

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



25 December 2014

The Editor
Voices Page
TODAY

Dear Sir,

I refer to Wong Soon Heng's letter, "Bukit Batok rat problem started with the dogs" (19 Dec), in response to the report, "Rats infest mound near Bukit Batok MRT Station" (18 Dec), and to the report "Extermination of rats at Bukit Batok to take up to a week" (19 Dec).

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) wishes to dispute the notion that the community dogs are ultimately responsible for the rodent infestation in the area. Many a time, it has been observed that members of the public have been casually feeding the dogs, without actually cleaning up leftover food. There is already a core group of community feeders (and caregivers tending to the dogs' basic nutritional needs and care) who would be happy to help in resolving any issue concerning the dogs.

We must recognise that the community dogs have no place to go and, while the SPCA and the other animal welfare groups have tried their best to house them, they have space and resource constraints.

For the record, the SPCA does not round up healthy animals from the streets, unless they are injured, ill and/or distressed.

In light of this issue which has brought to the fore differing viewpoints, understandably, the SPCA would ask for tolerance in respect of community animals that share this environment with us. A little more empathy, too, will go a long way.

Yours sincerely,

Corinne Fong (Ms.)
Executive Director
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Singapore