

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



6 January 2015

The Editor
Forum Page
The Straits Times

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter by Phil Roberts ("Wrong to leave animals on the streets"; Tues (30 Dec 2014)), and thank him for his concerns.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) agrees with Roberts that abandoned pets should not be left in the environment to suddenly fend for themselves, and condemns any act of pet abandonment. Pet abandonment, without doubt, is an act of cruelty under the Animals & Birds Act and punishable by law. The SPCA urges the public to report any instance of pet abandonment (and/or any other form of cruelty to animals) without delay, by dialling its 24-hour emergency hotline 62875355 ext 9.

However, community (that is, "stray" and not domesticated) animals are not necessarily abandoned pets. Many community animals are often cared for and responsibly fed by dedicated feeders and caregivers, and much as the SPCA would like to help these animals, and do its best to get them re-homed, the SPCA shelter's limited resources and finite holding capacity have been constraints all this while. The SPCA, nonetheless, works closely with the voluntary feeders/caregivers to get the animals trapped for sterilisation and then release, to help control their numbers without going to the extreme of culling them.

The SPCA stands by its position that more tolerance and empathy are needed on the part of the general public, in accepting the community dogs many of whom, ultimately, are victims of circumstance. Whilst the SPCA does not round up healthy community animals, it does go to the aid of ill, injured and/or distressed ones, and urges the public to call its 24-hour emergency hotline to report any instance of animal distress.

Yours sincerely,

Corinne Fong (Ms.)
Executive Director
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Singapore