

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



28 August 2011

The Forum Editor
Straits Times

Dear Sir,

Ms Rozanna Lichnock speaks with reason when she asks that the public not be too quick to blame large breeds (ST Online Forum “Don’t Be Too Quick to Blame Large Dogs”, August 26, 2011), in light of a Rottweiler’s attack on a Silky Terrier. Dogs of all sizes can attack if provoked.

The tragic events that led to the death of the silky terrier is a timely reminder to all dog owners to leash their dogs – large or small – whenever they are in public places. Many dog owners are ignorant of the potential damage their dogs can cause when their dogs are allowed to run free, especially when there are other dogs in the vicinity; small dogs may charge up to, bark and nip at larger dogs, causing the latter to snarl or attack in turn. Some dogs are naturally fearful or timid, but their timidity may turn to aggression if provoked.

Do not think it an inconvenience to be tethered to your dog everywhere it wants to go, for, if an occasion similar was to happen to you and to your dog, you may not have every opportunity to ‘scoop’ your dog in your arms while fending off an attack. As a dog owner, you have a social responsibility to your community and it is vitally important that you are always in control of your dog.

The SPCA urges dog owners to be aware of their responsibilities to their pets, and to make every effort to meet these responsibilities. Keeping your dog leashed, keeps others and your dog out of harm’s way.

Yours sincerely,

Corinne Fong (Ms)
Executive Director