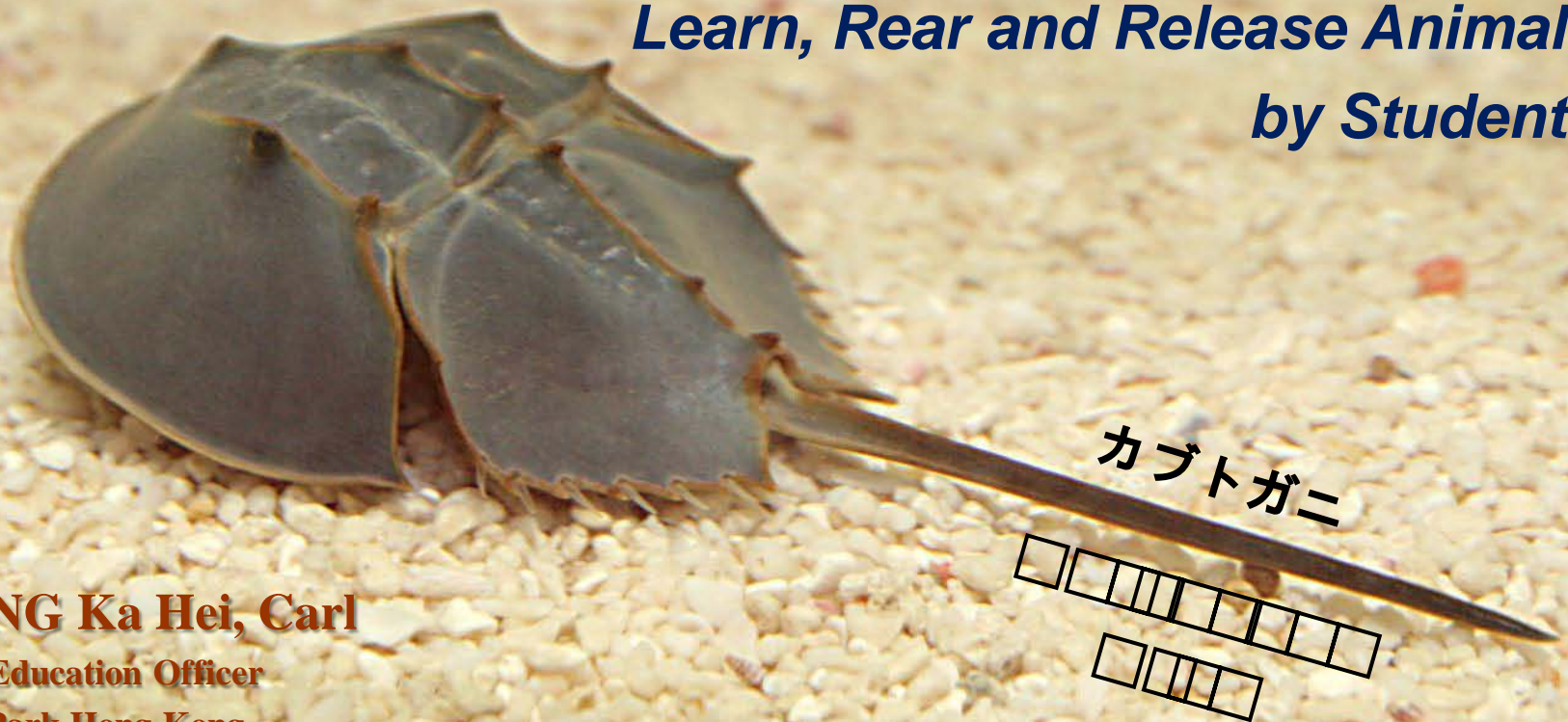


5 Steps to Establish an Engaging Wildlife Conservation Program

*Learn, Rear and Release Animals
by Students*



LEONG Ka Hei, Carl
Senior Education Officer
Ocean Park Hong Kong

Scientists



香港城市大學
City University
of Hong Kong



Conservationist
s



香港海洋公園保育基金
Ocean Park
Conservation Foundation
Hong Kong

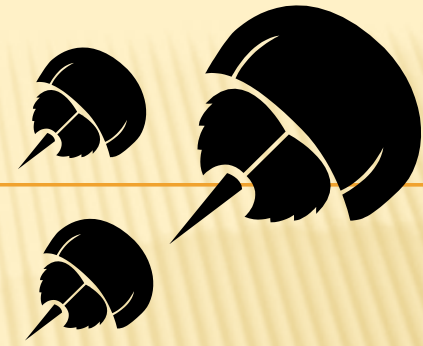
Educators



Bred in CityU's Laboratory



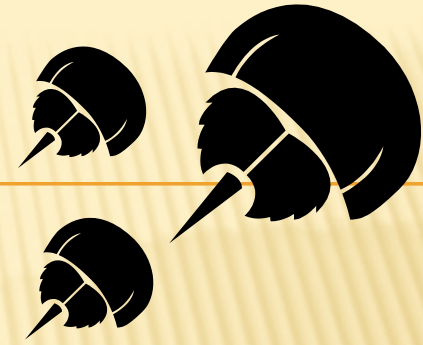
Rear in Schools (ex-situ)



Release to the Wild (in-situ)

