)

"We are grateful to the MTR for allowing dogs other than guide dogs to ride on the trains for the first time and for its willingness to contribute to an animal-friendly environment. Our Dr Dog programme relies on the continuous support of the public. We hope this collaboration will help more people to understand the benefits of the programme and encourage dog guardians to consider having their dogs become Dr Dogs, so as to contribute to the public's mental health through our animal-assisted therapy services together," said Ms Marnie Yau, Dr Dog Programme Manager of Animals Asia.

MTR train and station services will remain normal on 26 August. The Corporation will closely monitor the situation during the event to ensure smooth operations. Notices will also be put on display at stations to inform passengers about the arrangement of the event on 26 August.

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#### About MTR Corporation

To Keep Cities Moving, MTR makes encounters happen and rendezvous for a more connected tomorrow. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff\*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and Mainland China. Together, we Go Smart and Go Beyond.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit [www.mtr.com.hk](http://www.mtr.com.hk).

\*includes our subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in Hong Kong and worldwide

#### About Animals Asia Foundation

Animals Asia is devoted to ending bear bile farming and improving animal welfare across Asia. The organisation promotes compassion and respect for all animals and works to bring about long-term change.

Founded in 1998, the Animals Asia team has been rescuing bears since 1994. As the only organisation with a bear sanctuary in China, Animals Asia operates award-winning sanctuaries in China and Vietnam. The founder and CEO, Jill Robinson MBE, [Dr.med.vet](http://Dr.med.vet) h.c., Hon LLD is widely recognised as the world's leading authority on the bear bile industry, campaigning against it since 1993. Animals Asia also works to end the trade in dogs and cats for food and abusive animal practices in zoos and safari parks and collaborates with governments and NGOs to improve the welfare of companion and captive wild animals.

For more information about Animals Asia, please visit [www.animalsasia.org](http://www.animalsasia.org).

#### Media Enquiries:

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Photo Caption:

1. Ms Annie Leung, General Manager – Marketing & Customer Experience of MTR Corporation (right) and Ms Marnie Yau, Dr Dog Programme Manager of Animals Asia (left) introduce the “MTR x International Dog Day – Let’s Get to Know Dr Dog” event which will be held on 26 August 2023.



2. Ms Annie Leung, General Manager – Marketing & Customer Experience of MTR Corporation (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Ms Marnie Yau, Dr Dog Programme Manager of Animals Asia (middle) are joined for a photo with volunteers from the Dr Dog Programme and Dr Dogs. Volunteers will wear red T-shirts the same as the one on Ms Marnie Yau in the photo for easy identification during the event on 26 August.



3. Dr Dogs will be put into pet bags or backpacks before they enter MTR stations with no body part exposed during their trips for the “MTR x International Dog Day – Let’s Get to Know Dr Dog” event. The volunteers and Dr Dogs will also use the last car of trains during their journey.



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