

SSM collaborates with gaming regulator

The government will publish a report this year on the tobacco control actions it has taken between 2015 and 2017. In a response to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's written inquiry, the Health Bureau said that the smoking area of one casino was not in accordance with city regulations. SSM said it is in close communication and cooperation with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau concerning tobacco control in casinos. It added that in 2017, 24 percent of the smoking cases that SSM had transferred to DICJ were prosecuted, reflecting the effectiveness of the cooperation.

Seniors' home care robot to launch in September

A research group from the Macau University of Science and Technology has launched a robot to perform tasks relating to smart tourism and home care for senior citizens. Singou, the company formed by the research group, and the Macao Government Tourism Office have projected that the robot will commence operations in the second half of 2018, with sales scheduled to begin on September 1. The robot is designed to help senior citizens communicate with their friends and families. Each robot costs less than MOP10,000. The company expects to sell 1,000 units this year and 30,000 in 2019.

Anima secures funding until June-end

ANIMA Macau has received AMOP1.9 million in funding from Macao Foundation on Friday, the president confirmed.

Last week, Albano Martins told the Times that Anima faces annual expenses amounting to MOP10.5 million, yet only receives MOP3.8 million annually, forcing the association to announce a shut down of operations.

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Martins explained that the MOP1.9 million in funding will sustain the association – which looks after 700 cats and dogs – until the end of June. However, the association would nevertheless still need to reduce its employees.

"Usually our monthly budget is around MOP650,000 to MOP820,000, which means there are a lot of expenses that need to be cut, and maybe we have to begin to reduce the staff," he said.

"We are considering the staff reduction at the end of this month," Martins added.

The president then noted that Anima's activities would be limited due to the constrained number of employees, citing the public's visit to the animal shelter.

Currently, Anima Macau is working on submitting funding requests to gaming operators and launching its own campaign that will be open to the public.

Martins expressed that funding from gaming operators would be significant to the non-government association, recalling the past contributions of Wynn Macau.

Yet, Martins remains positive that the association still has the public's support. "We have good international support. We are positive of that," he said. He also urged the local government to be more supportive of the region's non-government associations, calling for an increase in its annual budget.

"I am expecting that the Macau government will think a little bit more carefully about associations that are considered by govern-



ment as public service to finance [us] not in a poor style," Martins said.

"We are not putting money in our pockets, we're just taking care of animals. We [urge] the Macau government to understand that we need more support, at least in 2019 if not this year," he added.

The president also hoped that the association would acquire sufficient funding so as to not close down by the end of June, noting that it would celebrate its 15th anniversary on December 11. LV

Mainland scam fraudster arrested

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested a mainland Chinese resident for involvement in phone scams across China.

The mainland police had informed PJ of a case related to the suspect, who was said to be involved in phone scams

in which criminals pretended to be mainland government officers.

The suspect, who was arrested at the immigration checkpoint of the Macau Border Gate to Zhuhai, had reportedly scammed victims out of RMB540,000.

An investigation by the

mainland police revealed that the criminals went through 14 steps to transfer the money obtained from such schemes, and that they had used some banks and ATMs with Macau IP addresses.

PJ seized more than 1,200 mainland bank

cards from the suspect's apartment at R. de Coimbra. 36 of the cards corresponded to approximately RMB100,000 out of the aforementioned total of RMB540,000.

The suspect has confessed to the crimes and has been transferred to the

prosecuting authorities, having been charged with fraud and money laundering.

The police forces of Guangdong and Macau met recently in Guangdong province to discuss their cooperation for the year. They agreed that telecommunication scams, together with financial crimes, would be their key targets in 2018.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

CAUSES OF WEIGHT LOSS IN OLDER CATS

WEIGHT loss commonly afflicts middle aged and older cats. It may be a sign of a developing health problem, or the progression of a pre-existing condition if your cat begins to lose weight. It is important to monitor your senior cat's weight, as even the slightest change in weight can be significant.

Having a general understanding of your cat's relative age is of great importance so that you may be able to provide the proper care and nutrition for each stage of life.

A cat between the ages of 7 and 10 years is considered middle aged. Cats 11 to 14 years of age are considered old or older cats, while cats 15 years of age and older are referred to as elderly or geriatric cats. These terms can be applied loosely, and thus may vary slightly in definition.

DENTAL DISEASE CAN MAKE EATING PAINFUL

Dental disease is extremely common to older cats, and may make eating difficult or even painful, causing your cat to lose weight. Signs of feline dental disease are:

- Teeth chattering

- Chewing on one side of the mouth
- Dropping food

You may try and encourage your cat to eat by giving him wide, shallow and easily accessible food and water dishes.

DULLING SENSES

Cats tend to become more finicky about what they eat as they age, and it may become much harder to please their pallet. As a cat ages his sense of both taste and smell may diminish making it less acute, therefore making him less interested in food.

A change in diet, or simply changing to a new flavor of your cat's current food may help to peek his interest.

WEIGHT LOSS FROM KIDNEY DISEASE

The feline kidneys will go through a number of age related changes; some of these changes may compromise the function of the kidneys, contributing to the onset of a variety of different conditions affecting the kidneys. CRF (Chronic Renal Failure) or, simply put, kidney failure, is the most severe of the possible

conditions afflicting the feline kidneys. There is no cure for CRF, though if caught early, the progression of the disease may be slowed, and quality of life improved. A regiment of specially prescribed food, medication and fluids may be necessary to help care for your sick cat. Other health problems such as hyperthyroidism (excessive production of the thyroid hormones), and hypertension (high blood pressure) are often results of kidney failure.

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

IBD includes a group of different chronic gastrointestinal disorders. The mechanical characteristics of IBD have been identified (lining of the intestines becomes infiltrated by inflammatory cells) while the exact cause of the disease itself is not yet known.

IBD can cause vomiting and diarrhea, which may then cause the cat to become easily dehydrated. If the condition persists for long enough, the cat may lose a significant amount of weight due to the body's inability to properly process both food and water through it's system.

OLDER CATS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CANCER

As cats age their chances of cancer increase. Weight loss is often a sign of cancer, however, cancer symptoms vary depending on the organ afflicted by the disease. Intestinal cancer in felines may cause a form of IBD to develop.



If you notice a change in your cat's behavior, eating habits, or if he is having problems going to the bathroom, or other daily behaviors, make sure that you get him to the vet. These signs could actually be symptoms that your cat is sick, developing a chronic health condition, or signaling the progression of a preexisting health condition.

It is always vital that your cat be seen by a professional vet for any apparent illness or malady.

Hope this info helps.
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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