

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



**7 July 2014**

To: The Editor

I refer to the article “Islandwide plan to sterilise stray cats” published in today’s edition of The Straits Times, Home section.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) definitely affirms the national effort to reduce the number of stray cats by sterilising/neutering them humanely. This is certainly justified and timely, considering the still sizeable number of stray (or more aptly termed as “community”) cats out on the streets. Ultimately, it is sterilisation that offers the most effective and humane means of keeping the community animal population in check.

On this note, we would like to assure readers and donors alike that our existing voucher programme will go on, as it has for the last twenty-three years. We have, since 1991, distributed over 30,000 free sterilisation vouchers to the public, making it possible for community animals to be sterilised at participating veterinary clinics islandwide. The cost is borne by the SPCA and currently a monthly budget exceeding S\$5,500 is set aside specifically for this. We would like to direct our readers to this address from SPCA Singapore’s website, detailing this scheme that we already have in place:  
[http://www.sPCA.org.sg/services\\_sterilisation.asp](http://www.sPCA.org.sg/services_sterilisation.asp)

We would like to also clarify that this scheme is expressly for the sterilisation of community animals. We are unable to provide treatment/surgery for companion, or pet, animals with this focus in mind, and encourage pet owners to take their pets to private clinics for the necessary sterilisation. In keeping with the principles of responsible pet ownership, we urge strongly all pet owners, too, to help curtail the growth of Singapore’s unwanted animal population. Pet owners can also take heart in their sterilised pets being typically healthier and less prone to illnesses.

The humane sterilisation of our community animals would certainly go a long way in creating a more harmonious living environment for all of us, and SPCA Singapore welcomes the return of this much needed programme on a national scale. We also applaud the programme implementation by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) and the Cat Welfare Society, and would be happy to render any other form of support, in any way we can.

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