

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



28th June 2007

The Editor
Lianhe Wanbao

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the article on page eight of Lianhe Wanbao (17th June 2007) and an SMS response that appeared on the 25th June 2007 on page 18.

The SPCA is the only animal welfare society that has a shelter taking in hundreds of animals every month – we do not turn any away.

The original article in The New Paper (17th June 2007) highlighted that there is a possibility of an animal being put down within 24 hours once surrendered to the SPCA (this is not a new rule/policy). This happens when our premises are full i.e. when the cages are all occupied and we have no more space. The chance of an animal being put down within a day is less than 10 per cent.

Unfortunately, what was conveyed from the headline of the article was that all animals taken to SPCA would be put down within a day.

The SPCA wants to put across that we would prefer people to try and find a solution themselves (pet owners should find homes for their pets instead of leaving them at the SPCA, which has to deal with so many strays as well). Up to 400 animals we receive each month are unwanted pets while some are abandoned on the streets (we receive about 70 lost dogs every month, but only one third are claimed back after we advertised in the newspaper's classified).

Animals received by the SPCA

Year	Dogs	Cats	Domestic small animals (rabbits, hamster, guinea pigs)
2006	2727	5309	1215

To reduce the euthanasia figure, we need the cooperation of every concerned individual. As there are limited homes to adopt our animals, and with the fast rate at which people bring in strays and unwanted pets, we have no choice but to put down many of those that come in. We are also competing with commercial breeders and pet shops as there are no limits placed by the government on numbers of animals bred and sold.

The SPCA abhors the idea of putting animals down, but when we are taking in 900 of them every month and only 16 percent find homes (this includes lost animals being claimed back), we are left with no choice. The simple truth is every new stray or abandoned pet we get puts pressure on the limited space we have for others.

Members of the public should only surrender an animal as a last resort i.e. only when every other option has been exhausted.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Officer
SPCA