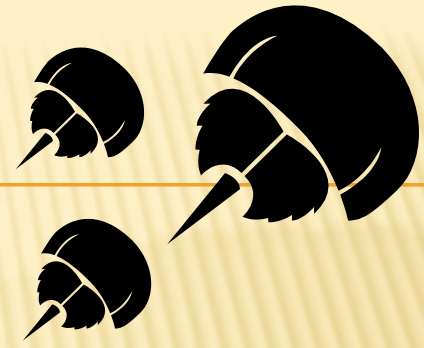


PROGRAM BACKGROUND



- ✘ First held in 2009
- ✘ No. of schools participated: 10 → 30 each year
- ✘ No. of students participated: over 1,080 in total
- ✘ No. of horseshoe crabs released: over 975





5 Steps to Establish an Engaging Wildlife Conservation Program

1. Choose the Right Animals for Rearing

- ✗ Is it a Local Species **For Release to the Wild**
- ✗ Is it Endangered? **Conservation Messages /**
- ✗ How can I get the Animals **Legal**
Sustainable Source e.g. Bred in
Captivity
- ✗ Is it Easy to Keep? **Students are not professional /**
- ✗ Any Concerns on its Death **Safety**
Community, Activists,
Culture





2. Select the Right Schools to Join

- ✘ Will they be Engaged?
- ✘ Can they Join all Briefing and Trainings?
- ✘ Do they have Experience in Rearing Animals?
- ✘ Do they have Experience in Conservation Activities?

Questions in Application:

1. Why do you apply?
2. What are your expectations?
3. How will you manage the rearing team?
4. What is your plan on promoting this program?
5. Can you join the briefing and trainings? (dates provides)
6. What kind of related experiences do you have?

3. Equip the Students to Take Well Care of the Animals

- ✘ Briefing Basic Knowledge of the Animals;
Conservation Messages; Expectations
- ✘ Trainings Equipment; Life Support System;
Rearing Techniques
- ✘ On-site Support Investigation & Solutions;
System & Technique Improvements



4. Mobilize the Students to Spread Conservation Messages



facebook page



Sharing by **SUPER** engaged school



4. Mobilize the Students to Spread Conservation



Mid-term Sharing

Conservation Activities



Media Interview

Learning how to save the endangered horseshoe crab proved to be a great educational experience, writes **Mabel Sieh**

Lessons on life and how to protect it



Students from Pok Oi Hospital Chan Kai Memorial College got a unique opportunity to rear an endangered species when crabs came into class. It was the first time such a project has been run in local schools.

The college is one of 10 schools that took part in the Horseshoe Crab Rearing Programme launched by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong in 2008.

"The programme aimed to raise awareness and inspire the public to support the conservation of horseshoe crabs and their natural habitats," said the foundation's deputy director, Timothy Ng Sau-kin.

According to a City University survey, the horseshoe crab population in Hong Kong shrank by 90 per cent between 2002 and 2009 due to habitat destruction caused by human activity.

In January 2009 the students were given 50 juvenile crabs at the second stage of their development, when they were just one centimetre in diameter. From there, they learned how to take care of the crabs and how to carry out surveys including tagging them with microchips.

Horseshoe crabs have undergone little evolutionary change through their history of more than 400 million years

"I had never seen these crabs before," said Morgan Ip Tsun-mah. "When they arrived, they were as tiny as green peas. I wanted to understand the history of these little creatures called 'living fossils'."

Dr Paul Shin Kam-shing, associate professor at City University's biology and chemistry department, said the crabs were one of the oldest species on Earth. "Horseshoe crabs have undergone little evolutionary change over 400 million years," he said. The students had to carry out various daily tasks for their crabs.

"Every morning, we had to feed and weigh the crabs," said Rachel Hui Chung-man.

Woody Mau Kai-yin said: "We also had to make sure the water was very clean and had the right salinity or they would die."

The college's vice-principal and biology panel head Ricky Cheung Hon-fa, who supervised the project, said it allowed the children to experience how scientists worked and conducted surveys.

All the horseshoe crabs raised by the 10 schools were released into the wetland in Ha Pak Nai yesterday. Researchers will check on their condition over the next few months.

5. Learn, Improve, Continue

- ✘ Satisfaction Evaluation (teachers)
- ✘ Impact Evaluation (students)
- ✘ Other Evaluations
(survival rate, media coverage, feasibility, etc.)
- ✘ Improvements (timeline, equipment, training, sharing...)



Conclusion - **5** Steps to Success

1. **Choose** the Right Animals for Rearing
2. **Select** the Right Schools to Join
3. **Equip** the Students to Take Well Care of the Animals
4. **Mobilize** the Students to Wide Spread the Messages
5. **Learn, Improve and Continue** the Program





Thank You!



facebook



juvenile horseshoe crab programme



Email: carl.leong@oceanpark.com.hk



香港城市大學
City University
of Hong Kong



Spot the difference



Decode the secret messages...

□□□ 2014, 2-6 □□□□□□ □□□ □□□ □□□□□□

□□□□

□□□ □□□ □□□□□□!

オーシャン. パークで会いましょう!

THE 22ND INTERNATIONAL ZOO EDUCATORS' (IZE) BIENNIAL CONFERENCE)

第二十二届国际动物园教育者协会会议

こくさいどうぶつえんきょういくしゃかいぎ)でお待ちしています

Come and join us at the 2014 IZE Conference!

Theme

Education Success – what does it look like and how do you measure it?

成功的动物园及水族馆教育是怎样的？如何评估成效？

Date

2-6 September 2014

Hosted by

Ocean Park Hong Kong

Venue

L' Hotel Island South

Email: ize2014@oceanpark.com.hk

Website: www.oceanpark.com.hk/ize2014

