



NEWS RELEASE

World Animal Day – working towards a better future for animals

Singapore, 29 September 2016 – World Animal Day is universally acknowledged as a day of action and awareness for animal rights and welfare. It is celebrated annually on 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

This year, The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has adopted “Tails in the City” as its theme, bringing animals to the heart of town at The Cathay, on 1 and 2 October.

A number of the animals that will be at our World Animal Day adoption drive have stories behind them. For example, Ace, Basil and Fluffy were three of 11 hamsters that were surrendered to the SPCA by their owner because he had too many, and no time to look after them. They range from six months to a year old and arrived with existing skin problems which we treated for some time before being able to put them up for adoption.

We are pleased to announce that eight out of the 11 hamsters have been adopted between 6 and 28 August. The remaining three - Ace, Basil and Fluffy - will make their appearance at our ‘Tails in the City’ event, and we hope that they too, will find their forever homes.

Dr Jaipal Singh Gill, Executive Director, SPCA, said, “A pet is a lifetime commitment that should not be taken lightly. Responsible pet ownership means promising to take care of the pet through sickness and health, in good times and bad, for the duration of its life. Unfortunately, impulse buying and the subsequent giving up of pets are all too easy, and this is why we’ve set aside 2017, to run a series of initiatives, to address these issues.”

“On a separate note, we would like to take this opportunity to remind the public that animal abandonment is a crime and we were encouraged by the news of last week’s prosecution involving a pet grooming school owner who abandoned 18 dogs in March. (<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/pet-grooming-school-owner-who-abandoned-18-dogs-in-march-given-6-weeks-jail>). Although we feel the six-week custodial sentence could have been harsher, it’s a historic moment, as this is the first time in Singapore that someone has been prosecuted for animal abandonment. The SPCA has been at the receiving end of countless cases of pet abandonment over the years, but with no leads or witnesses, the authorities were not able to bring the cases to court,” said Dr Jaipal Singh Gill, Executive Director, SPCA.

The SPCA believes that each person can make a difference on World Animal Day. It marks a time to commemorate our love and respect for animals by doing something special to highlight their importance in the world.

Details of World Animal Day:

Date : Saturday, 1 October and Sunday, 2 October

Time : 12 noon to 9 pm

Venue : The Cathay, external atrium
2 Handy Road, Singapore 229233

- End -

For more information, please contact:

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About Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)

The SPCA is a registered animal welfare charity and its two main objectives are to promote kindness to animals and to prevent cruelty to animals. Relying mainly on donations from the public and fundraising, the Society provides various animal welfare services including a 24-hour emergency service, cruelty investigation, an adoption programme, an education programme for schools and organisations, a sterilisation programme for community animals, running an animal shelter and supporting quarantine for unwanted, abused and abandoned animals. For more information, visit <http://www.spca.org.sg>