

4th October 2005

Forum Editor
Straits Times

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article 'The Eat Ethical Diet' (Sunday Times October 2nd) a timely article just before World Animal Day on 4th October. It highlighted the inherent cruelty to animals involved in the production of certain types of foods that are consumed by man without a thought, so long as the palate is satisfied. Much of the focus was on the eating of shark's fin soup undoubtedly 'a cruel food' and one issue which needs much campaigning before there is a significant turnaround in people's eating habits.

Mary Loh's opinion in the opening paragraphs that the bird flu pandemic and pig virus attack have to do with Man's blatant cruelty to animals is food for thought. Is man learning though from these lessons that much has to do with the way the animals are treated and exploited? Horrific cruelty to animals exists all over our planet, whether it be in factory farms, live sheep trade, bull fighting, bear bile farms, animal laboratories, puppy mills, poaching, turtle slaughter, dog and cat slaughter in China and Korea. The list is endless. There can be no doubt that man's dominion over the animals has resulted in extreme animal suffering and torture, and it is shameful. Ultimately, the humane treatment of animals depends on man as a consumer. Until such time as people recognize and empathize with our animal friends, abuses and suffering will continue and viruses in turn may reap revenge.

The SPCA would like to thank all those who speak up for the animals and who are working to improve the animals' welfare. Let us at World Animal Day time spare a thought for the creatures who inhabit the earth with us and make a promise to think twice before eating that next bowl of shark's fin soup.

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Officer
SPCA

62875355 ext. 12