

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



2 February 2015

The Editor
Voices Page
TODAY

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter by Anita Chew, "When will S'pore recognise tethering, crating of dogs as cruelty?" (Today, Tues, 27 Jan).

The SPCA thanks Ms. Chew for her concerns, and agrees that the constant, long-term confinement of dogs by their owners is cruel. Reports of such cases such as the one mentioned in the writer's letter, are received regularly by the Society. Apart from trying to improve the conditions for the animal, through counselling of the owner or follow-up visits, we also refer cases to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA), the sole authority empowered to act under the Animals and Birds Act.

The adverse effects of prolonged confinement are many. Dogs subjected to restricted movement in a confined space understandably become frustrated and bored, often leading to a host of other problems encompassing physical and mental stress. Additionally, in Singapore's tropical climate, animals can die of heatstroke if constantly tethered or caged in extreme heat.

The SPCA maintains that all owners have a duty of care to house their dogs in a safe and comfortable environment conducive to their well-being, whilst ensuring that their pets receive the appropriate exercise daily, preferably in the early morning/evening or night.

With the recent amendment of the Animals and Birds Act, we hope that animal welfare enforcement will be improved, and a clear message sent that keeping animals in prolonged confinement will not be tolerated. How we care for our animals is a reflection on our society as a whole and it is important that we take action when they are ill-treated in any way.

Yours sincerely,

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