

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



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The Editor
Forum Page
The Straits Times

Dear Sir,

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) agrees with Frankie Mao ("Irresponsible dog owners a bane", Forum Online, Mon (9 Feb 2015)) that keeping a pet involves a long-term and serious commitment. Responsible pet ownership is something every owner should practise.

Owners should always clean up after their pets, disposing of faeces in a sanitary manner and dispensing water to wash away urine on concrete surfaces in community spaces.

Responsible dog ownership also includes applying for a licence in accordance with the Animals and Birds (Dog Licensing and Control) Rules, obedience training, and keeping one's dog under control and leashed when in public (with the exception of designated dog runs/parks). In addition, owners must ensure that helpers and all relevant parties caring for the dog, are aware and mindful of pet etiquette outside of the home. The SPCA also promotes sterilisation of pets generally, to avoid unwanted litters which compete with countless shelter animals already in need of a home. Periodic veterinary checks are advised too, to ensure the animal's health and wellbeing.

Further information on responsible pet ownership is freely available from the SPCA office or website and a wide variety of resources can also be obtained from other animal welfare organisations (local/international), the Internet or veterinary clinics. There really can be no excuse for ignorance with the wealth of information available today.

As part of its outreach and educational efforts, the SPCA distributes free pet care leaflets and booklets to foster responsible pet ownership. In addition, we conduct talks on pet responsibility and are available to host dialogues between residents and estate management. Those interested can e-mail us at enquiries@spca.org.sg.

Yours sincerely,

Corinne Fong (Ms.)
Executive Director
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