

# *SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS*



6 February 2015

The Editor  
Voices Page  
TODAY

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter by Balbir Kaur, "Responsibility key in allowing domestic pets in public flats" (Today, Wed, Feb 4).

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) agrees with Ms. Kaur, that pet owners in "public"/HDB flats should be responsible, both in terms of their animal's care and well-being, and in relation to the community space.

The SPCA believes that education at the point of sale in commercial premises, needs to be stepped up and enforced, as a means to counter impulse buys which could lead to subsequent abandonment or surrender of the animal. The number of pets commercially imported, bred and sold, also needs to be reviewed, to establish whether there is a surplus in relation to the potential number of homes available.

The SPCA continues to counsel owners, offering support and advice, in the hope that they will reconsider their decision to give up their pet. Owners who need to give up their pet for compelling reasons, are urged to consider other avenues such as the SPCA online rehoming board, instead of surrendering it to the shelter.

In addition, we have increased our efforts to find suitable foster homes for abandoned pets to help ease the space limitation and pressure on our shelter. Providing fosterers for these animals, particularly those with chronic health issues, enables them to be nursed to better health, before being placed for adoption.

We are also greatly encouraged by the Project ADORE programme (initiated by the SPCA and Action for Singapore Dogs in 2011, and piloted in June 2012), which allows for medium-sized, local mixed-breed dogs to be adopted and kept in HDB flats, provided the relevant criteria have been fulfilled, and the adoption underwritten by the SPCA, Action for Singapore Dogs, or Save Our Street Dogs. To date, 27 Project ADORE-eligible dogs have found homes in HDB households, underwritten by the SPCA alone.

It is only with the concerted and sustained efforts of all parties involved, that responsible pet ownership can flourish in our communities, making for a more peaceful and harmonious environment.

*Yours sincerely,*

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