

# *SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS*



4 November 2014

TODAY  
"Voices"

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to Goh Jia Jie's letter, Severed cat: Shouldn't SPCA defer to AVA? (TODAY online, 3 November 2014).

I thank Ms Goh for her feedback and concerns regarding this matter.

The SPCA responds to calls from concerned members of the public for animal rescue or assistance. We will attend to the scene as quickly as possible and, where investigations of animal abuse and/or cruelty are concerned, we will assist the AVA with initial evidence and information gathering, where possible. This extends to assessments by our vets, and a referral to the AVA if the case is a suspected act of abuse or cruelty, and if a post-mortem is necessary. For each post-mortem requested, the SPCA is charged a fee by the AVA.

The SPCA is not authorised to remove physical evidence or an animal carcass from a scene unless after approval is given by an authorised officer from either the AVA or the Police, as per section 51(1)(a) and 51(1)(b) of the Animals and Birds Act. In the case of the dismembered cat found in Marine Crescent, our officers took the necessary pictorial evidence, without moving anything from the scene, before collecting the cat's remains, with the permission of a police officer who was present at the scene.

With regard to Ms Goh's query on Section 68(1)(b), this applies to a registered and qualified practicing vet in Singapore, including SPCA vets, whose examinations and opinions can be called upon in a court of law, and thus admissible as evidence in any proceedings under the Act.

Lastly, I would like to clarify that we are still investigating the case of the dismembered cat found in Marine Crescent. We are working with the town councils to send out a public appeal for information in relation to this incident and our inspectors are patrolling the neighbourhood. We have received public feedback regarding our initial posting on Facebook that was based on our vet's preliminary findings. On hindsight, the post was premature and should have been better worded. It caused unnecessary alarm, stress and confusion to the public and the animal-loving community, and for that I am sorry. We are committed to use this opportunity to learn to communicate better and become a stronger organisation.

Anyone with information in relation to the above case can call our 24-hour hotline at 62875355 ext 9 or email [inspector@spca.org.sg](mailto:inspector@spca.org.sg). Information provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**Corinne Fong (Ms.)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Singapore**