

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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



FRIENDS for LIFE

24th May 2008

Forum Page
Strait Times

I REFER to the online letter by Mr Tan Tuan Khoon, “Remarks light-hearted and responsible” (May 16), on the subject of stray cats in relation to recent comments made by radio DJs.

It is incorrect to assume that feeding stray cats is cruel: The real cruelty would be condoning the starvation of helpless animals. We may be living in a highly urbanised city but a solution to the problem of stray cats would not be found through starving them.

The writer does not appear to have a proper understanding of the issue and his erroneous statements seem to illustrate this. The SPCA thanks Ms Siau Li Chao for writing to the forum, 'To err is human, not animal' (Wednesday), to clarify and to put the debate in perspective.

There will always be insensitive remarks by those who have a dislike for stray cats, but these remarks are not constructive, nor do they contribute to solving the issue. Highlighting stray cats as a 'nuisance' problem and suggesting that people be fined for feeding strays will not foster good relations among the community. In light of the recent cases involving cat abuse where several cats were killed, it is not responsible to emphasise personal or biased views which influence the masses.

Only with the Government and community combining efforts to reduce the stray cat population, and using humane measures like sterilisation, can we hope to see a marked improvement.

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