

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



5 April 2016

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

Dear Ms Liaw

I refer to the letter by Darren Chan Keng Leong “More action needed against illegal pet breeding” (Forum S.T. 28 March).

The SPCA agrees with Mr Chan that more needs to be done to prevent animal cruelty in Singapore, especially in regard to puppy mills and illegal breeders. We also share his concerns on the neglectful conditions that the animals are often subjected to. In 2010, SPCA, together with six other animal welfare groups launched a joint campaign to raise awareness on this important issue (sgpuppies.com).

The recent case the writer refers to, involved multiple small breed pedigree dogs that were abandoned in various parts of the island. Abandonment is a cruel act and punishable by law. Mr Chan rightly points out that the authorities rely on tip offs from members of the public to expose errant breeders and suggests an online portal to facilitate such reporting. To make it easy for people to report cases of animal cruelty (including abandonment) to us, the SPCA’s website has a simple form (http://spca.org.sg/form_crueltycomplaint.asp) that people can complete and submit. All information provided is treated in the strictest of confidence.

Pets are a lifetime of commitment. If, due to extenuating circumstances, an owner needs to give up their pet, they should take on the responsibility of finding their animal a good home.

If anyone witnesses an act of abandonment, report it to the SPCA. Strong enforcement action by the authorities is also needed to serve as an effective deterrent to potential offenders.

Yours sincerely,

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