

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



22 February 2013

Dear Sirs,

## Owners, cherish the leash

We refer to the recent unfortunate road accident involving a taxi and a pet dog. Our hearts go out to Mr Toh Meng Teck for the loss of his beloved pet, Lucky the Chihuahua (“Is My Life Worth Less Than A Dog?” TNP, Feb 18; “Pet Owner Denies Being Part of the Assault on Cabby” TST, Feb 19; “Cabby Who Ran Over Dog Complains Against Owner” TST, Feb 20).

If you love your dog, keep him safe on a leash whenever you leave the house with him. Don’t let him run free, even if your dog has been trained to obey commands; don’t assume he will walk at heel with you down the street or in the park; don’t be complacent to believe that your dog, no matter how trained, is safe on the roads. There are often countless distractions in our surroundings and factors beyond our control.

Using a leash helps reduce and protect your dog from harm and dangers such as:

- Getting involved in a road accident
- Getting into fights with other animals
- Getting into unnecessary conflicts with passers-by

While leashes may not be 100% fail-proof, we can do our part in making sure our dogs are as safe as possible, while also respecting others who might not be comfortable with dogs. Using the leash appropriately is the most efficient way of doing so.

Corinne Fong  
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