

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



21st February 2008

The Strait Times

We refer to the letter “Hamster fad a worrying trend” (21st February) by Mr Retnam Thillainathan and thank him for his concern.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) also read with concern the article, “Rodents are favoured pets in Year of the Rat” (20th February).

Getting a hamster or any rodent because it’s “their” year may translate into many being discarded later on.

They may not take up much space at home and probably are much cheaper to maintain than a cat or dog, but keeping a pet requires commitment that most impulse buyers do not realise or are willing to provide.

The table below shows the breakdown of the various types of rodents we received last year. That represents more than one surrendered to our shelter every single day.

Hamsters	Guinea Pigs	Chinchillas	Gerbils	Mice
321	70	36	11	54

To prevent hamsters and mice from breeding, the SPCA advises that males and females be kept separately.

While the rest of the rodents enjoy the company of their fellow furry friends, the Syrian hamster does not. Any attempt to put more than one in a cage may result in fights which can lead to them killing.

If all necessary research has been done before getting a rodent as a pet and preparation has been underway to bring one or two home, please remember to adopt rather than buy.

Our shelter is a temporary home to many abandoned rodents like the ones mentioned above. You can be the one to give our furry friends that loving home they need.

Visit our adoption gallery at <http://www.sPCA.org.sg/adoption/adoption.asp> to check them out.

Thank you.

Deirdre Moss (Ms)
Executive Officer
SPCA