



PAW PRINTS

adopt | rescue | advocate | educate

may 2016
MCI (P) 061/05/2016

NEW BEGINNINGS



Road after 32 years, to begin a new SPCA chapter in Sungei Tengah. Moving was a mammoth task, made much easier with the tremendous support from staff and volunteers. A special thank you to our volunteer dog mentors who made the journey as stress-free as possible for our canine friends.

If you have visited our new home, you would have noticed the premises is larger than Mount Vernon, housing close to 300 animals. Another key feature is the large exercise area for dogs.

To improve our adoption process, we now have dedicated socialisation areas for prospective owners to get acquainted with the animals. Education remains a crucial aspect of our work and the pavilion offers opportunities for workshops on animal welfare and pet ownership, as well as pet care, through grooming and canine training classes. The pavilion also serves as a venue for private events such as birthday parties, which I hope you will consider, as an opportunity to be closer to nature and the animals, with the rental proceeds benefitting SPCA's work.

This year also sees a change in leadership as I take over, as Acting Executive Director in January, from Ms Corinne Fong. This position marks a full circle as I first joined the SPCA as an inspector investigating cruelty and welfare complaints, after graduating from the National University of Singapore in 2007. The role provided an important understanding of the ground issues that affected the animals in our community. I returned to SPCA in 2010, as Operations Manager, after heading to Melbourne to embark on an Animal Science Honours degree. During my time with SPCA, I was involved with various projects such as assisting with a



Source: Lam Shushan/Mediacorp. Reprinted with permission

proposal to reform animal welfare legislation in Singapore, an anti-puppy mill campaign, expanding our number of foster care givers, and a cat sterilisation project on St. John's Island. I recently returned from Melbourne with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine to re-join the animal protection movement.

Looking ahead, we are focused on strengthening the services that SPCA offers, whilst striving to bring positive change to the standards of animal welfare within our community. One of the key initiatives that you will hear more in the coming months is 'Getting to Zero'; a masterplan to achieve zero euthanasia for healthy and treatable animals within SPCA and the community at large.

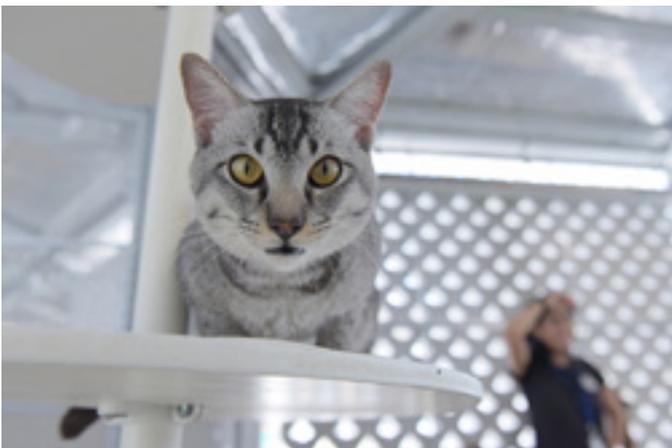
On a parting note, I thank our donors, and those individuals who helped us with the big move. If you have yet to visit us in the Kranji countryside, I'd like to extend an invitation to you and your family. As a charity, we are still in need of funds for our new building, so please consider 'buying a brick' by visiting our website at www.spca.org.sg. Your contributions will significantly help us continue our important role as animal protector.

Dr Jaipal Singh Gill
Acting Executive Director

Dear Friends!

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the inaugural issue of 'Paw Prints'. Through this newsletter, I hope to connect with you, while sharing a consolidated update on recent happenings and highlighting SPCA cases that are in the forefront.

This year marks a historic milestone as we said goodbye to our premises at Mount Vernon



Source: Lam Shushan/Mediacorp. Reprinted with permission

INSPECTORATE & RESCUE

CASE 1



In January, we attended to a case involving two rabbits that were allegedly being kept in a small, dirty cage along the common corridor, outside their owner's unit. Although the rabbits appeared to be in reasonable physical condition, their living conditions were unacceptable. After advising the owner on proper living conditions for the animals, she decided to surrender them to us. The rabbits have since found new homes through SPCA's adoption programme.

