

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



FRIENDS for LIFE

30th August 2007

The Editor
Voices & Commentary
Today

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter “It’s cruel for stalls to display live seafood in ‘death row’ tanks” by Tan Check Wee (Weekend TODAY, August 25-26). The SPCA would like to thank him for highlighting the importance of humane treatment of any creature that is to become food; we also share his concerns.

For several years we have raised the issue of live reptiles (frogs and turtles) being kept and slaughtered at markets (in particular Chinatown market) and eating establishments, with the relevant authorities. In times when viruses are rife, the SPCA was not only concerned with the welfare aspect in relation to storage and humane slaughter, but also with the public health issue.

Although there are guidelines and briefings for those involved in the live slaughter of exotics, unless there is constant and regular monitoring, it is highly questionable that they are always kept in comfortable conditions, or that killing is always carried out humanely.

Live crabs are a common sight island-wide, stacked up on top of one another with their claws tied. More recently, we have written in to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority concerning a very large turtle kept in a container its own body size at Chinatown market.

As long as these animals are in demand for the dining table, and as long as society deems these practices acceptable, their suffering will not stop.

The SPCA will be following up on this matter with the AVA. If anyone witnesses food animals being kept under poor conditions or treated in a cruel manner, please do report it to the SPCA at 62875355 and we will take the matter up with the authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Officer