

哪裡有水牛？與牛相遇怎麼辦？

今天還有60餘頭水牛，幾乎都住於貝澳，以及鹹田和十壟的毗鄰田野。

水牛或在田野吃草，或在泥漿或沙灘打轉，有些還會漫步到梅窩，或塘福。

水牛溫馴，好奇心強；

你走近時，牠會躲閃，或會過來嗅嗅你；

你只要安靜，守候，不亂動，

便能近距離觀看水牛，無須害怕。

千萬不要觸摸小牛，因為總有母牛在旁看守，

不要叫母牛因擔心而緊張！

我們有時會與水牛狹路相逢，

但不用害怕，只要自然地，慢慢走，

WHERE AND HOW TO GREET A WATER BUFFALO

Today almost all the remaining population of some 60 water buffaloes are to be found at Pui O and the adjacent fields of Ham Tin and Shap Long where they can be seen grazing in the fields, wallowing in mud pools or on the beach.

A few even venture to Mui Wo and Tong Fuk.

Buffalo are docile and curious creatures.

They may move away as you approach or they may come and sniff you.

Be quiet and avoid sudden movements and you will be able to view them at close range without fear.

Remember that calves (baby buffalo) always have an anxious mother so do not try and touch the calf so as not to worry the mother.

Sometimes a buffalo may be walking toward you on a path.

Do not be frightened, just walk slowly and naturally and you will find that the buffalo will either step aside for you or stop to let you past.



牛糞.....牛糞.....撲通一聲，牛糞落地

水牛糞可以堆成「金字塔」狀（與黃牛「薄撐」式糞便不同），但時有難聞異味。

如果弄污鞋子，糟糕不了！

說牛糞無用？不是，不是！

乾牛糞可以：

- 用作燃料

有些國家，更可用作：

- 天然殺菌劑
- 地板塗層的混合泥漿
- 清潔鍋盆，磨光銅器

最好的是，牛糞是極佳的田園肥料！

BUFFALO DUNG - BUFFALO PLOP - BUFFALO POO

Shape – deposited in ‘pyramids’ (unlike cattle which do ‘pancakes’).

Smelly – sometimes

Awful on your shoes – always!

Useless – NEVER

When dry it can:

- be burnt as a fuel, and

in other countries it is:

- used as a natural antiseptic
- mixed with mud as a floor covering
- used as a pot cleaner and brass polish

But best of all, it is an excellent fertilizer for gardens.



大嶼山水牛



THE BUFFALO OF LANTAU

歷史

從前的大嶼山鄉村生活，水牛不可或缺。

強壯的水牛替人類做「拖機」，

翻鬆沿海平原的沖積土，以種植稻米；牛糞更可用作田園的肥料。

水牛在貝澳從事耕作，直至1970年代。

稻米作業式微後，辛勤的水牛只好留在濕地平原，自己覓食，自求生存之道。

今天留下來的是這些水牛後代，在官方除滅行動下，只剩60餘頭。

遺下來的水牛，叫我們毋忘昔日耕作的浪漫和辛酸，毋忘祖傳遺產，以及耕作夥伴的辛勞。



HISTORY

Water buffalo were once a very important part of village life on Lantau.

These immensely strong animals were the 'tractors' which ploughed the alluvial coastal plains for wet-land rice cultivation.

Their droppings (dung) were the most important fertilizer for gardens.



Up to the 1970s, buffalo were still being used at Pui O to plough the fields. But rice cultivation soon ceased and the hard-working buffaloes have been left to fend for themselves on the remaining wetland plains.

Their descendants are still with us today although now reduced through culling to some 60 animals only, an enchanting and poignant reminder of our agricultural heritage and the essential part played by these, our valued partners.

有趣資料

水牛有自己的家庭單位，

一頭公牛，有一至三頭母牛相伴，

這個家庭可能也養育幾頭小牛。

水牛素食，只吃草和幼嫩灌木；

水牛棲居濕地，常在水坑打滾，乘涼，躲避煩擾的昆蟲。

水牛樂水，喜愛暢泳海中。

水牛稟性溫馴、和平，

但在驚慌中，或追求雌性時，水牛也會帶點侵略性。

休憩的水牛十分可人，

有些國家如東南亞，人以騎牛為樂，

但是請不要在大嶼山如此行！



INTERESTING FACTS

Water buffalo live in family groups.

A bull (male) may have one to three cows (female).

His family may have several children (calves).

They are vegetarian, eating grass and young shrubs.

The buffalo's natural habitat is wetland where there are pools to wallow in, cool off and escape annoying insects.

They love water and will happily swim in the sea.

Although water buffalo are by nature docile and peaceful animals, they can be aggressive when competing for females, or when frightened.

Resting buffalo can be easily approached.

In other countries in South East Asia, people ride buffaloes but this is not recommended here!

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要保護水牛

水牛的祖先，曾為我們開墾耕地，

但是今天遍地野生，變成無「主」孤牛。

有人覺得，水牛只屬於過去的鄉村，今天沒有價值。

也有人認為，水牛白佔土地，防礙社會發展。

不過，也有不少人珍視這些水牛，牠，是我們珍貴的歷史遺照；牠，是人類的溫馴友伴，是急速的都市生活應該保存的珍品。

水牛具有生態價值，如果沒有水牛，濕地便會乾涸，兩棲物種會減少，美麗雀鳥會消失。

好好珍惜我們的水牛吧，享受與牠和平共處吧，

也讓我們向水牛發揮人性的善美！



PROTECT OUR BUFFALO

The water buffalo we see today are the descendants of those who used to work our fields.

They have no 'owners' now and are feral (wild).

There are some people who see these as an embarrassing reminder of our rural past, and as occupying land which could be developed.

However many people see the buffalo as a majestic reminder of our past, as docile companions and as charming creatures worth preserving in this high paced urban city.

The buffalo perform an important ecological service: without their presence, wetland areas start to dry out and the special ecology with various amphibian species and beautiful birds goes into decline.

Enjoy and value the water buffaloes among us.

Their presence living peacefully beside us reminds us of our humanity.