

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



13th October 2007

Forum Page
Strait Times

I REFER to the letter, 'How horrendous? Frogs beheaded in full public view' (Online forum, Oct 10).

The SPCA thanks the writer, Miss Heidi Tan Hui Ping for highlighting the shocking slaughter of a frog she witnessed at Sheng Shiong Supermarket recently.

We share her concerns and would like to inform her that the SPCA, since 2001, has been appealing to the relevant authorities to stop the live slaughter of exotic animals such as frogs and turtles in markets/eating establishments.

We agree that these animals should be slaughtered away from public view, and that it should also be carried out under regulated conditions as is the case with other meats for consumption which are sold chilled.

It is not only the questionable slaughter methods employed which the SPCA is strongly against, but also the inhumane storage conditions for the animals <http://singaporeseen.stomp.com.sg/viewPost5992.aspx> (Oct 10).

More recently, last month, the SPCA wrote in to the National Environment Agency (which licenses hawkers/eating establishments) and the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (which provides guidelines for humane storage and slaughter) to voice our concerns on this issue following public feedback and our inspections, and to request once again that regulated storage and slaughter be introduced for these animals.

There is also the public hygiene aspect we have pointed out, in light of Sars in recent years, which was traced back to an exotic animal, the civet cat. The live slaughter of ducks and chickens in markets was stopped years ago due to public health concerns. We believe that, similarly, it should be so in the case of slaughter of turtles and frogs for human consumption. The SPCA is still waiting for a response.

We commend all those who speak up against cruelty to animals - with many voices, we hope to make a difference. If members of the public witness animal cruelty, please call the SPCA so that we can investigate and refer, if necessary, to the authorities for further action (the SPCA does not have enforcement powers).

Deirdre Moss (Ms)
Executive Officer
SPCA