

Plunging pets causing problems in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (Reuter-Kyodo)
Hong Kong, plagued by weighty problems such as Vietnamese boat people and relations with China, has another one to deal with — plunging pets.

Veterinarians are reporting an alarming increase in the number of cats and dogs being killed or injured in falls from the British colony's many high-rise apartment blocks, the South China Morning Post newspaper said Thursday.

Claire Kavanagh, a surgeon who is treating two cats and a dog injured in falls from high windows, blames a current heat wave in which pet owners are opening windows to allow air to circulate.

"Too many people think their cats and dogs are smart. . . . People have to erase that notion," she told the newspaper.

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