CASE 3



Also in January, a condominium resident reported seeing mynah birds that were kept in a cage, placed at the trash centre. On investigation, we learnt that the staff of the condo had trapped the wild birds and intended for them to be kept as pets. Having counselled the individuals how keeping wild animals as pets is detrimental to their welfare, and also against the law, the mynahs were released.

CASE 5



In March, a rabbit was found allegedly abandoned in a pet carrier at the void deck of a HDB block in Jurong

West. It had a bad skin condition but was otherwise, bright and alert. The case was referred to the AVA for further investigation. The rabbit is currently being treated at the SPCA and is responding well to medication for its skin problem.

CASE 2



In January, we assisted the police on a case of a miniature poodle that had died after having fallen from a HDB flat in Hougang. Our inspector helped by scanning the dog for a microchip and speaking to residents in hopes of finding information about the dog and the owners. Through interviewing the residents, our inspector learnt that the owners were on holiday and that the dog was being cared for by a neighbour, who was not home at the time of the incident. Further investigations and a check at the neighbour's home suggested that the dog could have fallen from either the kitchen, which had a floor level opening/window, or from a bedroom. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) and the police concluded that the dog's death was accidental, and the poodle was returned to its owners for cremation.

CASE 4



In January, we attended to a case of a Siamese cross cat found allegedly abandoned at the stairwell of a HDB flat in Woodlands. Despite putting up an appeal flyer, and our efforts to speak with residents, we were unable to find any information in relation to the cat's owners. The cat was named Duxton and adopted in late February.

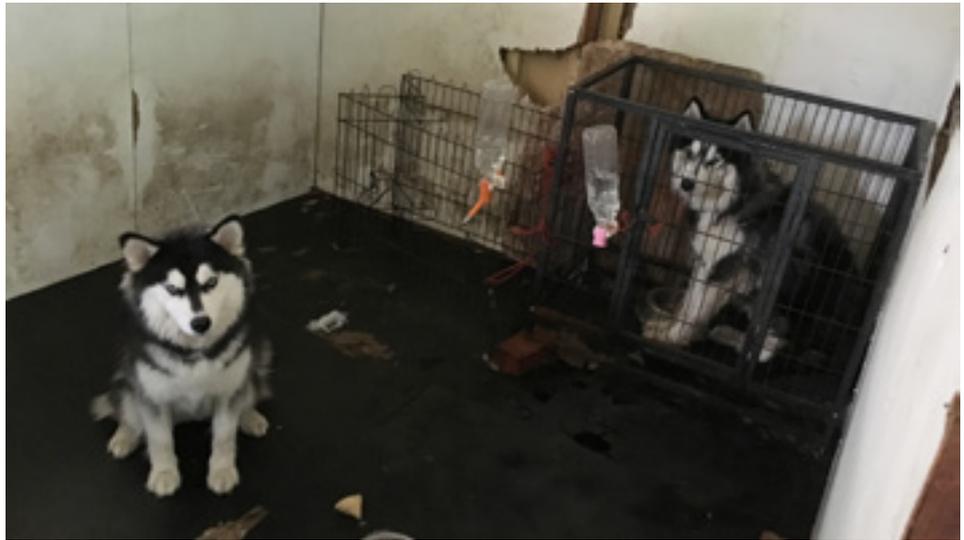
CASE 6



A cat was reportedly kept in a small cage on the service balcony of a condominium unit in Jalan Datoh for many days as the owners were overseas. We investigated the case in February, and with help from the AVA and condo management staff, we entered the unit. The cat was leashed with a plastic cable-like chord, which had resulted in an indent around its neck. We brought the cat back to the SPCA for a veterinary check and treatment. The owner, a student on visa, eventually returned from overseas and admitted to leaving the cat unattended as well as kept in poor living conditions, without shelter and proper food. The cat has since been rehomed through our adoption programme while investigations by AVA into alleged neglect, are ongoing.

