



# NEWS RELEASE

## SPCA's Sterilisation Voucher Programme to Cease

**Singapore, 27 December 2018** – 27 years after launching the sterilisation voucher programme for both cats and dogs, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) will soon be ceasing the distribution of vouchers as they are embarking on the nationwide Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM) programme for stray dogs, with the sterilisation of community cats remaining under the Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme (SCSP). The last date a sterilisation voucher can be utilised is on 31 December 2018 (Monday).

With the recent launch of the TNRM programme for dogs, funded by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), the sterilisation of stray dogs will now fall under this scheme. The TNRM programme aims to sterilise more than 70% of stray dogs within the next five years, to stabilise the population before it begins to decrease. To sterilise a dog under this programme, members of the public or community caregivers can contact a participating animal welfare group, including the SPCA, for further details.

When the voucher programme first started in 1991, SPCA was taking in an average of more than 1,200 animals a month. From 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the shelter took in about 150 animals a month. These numbers indicate a long-term positive effect of the sterilisation programme. The SPCA has always advocated for humane population management and the sterilisation voucher programme was started in 1991 to help community animal caregivers and rescuers with sterilisation costs. The organisation has distributed more than 35,000 vouchers over the years, totalling approximately \$1.4 million in cat and dog sterilisation costs borne by the SPCA. Working together with veterinary partners, caregivers and animal welfare groups, the scheme has kept populations in check and saved countless lives.

SPCA's Executive Director, Dr. Jaipal Singh Gill, said, "We are grateful to those who have supported us since the start of the sterilisation voucher programme, including our

donors, veterinary partners and animal caregivers. We would like to thank the community caregivers, for their incredible efforts in helping to humanely manage the community dog and cat populations in Singapore. The animal rescue and caregiving work carried out by these individuals is often under-appreciated, but is extremely vital in helping improve the welfare and saving the lives of these animals.”

The SPCA will continue to provide support for those working to improve the welfare of the animals in the community.

For more information about sterilisation of community animals at SPCA, please visit: [http://www.spca.org.sg/services\\_sterilisation.asp](http://www.spca.org.sg/services_sterilisation.asp).

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

The SPCA is a registered animal welfare charity and its two main objectives are to promote kindness to animals and to prevent cruelty to animals. Relying mainly on donations from the public and fundraising, the Society provides various animal welfare services including a 24-hour emergency service, cruelty investigation, an adoption programme, an education programme for schools and organisations, a sterilisation programme for community animals, running an animal shelter and supporting quarantine for unwanted, abused and abandoned animals. For more information, visit <http://www.spca.org.sg>.