

# ***SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS***



15 January 2015

The Editor  
Forum Page  
The Straits Times

Dear Sir,

I thank Samantha Ang (“Review HDB policy on dogs in flats”; Tues (13 Jan 2015)) and Jagir Singh Riar (“HDB curbs on dogs should stay”, My Point, Thurs (15 Jan 2015)) for their respective concerns.

Project ADORE (ADOption and REhoming of dogs) has become officially formalised by the Ministry of National Development on 28 May 2014. First mooted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and the Action for Singapore Dogs (ASD) in 2011, this has now allowed HDB flat owners to adopt local mixed breed dogs which do not exceed 15 kg in weight nor 50cm in height. Relevant stringent criteria apply, namely, that adopters are restricted to only one dog per HDB household, are properly screened and counselled by the SPCA or ASD, and pass the pertinent home assessment test to determine the suitability of the dog to the adopter and his/her home environment.

The SPCA recognises the high-density living conditions of HDB home owners, and takes pains to ensure the right-sized mixed breeds are adopted in such households. Adopters must be ready to adhere to rules as they must enrol on and pay for compulsory basic obedience training classes they are to attend with the adopted dog, and sign a declaration to observe the code of responsible conduct. One condition requires adopters to take the stairs, where practical, if the lift is full or wait for the next vacant lift.

Owners also must note the sensitivities of neighbours, the environment and proper dog-handling techniques. For that matter, the adopters concerned are urged to inform their neighbours about their plans to adopt the respective dog. All the adopted dogs must also undergo a thorough health check, and be vaccinated, sterilised and micro-chipped, as well as licensed and registered with the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore. In addition to meeting height and weight requirements, the Project ADORE dog should have a suitable temperament. Interested HDB residents looking to adopt a dog under Project ADORE can call the SPCA’s hotline on 62875355 ext 24.

The SPCA wishes to assure Mr Singh that community (that is, “stray” and not domesticated) animals, that are healthy, often are cared for and responsibly fed by their respective feeders and caregivers. The SPCA, nonetheless, collaborates with the feeders to get the animals trapped for their sterilisation and then release, and has since 1991 facilitated the sterilisation of more than 30,000 community cats and dogs in total, including about 1,700 of them over the past year alone.

The SPCA would like to assure the public that sterilised community animals, often easily identified by their tipped left ear, will also be far less likely to caterwaul and fight. We have always maintained that it is sterilisation that is both more humane and effective in stabilizing Singapore’s population of community animals, and are against their culling. Sterilisation would enable their numbers to decrease over time, so long as pet owners do not add to that number by cruelly abandoning their pets.

*Yours sincerely,*

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**Executive Director**  
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