

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



6 July 2017

Mr Mathew Pereira
Forum Editor
The Straits Times

Dear Mr Mathew Pereira,

I refer to the article 'Judge rejects condo's' disproportionate' bid to remove owner's dog' in Straits Times on 28 June .

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has seen a number of such cases over the years, where condo MCs have tried to remove a pet, or institute rules which cause considerable stress and inconvenience to pet owners. This usually happens as a result of complaints from residents. In our experience, many can be resolved amicably by speaking with both parties. The pet owner may not be aware of the nuisance being caused, and very often will immediately take steps to correct the situation when this is highlighted.

We therefore applaud the judgement in the JC Residence case and the clear message communicated by the District Judge that we should avoid cultivating "a culture of pettiness and small-mindedness between neighbours" through subjective interpretation of the by-laws.

The SPCA has always advocated for responsible pet ownership, and done our part to make owners aware of the responsibilities that come with keeping a pet, including a responsibility to neighbours and the larger community, especially those who may be afraid of, or are uncomfortable around animals. And if issues arise, we do counsel that both parties take a reasonable approach to solving the problem. The SPCA is always happy to offer advice and support in such cases.

Yours sincerely,

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