CASE 7

In February, a kitten was reportedly leashed for many days outside the porch area of a private house in Kovan. Through questioning the owner, we learnt that the kitten was adopted from the SPCA and gifted to the family by their in-laws on the same day of the adoption. The kitten was not allowed into the house as the owner was concerned about her young children handling the kitten, as well as the feline ruining her furniture. The kitten was repossessed by SPCA and the owners were informed of having breached our adoption agreement, as well as their failure to provide adequate care and shelter for the kitten. The owner was advised against having a pet until she is aware and able to commit to the responsibilities involved in having a pet. We also counselled the in-laws, on their true motives for adopting the animal, which ultimately affected its welfare.

CASE 8

In March, we investigated a case of two huskies that were kept in an air-conditioned container all day, at a car wash facility. One of the dogs was kept in a small cage for fear of the dogs fighting. The dogs were, however, seen happily playing with each other, and their occasional growls were misinterpreted as aggression towards each other. The owner and staff were counselled by our inspector not to cage the dogs and also to provide proper care such as using a drinking bowl instead of a water bottle. They were also asked to remove all clutter/furniture from the container, and to maintain cleanliness so the dogs have more space to move about. Both dogs were found to be in very good physical condition, bright and alert. In a follow-up check, we found that improvements had been made to the dogs' environment; the container was clutter free and clean, and the dogs were seen free roaming in the container with air-conditioning on. We will continue to monitor this case to ensure the dogs are well-cared for.

Your Giro donations go a long way to help the animals. Like our 24-hour emergency service, cruelty investigations, re-homing of animals, conducting educational talks, operating a clinic for sterilisation of stray animals, running a foster care programme and treatment of abused animals. Over \$2 million are needed annually to run the SPCA. And because we do not receive government grants, we depend entirely on your generosity to provide for the animals.

To help, log on to www.sPCA.org.sg/helpus.asp to download a Giro Form or email us at giro@sPCA.org.sg. Alternatively, contact us at 62875355 ext 18.



SAVING LIVES

Being a foster parent can be a rewarding experience. You get a furry friend for companionship, while helping provide more space at our shelter for new animals. For information, visit www.sPCA.org.sg/helpus_fosterparent.asp

Can't foster? Consider volunteering with us. Get started at www.sPCA.org.sg/helpus_volunteer.asp



Han, Rey and Leia arrived at SPCA in December after being found alone at the void deck of a HDB flat at Bangkit Road. The kittens were declared healthy by our vet, but as they were only four weeks old they still needed dedicated attention and care. The trio were therefore placed with one of our foster carers, Ms Pele Lim who showered them with the extra dose of love and caring needed. All three kittens found homes after being placed for adoption in January.



We picked up Duke and Daisy from Green Cross Medical Centre in Tampines in December last year. A check by our vet estimated the pups' age to be two weeks. As they were, too young to be placed for adoption, we turned to our regular fosterer, Ms Rebecca Mo, who took care of the puppies until they were two months old. The pair returned to SPCA in late February, with the sweetest of temperaments and were adopted to loving homes.

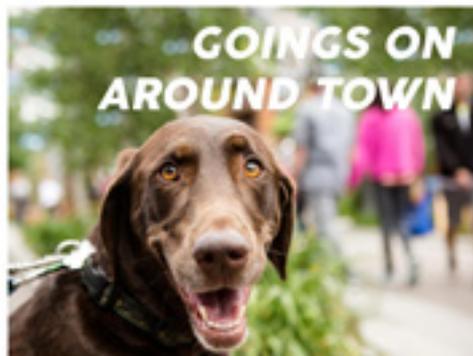


Zac and Zoe were found abandoned at four weeks at Sembawang Road and brought to SPCA in October last year. Without their mother, they were too young to fend for themselves. As they required round the clock care, we turned to our regular fosterer Ms Sandra Matthews, who helped nurture the siblings until they were strong and healthy enough to settle into a permanent home. Sandra also went above and beyond the call of duty by finding a forever home for the kittens.



DID YOU KNOW?

In April, the Ministry of National Development announced that the Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme will be expanded beyond HDB estates to cover industrial and commercial areas, and private estates – a move that could see 20,000 stray cats sterilised. Currently, the AVA co-funds the cost of sterilising and microchipping stray cats, working with SPCA and the Cat Welfare Society.



GOINGS ON AROUND TOWN

11 & 12 June **SPCA Merchandise Sale** at Parkway Parade.

15 & 22 May/ 5, 12 & 26 June:
As part of **Baby Singapore 2016**, the SPCA will host kids to animal welfare workshops, colouring sessions, sing-alongs, and more! Visit www.sPCA.org.sg/whatson.asp for information.

18 & 19 June
SPCA's OFFICIAL LAUNCH & OPEN HOUSE
50 Sungei Tengah Rd



16 June **'Finding Dory'** in cinemas [Rating: TBA]



PET CALLING



Kristina Cheng Sze Wei is an SPCA volunteer, who adopted Buffy (formerly Petery) in December 2014. In the piece below, she pens her adoption experience. Have a story to share? Write us at communications@spca.org.sg

I was volunteering at SPCA on 3 December 2014 when I first saw Buffy, outside the clinic. He was trembling, his tail hung between his legs. I was told he was a lost dog and not ready for adoption due to his injuries. But Buffy made a lasting impression, as his features reminded me of my previous dog, an 11-year old cocker spaniel, who passed away in 2012, due to cancer.

I had no intention of adopting Buffy as I felt I was not mentally and physically prepared. Was I ready to accept another dog in my life and prepared for another lifetime of commitment? Would I constantly compare him to my previous dog? Buffy was already a year and half, so I was concerned how he would respond to training, unlike my previous dog who was trained when he was a six-week old puppy.

“

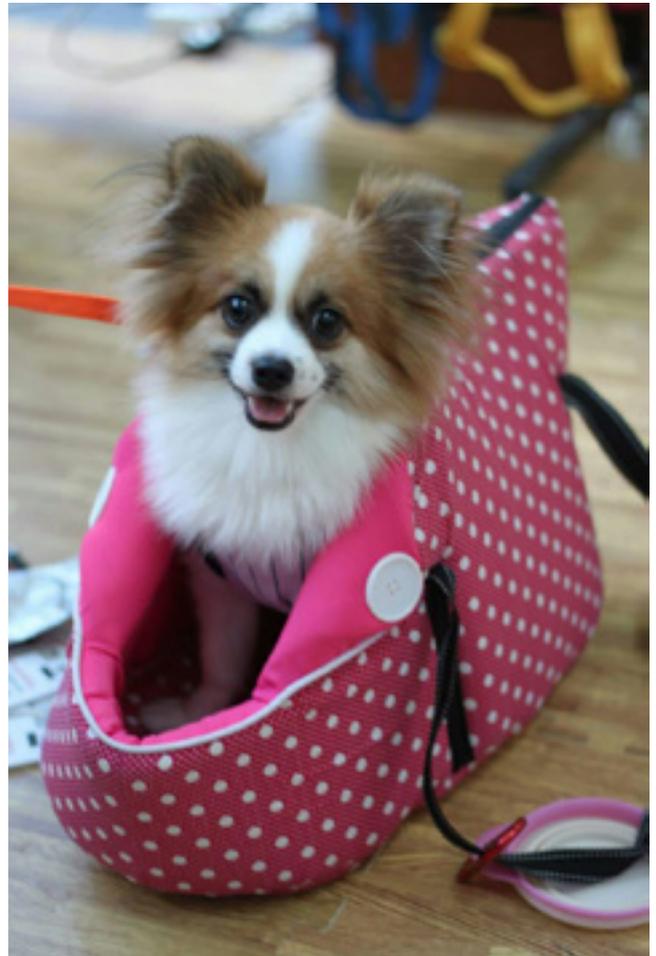
Despite all the challenges, Buffy means the world to me. His needs are simple — a home, two meals and a walk every day.

