

The Editor,
The Times

November 25, 2021

Dear Editor,

I refer to your article titled, "70,000 sign petition despite rise in attacks against people" published on thetimes.co.uk on November 22.

It is factually incorrect to say that, "Hong Kong has begun catching and killing all wild boars found in the city after a police officer was bitten on the leg in the latest in a series of violent encounters".

First, the new strategy of regularly capturing wild pigs for humane dispatch only applies to certain sites with large numbers of wild pigs and areas with a history of injury cases or where wild pigs may pose risks to members of the public. It is not a citywide strategy.

In fact, wild pigs living in their natural habitat is not a concern. Hence, we do not need to control those living in the natural environment.

Second, the measure is not related to any particular incident but taken in view of the alarming increase in the number of injury cases in the past few years, as the article correctly states.

In fact, we reported to the Legislative Council, Hong Kong's legislature, in June that we were considering adopting this measure against wild pigs that pose threats to public safety and we announced our new measure according to our plan.

The new measure is just one aspect of our multi-pronged approach in tackling the problem, alongside other measures including exploring amendments to the law for expanding the feeding ban area for wild animals and tougher penalties, as well as further promoting public education about the potential negative consequences of feeding wild animals.

Yours sincerely,

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