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For Immediate Release

Most Singaporeans Know How to Co-Exist Peacefully with Wild Animals

Singapore has a diverse variety of wildlife, despite our small land area. With the country's rapid urbanisation, wild animals may venture out of their natural habitats into our city spaces, often resulting in brushes with humans. To find out what Singaporeans think about living with wild animals in our urban landscape, RySense conducted an online poll among 1,051 respondents from our online panel, HappyDot.sg. These are our key findings:

9 in 10 who encountered wild animals outside of their natural habitats kept their distance, as is responsible behaviour recommended in guidelines by the National Parks Board (NParks)¹.

Skirmishes with wild animals are not common, with just 6% who had recent urban wildlife encounters experiencing the animal taking their things/food or were chased/attacked by the animal. These findings indicate that the majority of Singaporeans know how to co-exist peacefully with wild animals.

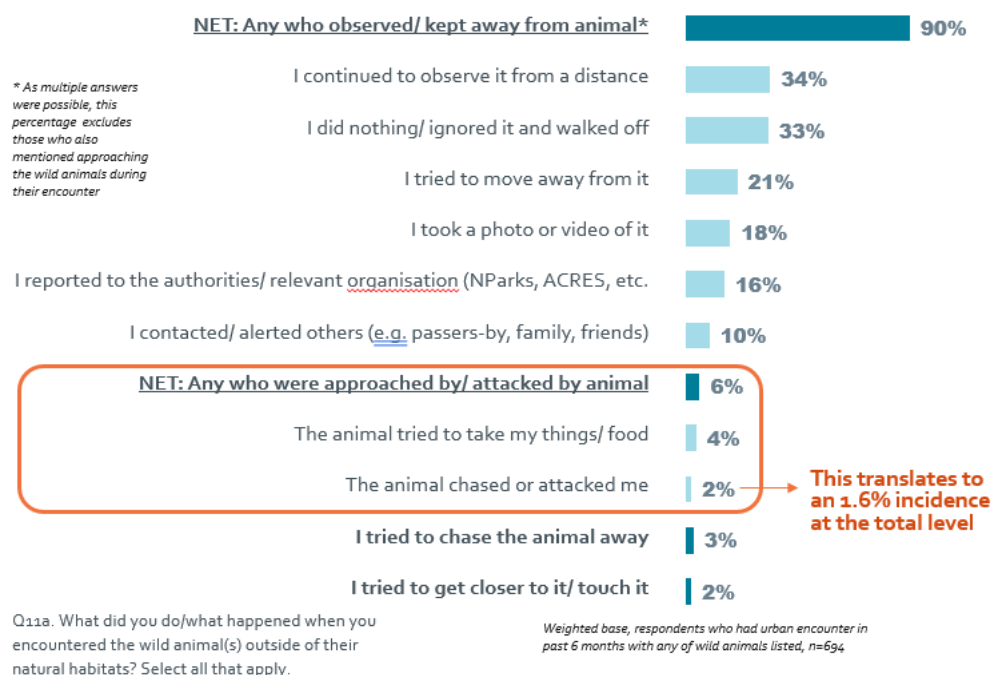


Figure 1

¹ https://www.nparks.gov.sg/-/media/wmd/for-advisories/nparks-wildlife-booklet_fa_v2.ashx?la=en&hash=B7041D23DDDE0153454F2ACC432A36F4D2219F61



Almost 7 in 10 (66%) have had urban wild animal encounters

A significant 66% of our respondents said they had encountered at least one wild animal outside of their natural habitats in the last 6 months.

The top 3 wild animals encountered are:

1. Free-roaming chickens/jungle fowl (30%);
2. Monkeys (25%); and
3. Otters (24%).

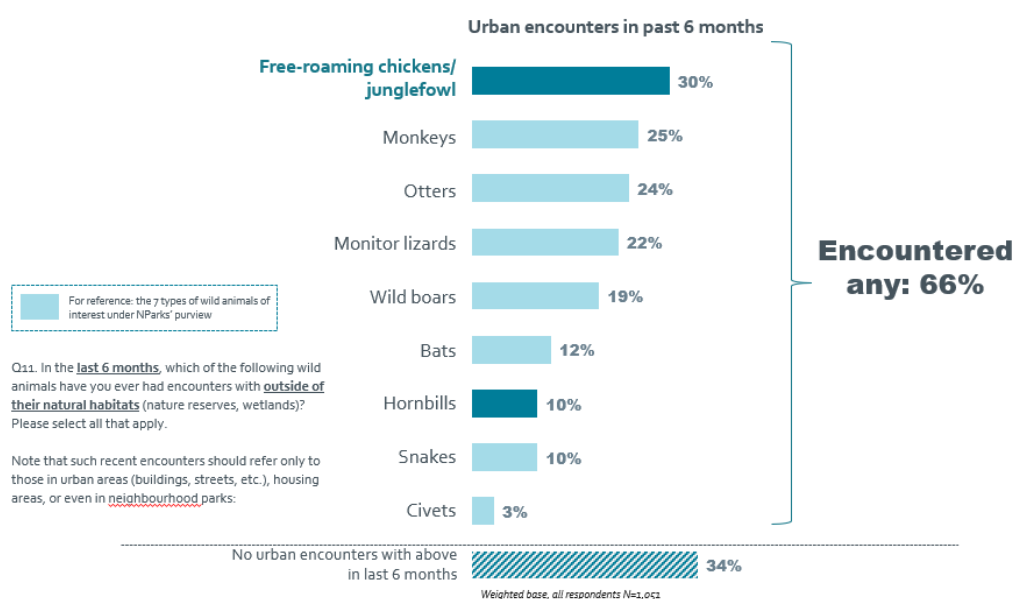


Figure 2

Majority know who to call when spotting a wild animal in distress

Awareness on who to call when spotting a distressed wild animal is relatively high, with 77% of all respondents correctly indicating they would call NParks or Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), among the 9 organisations we presented to them. There is, however, a sizeable minority that did not indicate the most relevant organisations; 37% would mistakenly turn to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).



Organisation to contact if you see a injured wild animal (in HDB premises):

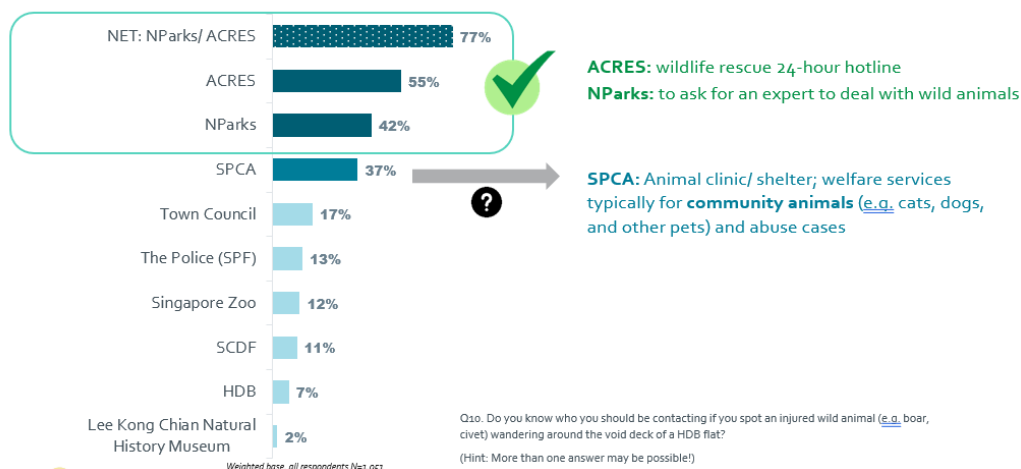
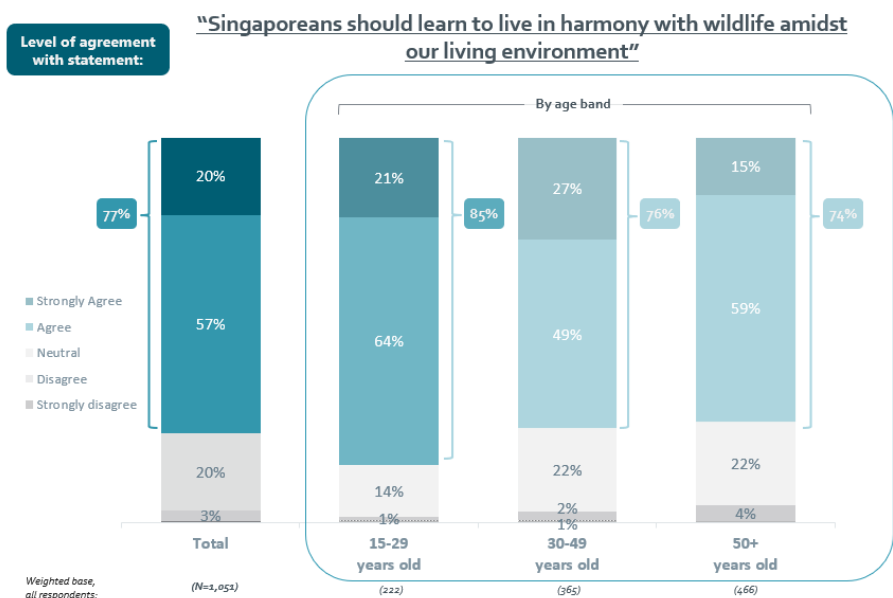


Figure 3

Most Singaporeans in general support living harmoniously with wildlife, especially the young

As we move towards being a City in Nature with increased connectivity for animals between green spaces², it is heartening to note that 77% support living harmoniously with wildlife. This is particularly so among the young (aged 15 – 29), with 85% saying that they agree/strongly agree to living in harmony with wildlife.



Q3. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? No right or wrong answers here – we just want your personal views.

Figure 4

² <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature>



Controlling wild animal populations – education is still deemed best though a third preferred physical separation between animals and humans

When it comes to how Singaporeans would like the authorities to manage wild animal populations, there are differing views. 40% of respondents indicated a preference for them to educate people on ways to cope/co-exist with animals. 35% wanted some physical separation between wild animals and human habitats, with 22% preferring the animals to be captured and relocated and 13% requesting for structures to be built to keep animals away from residents. Only about 1 in 10 (12%) were in favour of invasive intervention methods such as sterilisation or culling.

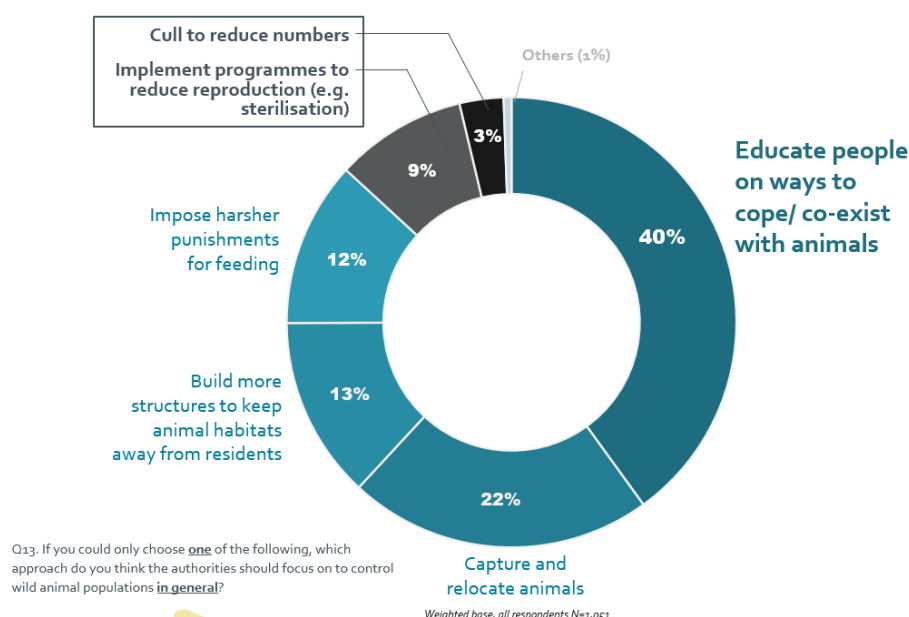


Figure 5

In conclusion

Ms Lee Shu Hui, Group Director, RySense, said, “It is encouraging that the majority of Singaporeans are in favour of peaceful co-existence with our wildlife that contribute to our rich biodiversity and support our ecosystems. There is good awareness on who to call to help distressed wild animals, though more can still be done to educate those who are less informed in this aspect. While most prefer education to manage wild animal populations, there are also those who would like to keep a physical distance from wild animals in order to live harmoniously. This indicates that there is some way to go to achieve an ideal balance that best accommodates the needs of both humans and wild animals.”

**Above Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are based on a survey conducted between 17 to 31 May 2022 with 1,051 Singapore residents from RySense’s online panel, HappyDot.sg, aged 15+ and representative of national population. Percentages are rounded off and may not add up to 100%.*



About RySense

RySense is a Singapore-based research organisation which seeks to understand what people in Singapore think, feel and do. We are specialists in research methods, public opinion research and social trends and have conducted research on a range of socio-economic issues as well as current affairs topics. Using robust approaches, we seek to generate reliable insights about the Singapore landscape, which reflect both subtle nuances and macro perspectives. We are run by a diverse team of market research professionals.

For more information, please visit www.rysense.sg.

About HappyDot.sg

HappyDot.sg is an online survey community for Singapore residents to voice their opinions on issues that impact Singapore. We survey our panellists on a variety of social issues to understand the aspirations of Singaporeans. HappyDot.sg is owned by RySense.

For more information, please visit www.happydot.sg.

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