

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



5 January 2017

Ms Liaw Wy-Cin
The Editor
Forum Page
The Straits Times

Dear Ms Liaw,

I refer to the letter "Do more to support those who feed strays" (Darren Chan Keng Leong 24 December). The SPCA agrees with Mr Chan, that more can be done to help these dedicated people, and the food drive he suggested, is a great way to provide support and alleviate the financial pressure of regular feeding of street animals.

Stray animals, also known as street or community animals, have been part of our environment for decades. The SPCA, other animal welfare groups and independent rescuers have been sterilising them to help control their population as part of our larger strategy of Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM). In addition, numerous individual caregivers often make significant personal sacrifices to look after these animals. It is heartening to see support from the public (as Mr. Chan's letter implicitly demonstrates) for a larger strategy of Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage, which SPCA strongly advocates for.

SPCA began its voucher programme in 1991, enabling volunteers to arrange for free sterilisation of a street animal at a private veterinary clinic. It has also been carrying out sterilisation at its clinic. Besides helping community animal caregivers in this way, the SPCA also offers them complimentary basic veterinary consultation and treatment.

In recent years, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), Cat Welfare Society and the SPCA, have jointly run another sterilisation programme, where the AVA funds 50 per cent of the cost of sterilising street cats, the other half coming from the animal welfare groups.

These programmes, as well as the efforts by countless others, have paid off. Just over 10 years ago, the SPCA was taking in more than 500 cats every month. Today, the number is about 100.

The next time you see a community animal caregiver in your neighbourhood, say hello and offer your help. You never know, you might make new friends, human and animal.

Yours sincerely,

Jaipal Singh Gill (Dr)
Executive Director
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals