

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



29 March 2016

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

Dear Ms Liaw,

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) thanks Ms Kelly Teoh Chuan Ying, for her letter "Teach Singaporeans to care for animals", (Straits Times 23 March 2016). We agree that more can be done in terms of legislation, education and awareness, to raise the standard of animal welfare in Singapore.

We strongly advocate that if anyone wants a pet, they should choose to adopt rather than buy. Many animals at our shelter are victims of impulse buys, because their owners did not first consider the responsibilities and commitment of pet ownership.

The SPCA has been conducting educational talks at schools and other organizations for over 30 years, raising awareness about animal welfare issues, and emphasising the lifetime of commitment required in caring for pets.

Our education programme also incorporates visits to the SPCA and exhibitions. Last year, we gave 82 educational talks to over 50,000 people.

In 2005, we launched our "Animal Kind" book, a groundbreaking publication on animal welfare education for primary school students. This resource is Singapore's first ever teaching tool aimed at educating children on appreciating and respecting animals in a fun, interesting and informative way.

In 2014, The Ministry of Education confirmed the inclusion of Animal Welfare in the new Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum, for primary and secondary school students.

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The SPCA applauds this initiative to inculcate a respect for animals in our youth, leading to more responsible behavior in terms of acquiring and keeping of pets, and towards those animals that share the environment with us.

Finally, if anyone is interested in learning more about our education programmes, please contact 6287 5355 or email education@spca.org.sg. A digital copy of the “Animal Kind” book can be downloaded from <http://spca.org.sg/pdf/animalkind.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

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