



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Judge rules in favour of the SPCA

Singapore, 24 July 2013 – The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) successfully defended itself in a suit earlier this year, when a Judge threw out a suit that began in August last year.

In July 2012, the SPCA responded to a call from a member of the public regarding an Alaskan Husky that was tied to a tree in the neighbourhood of Yio Chu Kang. The public living in a condominium estate nearby informed that they believed the male Husky pup belonged to a neighbour. Upon receiving this information, the Animal Rescue Officer involved left a note at the alleged owner's home, informing the owner to contact the SPCA if they had indeed lost their pet.

After three weeks and several failed attempts to contact the owner, the SPCA fostered the then 6-month old Husky to another family. A week later, the alleged owner Ms Yang contacted the SPCA to claim the Husky. However, she was not able to properly explain why the dog was tied to the tree twice on the same night and how it had gotten there. The matter was further complicated when Ms Yang initially claimed in telephone conversations that she owned a Maltese and not a Husky, and that the Husky had belonged to her friend. In addition, she was also unable to provide reasonable explanation as to why it took her almost four weeks to contact the SPCA to claim her pet or make a lost pet report. As Ms Yang was unable to validate the ownership of the Husky, the SPCA refused the release of the dog to her in the interest of the animal's welfare.

Ms Yang then initiated legal proceedings against the SPCA for wrongfully detaining the Husky, and for causing her financial loss, damage and infliction of emotional distress, claiming that the Husky was purchased as an investment and was meant to be used as a show dog.

After ten months and two mediation sessions which Ms Yang failed to turn up for, the Judge threw out this case in June 2013, and ordered Ms Yang to pay the SPCA for legal costs, including the upkeep and maintenance of the Husky.

After being in the SPCA's custody for over ten months, the Husky, now one and-a-half years old, was subsequently reunited with his fosterer who has since adopted him in June 2013.

– End –

For more information, please contact:

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About *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)*

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is the first registered animal welfare charity in Singapore. The two main objectives of the SPCA are to promote kindness to animals and to prevent cruelty to animals. The SPCA relies solely on donations from the public and fundraising. The various animal welfare services to the community which the SPCA provides include a 24-hour emergency service, cruelty investigation, a sterilisation voucher programme for strays, an animal shelter for abused and abandoned pets and strays, and advocacy and education. For more information, visit <http://www.sPCA.org.sg>

Note: Photo below is provided for press use and to be attributed to the SPCA Singapore.

Caption: The Husky at six months old when it was rescued by the SPCA in August 2012 and placed in foster care.

