

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England)



FRIENDS for LIFE

12 September 2012

Dear Sirs,

I welcome Mr Ng Chee Kheon's letter to the ST Online Forum ("Screen Pilot Project for Rehoming Dogs Carefully", September 12, 2012) as an opportunity to address his concerns about Project ADORE.

The SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and the ASD (Action for Singapore Dogs) are the two animal welfare groups selected to jointly spearhead a 1-year pilot project for rehoming our local mixed breeds, called project ADORE. Both organizations worked very closely to come up with the parameters and implementation details to rehome our Singapore Specials (local mixed breeds) to HDB flats, which we then presented to the Ministry of National Development in late 2011. Many months and meetings later, HDB, AVA and MMD gave SPCA and ASD the green light to launch this project in April this year.

Be assured that we follow strict conditions and criteria –

- to rehome dogs of medium size;
- to ensure that adoptors are properly screened and counselled,
- they comply with strict dog ownership conditions; and
- to maintain a register of adoptors and to inform MND, AVA, HDB and the Constituency Director of each adoption in a timely manner

We do recognize the high density living conditions of HDB home owners, and take pains to ensure the right-sized mixed breed are adopted to persons living in HDB flats. It is timely to inform the public that the adoptors must be ready to adhere to our rules as he or she must enrol (and pay for) compulsory basic obedience training classes together with the adopted pet, and sign a declaration to observe the Code of Responsible Conduct (CORB). One of the conditions in the CORB, coincidentally, is to take the stairs (where practical) if the lift is full or wait for the next empty lift.

The CORB also ensures that the owners take into account the sensitivities of the neighbours, the environment and the proper dog handling techniques as well.

Mr Ng alluded to dogs "that are not well-groomed or diseased, regardless of whether the diseases are contagious". I wish to assure the public that all our dogs go through thorough health check up, are vaccinated, sterilized and microchipped before they are adopted.

All of this, on top of the adoption fees to be shelled out. If any of the rules are not met, the dog is taken back. It is heartening to know there are generous people who are willing to work with the conditions laid before them, and to adopt our Singapore Specials.

To date, since the launch of this project in April, both animal welfare organizations have so far re-homed less than 10 mixed breeds due to our strict screening process. I hope I have demonstrated our intent to make this project work, and allayed your apprehensions, Mr Ng.

Corinne Fong
Executive Director
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Ricky Yeo
President
Action For Singapore Dogs

