

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



22 February 2012

Forum Editor
Straits Times Press

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the two letters by Ang Chin Guan "Too Many Strays, and stopping to help stricken dog on road is dangerous", by Teo Jui Hang "What is a driver supposed to do after pulling over?".

For the benefit of motorists, the SPCA would like to highlight that under the Road Traffic Act, a driver of a vehicle that is involved in a road accident where damage or injury is caused to any person, vehicle, structure or animal, is under obligation to report the accident at a police station or to a police officer within 24 hours of the occurrence. If any person fails to comply, he would be guilty of an offence.

The SPCA issues the following guidelines:

1. Stop the vehicle (in a safe place) and check if the animal is injured.
2. Move the animal to a safe area if it is lying in the middle of the road (if you are able and it is safe for you to do so)
3. If the animal is injured or unable to move, pick it up and bring it to the SPCA. (or a nearest veterinary clinic) Alternatively, call the SPCA emergency line at 62875355 (ext 9) and give clear directions of the animal's location.
4. Report the accident to the police within 24 hours.

Referring to the suggestion that there be a policy restricting foreigners from owning dogs (because they leave the dogs behind when they leave the country), in our experience, there are more significant factors that contribute to abandoned pets, such as impulse buying; the pet abandonment problem isn't confined to foreigners, as many Singaporeans who purchase pets fail to understand the attendant responsibilities that come with owning a pet, and are ignorant about what constitutes pet neglect.

On the issue of strays, the SPCA has consistently advocated sterilisation to reduce the stray (and pet) dog and cat population; we may not see immediate results, but the decline in numbers will occur over time. Pet shops must do the right thing by advising new owners to get their pets sterilized.

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Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals