

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



14 October 2016

The Editor
Voices
Today

Dear Editor,

I refer to your article published on 7 October 2016, "A bit wild: Asian animal cafes go from mere cats to meerkats", (<http://www.todayonline.com/lifestyle/travel/bit-wild-asian-animal-cafes-go-mere-cats-meerkats>) regarding the opening of animal cafes all over Asia.

The proliferation of cafes where wild animals are used to entertain customers is a huge concern. The animals found in these outlets include foxes, meerkats, racoons and snakes. All of these species are banned from being kept as pets in Singapore, and for good reason. The animals' lives and welfare are put at risk and severely compromised, throughout the process of trapping them in the wild, transporting and housing them in artificial man-made enclosures. Captivity can never replicate the natural environment from which they came from, and this often results in a much poorer quality of life.

Visitors to these cafes are also put at risk, in that close contact with exotic animals may result in the spread of diseases. Public safety is another issue during interaction sessions, as wild animal attacks are not unheard of in various wildlife establishments around the world.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) urges anyone planning on visiting these cafes therefore, to think about the costs to the animals. Please refrain from supporting this blatant form of animal exploitation which takes place at the animals' expense, and help keep wild animals wild.

Yours sincerely,

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