



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SPCA implements Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme

Singapore, 26 May 2015 – The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) will be implementing the Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme on 1 June 2015. First launched formally in 2011 by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), this new collaborative venture between the SPCA and AVA aims to further reduce the number of stray cats in Housing and Development Board (HDB) estates.

Under the stray cat sterilisation programme, caregivers will have to register with the SPCA clinic to book an appointment to have a community cat sterilised and microchipped, or at a participating veterinary clinic, for free. The AVA and SPCA will fund the costs of sterilisation and microchipping equally.

Community cats living beyond the confines of HDB neighbourhoods, such as those in industrial and private housing estates, or farms and outer fringe areas, can be sterilised for a nominal sum of \$25 each. In addition, the SPCA will be training its volunteers and mediators to work with community feeders in the areas of encouraging sterilisation, responsible feeding and public education.

The stray cat sterilisation programme will replace SPCA's existing sterilisation voucher scheme which came into effect in 1991. Under the scheme, the SPCA has distributed over 33,000 free sterilisation vouchers to the public and other animal welfare groups, totalling S\$1.2million borne by the SPCA. "The new programme offers the SPCA the opportunity to work closely with community cat feeders in their trap-neuter-release efforts," said Corinne Fong, