

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph – "Wild Dogs on the Mountain: A Nuisance to the Neighbourhood?" through "We need some action to help them!"

Strengths:

- Your piece provides helpful background information about how the wild dog problem began, explaining the connection between government housing policies and abandoned pets.
- You immediately engage readers with an emotional appeal by highlighting the unfair treatment of the dogs.

Incomplete contextual development → Your opening tries to cover too much information at once without fully explaining key details. You mention that residents were "forced" to leave Upper Wong Tai Sin, but you don't explain why the government made this decision or what happened to the original settlement. The phrase "forced the citizens of Upper Wong Tai Sin to leave their homes" needs more explanation—were the homes unsafe? Was there a development project? Additionally, you shift quickly from historical background to an emotional appeal ("Do you want stray animals to stay happy?") without properly connecting these ideas. This makes your argument feel rushed and incomplete.

Exemplar: "In the early 2000s, the Hong Kong Government relocated residents from Upper Wong Tai Sin to new apartments in Lok Fu and Lower Wong Tai Sin. Because pets were not permitted in these government flats, many owners had no choice but to leave their dogs near Lion Rock Mountain, close to their former homes."

#2: Second paragraph – "The dogs have been breeding ever since..." through "...feared howling 'wolves' in bed."

Strengths:

- You include specific numbers (600 original dogs, over 2000 by 2008) which helps readers understand the scale of the problem.
- Your piece makes an interesting connection between dogs and their wolf ancestry to explain natural behaviour.

Contradictory tone and messaging → Your paragraph creates confusion because you present opposing viewpoints without resolving them. You describe the dogs as spreading "infectious diseases such as rabies" and being "annoying, fierce and shy," which makes them sound dangerous. However, you then defend their howling by saying "can they help it? It is their nature to howl." This contradiction makes it unclear whether you think the dogs are a genuine problem or innocent victims. Your phrase "annoying

howling" followed immediately by a defence of this behaviour sends mixed messages to your readers. You need to decide on your stance and maintain it consistently.

Exemplar: *"Whilst the dogs' howling is part of their natural behaviour inherited from their wolf ancestors, the noise understandably disturbed nearby residents who were not accustomed to living near large numbers of animals."*

#3: Final paragraph – "The government is now gradually reducing trips..." through the end

Strengths:

- You end with clear calls to action, telling readers exactly what they can do (donate, adopt).
- Your piece acknowledges positive changes, showing that solutions are already beginning.

Weak supporting evidence for claims → Your final paragraph makes several statements without providing proper support. You claim the government is "gradually reducing trips to euthanise dogs" and "helping the NPV clinic," but you don't explain how, when, or to what extent. The phrase "But this isn't enough!" is a strong claim that needs justification—why isn't it enough? What specific gaps remain? Your call to action about donations and adoption would be stronger if you explained exactly how these actions would solve the specific problems you've described earlier. You also use the vague phrase "everywhere else" without explaining whether other areas in Hong Kong face similar issues.

Exemplar: *"To build on these improvements, residents can support organisations like NPV by donating funds for medical procedures or by adopting stray dogs. With consistent community involvement, these dogs can receive proper care and find permanent homes."*

■ Your piece tackles an important local issue and shows genuine concern for animal welfare, which makes it engaging to read. However, you need to strengthen the substance of your argument by explaining your ideas more fully and maintaining a consistent viewpoint throughout. Your writing would improve significantly if you developed each paragraph with more detailed explanations rather than jumping quickly between different points. Additionally, consider organising your information more logically—present the problem clearly first, then explain the consequences, and finally discuss solutions. Also, your second paragraph would benefit from separating the factual information about dog populations from the discussion about howling behaviour, as these are two distinct points that deserve their own space. Try expanding each main idea into its own paragraph with a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding thought that connects to your overall argument.

Overall Score: 43/50

Section 2:

Wild Dogs on the Mountain: A Nuisance to the Neighbourhood?

#1 Since the Hong Kong Government forced the citizens of Upper Wong Tai Sin to leave their homes and live in the government subsidised apartments in Lok Fu and Lower Wong Tai Sin, Lion Rock Mountain has become a place where wild dogs roam since the 2000s. The dogs were originally domesticated dogs living with residents in Upper Wong Tai Sin. When the government forced the residents to leave, the dogs weren't allowed into the subsidised apartments. If the owners left the dogs to the government, they would be unfairly euthanised by the government. Therefore, many residents chose to leave the dogs out on Lion Rock Mountain, near their original homes. Once nearby residents started complaining to the government, they were caught and euthanised unfairly. Do you want stray animals to stay happy? We need some action to help them!

#2 The dogs have been breeding ever since and spreading infectious diseases such as rabies. Wild dogs must be domesticated every time they breed to prevent them from being annoying, fierce and shy. When these dogs breed, the next generation includes 6-[-]10 wild dogs per family. Since there were about 600 abandoned dogs originally, the population is getting out of control, with over 2000 wild dogs in 2008. More dogs mean more annoying howling, but can they help it? It is their nature to howl at the moon in packs. After all, they are descended from wolves. ~~After they started howling, that time, residents~~ [Once the howling began, residents] of Wong Tai Sin and surrounding areas were calling pest control and the government because they feared howling "wolves" in bed.

#3 The government started going on trips to catch wild dogs. Once they caught a few dogs, they would be brought back to the HKAMC to be euthanised. Dr.[.] Lee, a veterinarian for NPV stray animal medical clinic[the NPV stray animal medical clinic], said, "The population is getting out of control, and NPV is trying to help the situation. Many dogs are getting sick on the mountain, and they eat leftovers from restaurants. The government said they are happy with euthanising 1-[-]3 dogs per 15 days, but even the citizens of Wong Tai Sin are protesting now, even though it was them who reported the cases in the first place. They didn't want the dogs in their lives, but they never meant to cause harm to them." The dogs of Lion Rock Mountain are first transported to Animal Management Centres, where they are deemed able to be adopted, or chosen to be euthanised because they have diseases, even when stray medical hospitals like NPV can still give them surgery and help them recover.

The government is now gradually reducing trips to euthanise dogs; instead, they are helping the NPV clinic with its "Trap, Neuter, Release" programme and letting the public adopt the dogs. But this isn't enough! Why not consider donating to stray animal clinics to support stray animals receiving compulsory surgeries? They depend on the government and you to keep them healthy. You could also consider adopting a stray animal! With the help of the local communities, we can help these stray animals forget their old memories of eating scraps. Help the stray animals on Lion Rock and everywhere else now!