



NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6 JULY 2019, 7:00pm

SPCA's Community Animal Clinic Upgrade– Official Opening

Singapore, 4 July 2019 – The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) will be officially opening its recently upgraded Community Animal Clinic on Saturday, 6 July. The not-for-profit clinic is the only one of its kind in Singapore, serving SPCA's rescued animals in addition to those under the care of animal welfare groups, and community caregivers. Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development will be gracing the occasion as Guest-of-Honour.

For several decades, the SPCA has run a basic veterinary clinic for the public, serving community animals. In 2017, having moved to its new premises at Sungei Tengah, a significant upgrade of veterinary capabilities was embarked upon with a vision to provide subsidised and quality healthcare for community animals, and pets from low income households.

In October 2018, thanks to generous donors and the Tux for Tails gala dinner fundraisers led by Ms Gerti Iwatake, SPCA's upgraded clinic re-opened its doors.

The clinic is now equipped with more advanced diagnostic capabilities, including x-ray and blood testing machines, and provides a broader spectrum of medical treatments.

The number of surgeries performed monthly has increased by 20%, and this has enabled the clinic to better support vital humane population management programmes, namely the nationwide Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM) programme for dogs and the Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme (SCSP).

An estimated \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year will be needed to support the clinic's continued operation. Public support in terms of donation income, is therefore vital to help us achieve this.

The enhanced clinic is already making a significant difference. Refer to the Appendix for two recent success stories.

SPCA's executive director, Dr. Jaipal Singh Gill, said, "The SPCA is committed to improving animal welfare in Singapore by working with and supporting the animal protection community. Our upgraded Community Animal Clinic, with its enhanced veterinary capability and capacity, allows us to increase our impact in terms of promoting animal well-being, alleviating suffering and saving lives."

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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, a community animal clinic, adoption programme, education programme for schools and organisations, sterilisation programmes 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>.

Appendix

Flute



Flute was abandoned in a cage at a void deck. Thankfully, a kind-hearted person brought him to the SPCA. After a thorough examination which included x-rays, Flute was found to have a damaged spine, which rendered his hind limbs paralysed, and also resulted in a loss of bladder control. We could not determine the cause of the injury with certainty, but we have hope that he will regain some use of his hind legs over time. Flute has been undergoing physiotherapy sessions in our clinic and has also been fitted with a set of wheels to aid his mobility. This sweet and brave boy is now waiting for a loving home.

Harvey



Harvey was rescued after being found on the streets with a severe maggot wound and in extremely poor physical condition. It is likely he would have died if not provided with immediate veterinary care. The clinic team immediately sprang into action upon his admittance, to provide emergency care, as well as to clean up his wound and remove the maggots. It was likely that the severe wound resulted from an untreated ear infection. Samples were sent to an external laboratory and the results indicated that the bacteria in his ear was resistant to most antibiotics. The team prepared a special formulation of ear medication to treat the resistant bacteria. Despite all our efforts, the ear infection raged on. Our veterinarians ended up having to perform ear surgery, to remove a portion of the ear canal, to treat the stubborn infection.

After months of treatment, Harvey has finally shown significant improvement and has warmed up to the staff who have been treating and nursing him daily. He is currently up for adoption.