

19th January 2007

Forum
Straits Times Press

Dear Sir,

I refer to the on-line Forum letters 'Don't ban cats in flats, HDB' (Elaine Neo Yan Ling, Jan. 17) and 'HDB's anti-cat policy is antiquated' (David Tan Hee Tuck Jan 19). The SPCA fully agrees with the writers, that cats should be permitted in Housing Board flats.

Cats make ideal companions in flats, and a reversal in HDB's policy would no doubt not only make many cat lovers happy, but it would also help in alleviating the overpopulation of strays throughout the island. The SPCA has been appealing to the authorities for a number of years now to permit the keeping of cats in flats, with the proviso that they are sterilised, micro-chipped and kept indoors. More recently, the SPCA in October, has written to Dr. Fatimah Lateef (MP for Marine Parade GRC) to ask her to raise this issue in Parliament, following correspondence she had received (which she had conveyed to SPCA) from one of her constituents, that HDB should relax its regulations to allow cat lovers the option of keeping cats at home.

The SPCA has also been encouraging its members and regular donors to write in to their MP, and to the Minister for National Development (mah_bow_tan@mnd.gov.sg) to appeal for the HDB to review the current ruling of not permitting cats in flats.

We are hopeful that with many more voices speaking up like the above writers, more homes can be provided for the countless numbers of unwanted and abandoned cats that live on the streets.

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Deirdre Moss
Executive Officer