However, I kept thinking of Buffy throughout the day. I fondly remembered his sweet, yet sad face. After a week of consideration and researching the internet, I decided to give myself a chance to learn to let go, and accept another dog in my life by adopting Buffy.

The initial months were overwhelming. I discovered that Buffy was picky with his food. Despite trying various brands of dried and canned food, he refused to eat for a week and would vomit. The

solution — home cooked food, and he lapped it all up. He also had a stubborn streak. He would urinate at the foot of my bed, on my bedroom slipper, at the foot of my dining table, beside and near the pee tray, but never into it. Smart and independent, Buffy was never food motivated, so toilet training him took around a month. Now, I proudly watch him go in the pee tray, and respond to commands such as come, wait and jump. We continue to learn new commands together. I also learnt that he lacked confidence. He refused to go for walks and I can only assume the stresses of being lost while on a walk may have had something to do with this. Fortunately, he has gotten over this and enjoys his daily hour long walk. If I forget, he will remind me by bringing his leash (in his mouth). Being a boisterous and active dog, his antics are never ending — from destroying rolls of toilet papers, to chewing my laundry brush and bedroom slippers.

Despite all the challenges, Buffy means the world to me. His needs are simple — a home, two meals and a walk every day. He spends his afternoon resting or getting up to mischief when he is home alone. In the evenings, we enjoy some play and cuddle in front of the TV. Looking back, Buffy weighed under 3kg when I first brought him home. I recall being able to feel his ribcage and bones. Now, Buffy is a shining example of second chances in life — he is a happy, pampered boy who dishes out kisses unconditionally and loves posing for the camera.



BEFORE YOU ADOPT GIVE THIS LIST SOME THOUGHT...

- 1 When you adopt, you need to make a commitment to care for your pet for its entire life.
- 2 Be prepared for a pet to affect other parts of your life for as long as you have the pet (can be up to 15 years for a dog and 20 years for cat). Your pet's well-being will have to be considered in all kinds of decisions, including travel, social life, relocating to a new home, adopting other pets, having children, etc.
- 3 Choose a pet appropriate to your living situation and lifestyle. Figure out what size, age, and energy-level pet is most appropriate for you.
- 4 Be willing to pet proof your home, such as meshing your windows for your cat's safety, or making any necessary modifications to prevent your pet from escaping.
- 5 Never give a pet as a gift, adopt a pet on a whim or because you feel it's love-at-first-sight. Research and carefully consider all the aspects before you adopt.
- 6 If you're adopting a pet for your kids, understand that the responsibility is yours. Kids, by their nature, often tire of things that were once new and exciting, and this includes their pets. You will most likely end up being the one who provides most of the pet's care.
- 7 Be able to provide sufficient exercise and stimulation for your pet, including veterinary care.

Dermoscent®

Animal Dermo-Care



LOOKING FOR A BALANCED SKIN?

ESSENTIAL 6® spot-on

The solution against kerato-seborrhoeic disorders



Naturally efficient

A unique skin care rich in **essential fatty acids** from plant extracts and **essential oils** to **moisturize and reinforce skin barrier**

- ▶ Ease of use
- ▶ Clinical trial data available on request

WHEN TO USE:

Regularly to maintain a healthy skin and shiny coat
In case of kerato-seborrhoeic disorders or atopic dermatitis

Made in France by:

Ldca Laboratoire de Dermo
Cosmétique Animale
www.dermoscent.com

Distributed in Singapore by:

VetDerm
Email: vetderm7@gmail.com

