

# ***SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS***



**4 September 2014**

To: The Editor

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article “Dog barking controversy: 5 things about the procedure” by Shea Driscoll (*The Straits Times*, August 29, 2014) and would like to comment on the third point, “Advocates say debarking a dog may save its life”.

The SPCA strongly advises dog owners against debarking, as a quick fix to stop the barking habit, without first having addressed the underlying issues.

The SPCA affirms too the views of Bai Wanrui in her letter published today, “Promote tolerance instead” (Sept 4, 2014).

The SPCA also agrees with Dr V Subramaniam (“Debarking shouldn’t even be considered”, Sept 4, 2014, online) and V Balu (“HDB should have consulted animal experts first”, Sept 4, 2014, online).

Resorting to removing a dog’s vocal cords, merely to curb a “nuisance” habit, is not humane. The SPCA advises that the animal’s welfare be given top priority, with obedience training by a reputable trainer and/or behaviour enrichment being strongly recommended in dealing with a chronic barking problem.

Yours sincerely,

***Corinne Fong (Ms.)***

***Executive Director***

***Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Singapore***