25th November 2005

Ms. Yvonne Lim
Editor, Voices
Today

Dear Ms. Lim,

I refer to the letter My Pet peeve: Neglectful Owners (Friday November 2005). The SPCA agrees with the writer that people need to consider the decision to buy a pet very carefully, and after doing so, not to neglect their pet. We thank her for creating awareness on this issue.

Barking/whining complaints lodged by members of the public do not fall under the scope of SPCA, but if there is reason to believe an animal is being neglected and sounds distressed, the SPCA will investigate. We would advise members of the public to call us as soon as possible (within one or two days) and before a weekend if they are concerned about a neglected pet (in particular where the animal may have been abandoned).

The SPCA being a charity, depends on the public's co-operation where possible; we would therefore suggest that if a neighbour's dog is barking or whining when the owner is not in, perhaps the feedback could be raised between the two parties initially before turning to an outside party to lodge a complaint. Alternatively, if this does not work, the Condominium management could be informed or the Housing and Development Board for cases of persistent barking.

We would ask the writer to please call the SPCA's Operations Manager at 62875355 ext. 29 so that we can clarify with her and take the appropriate steps in relation to the puppy being kept by her neighbours.

The SPCA would finally advise those who are contemplating buying a pet to ensure that they have the time to care for and spend with it so that the animal is not neglected.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Moss
Executive Officer
SPCA