

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



30 June 2011

Forum Editor
Straits Times Press

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter Animal Abuse – The Critical Connection (Forum 25 June). The SPCA thanks the writer (Ms. Daisy Chee) who raised an important issue in terms of the need to take a critical look at the connection between human violence and animal cruelty and how it should be tackled.

Cruelty to animals should never be treated lightly or looked upon as not having adverse affects on society.

As the writer mentioned, there are significant benefits to be reaped from early identification and intervention. Mandatory Guidance Counselling/counselling has, on occasion been recommended to the police by the SPCA in certain cases involving children/youths.

Unfortunately not all animal abusers can be successfully rehabilitated. For individuals suffering from recurring mental illness, it is not as simple as going for a six month community intervention programme and then miraculously getting “cured”. Long term commitment and management in the form of family support, and even long term specialist mentoring by appropriate agencies may be needed. The reality is that there is no simple solution in our ongoing efforts to stop animal cruelty.

Finally, we agree that all agencies in a position of influence, should strongly discourage violent acts towards animals and people whilst in particular, educating youth to be kind and respectful of all living things, in nurturing a harmonious and peaceful society.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Director