



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## Internet Scam Targets Animal Lovers *Adoption scam promises pedigree animals*

**Singapore, 6 May 2009** – The SPCA has recently been alerted to the existence of an internet scam involving the ‘adoption of pets’. On 4 May 2009, the SPCA received a report from a lady that she had visited [www.sPCA.com.sg](http://www.sPCA.com.sg).

Clicking on the links led her to [www.sgadsonline.com](http://www.sgadsonline.com) and a ‘pets’ section where she saw an adoption ad for a pair of Persian kittens whose family ‘resides’ in Marine Parade. The lady contacted the owner of the kittens via email and was informed that she, the owner, had moved to Cameroon for a research programme and that payment for the kittens would therefore have to be remitted prior to shipping the kittens over to the buyer. A total of four monetary transactions was done via Western Union totalling \$1,788.00. The money had to be remitted time and again in small amounts of \$300 to \$500 for “unforeseen circumstances” such as the pet transport services, vaccinations, etc.

The lady became suspicious when the kittens did not arrive within days of the money transfer, as she had been advised would happen. She then decided to visit the local address and realised it was a scam when the address turned out to be that of HBO’s Singapore office. The contact number was about 10 digits so the number was also bogus.

The lady then visited the SPCA and showed us the documentation in respect of the money transactions. The SPCA advised her to make a police report immediately.

We would like to take this opportunity to warn the public that the SPCA does not carry out any adoption transactions on-line. Potential adoptees must come personally to the

SPCA for adoption of any of our animals, and adoption prices range from \$10 for hamsters to \$155 for a female dog. Our website address is [www.spca.org.sg](http://www.spca.org.sg) and pictures of our animals available for adoption can be found there. Although there are other sites that may host our animals as a free service to SPCA, ultimately the animals have to be adopted direct at the SPCA (Tel: 6287 5355).

**For further information, please contact:**

Deirdre Moss (Ms)  
Executive Officer  
Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)  
Tel: +65 6287 5355 [ext. 12]  
E-mail: [eo@spca.org.sg](mailto:eo@spca.org.sg)

***About Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)***

*The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is the first registered animal welfare organisation in Singapore. The SPCA is a charity relying on the kind donations from our supporters to continue our important role as animal protector. The two main objectives of the SPCA are to promote kindness and to prevent cruelty to animals. For more information, visit <http://www.spca.org.sg>*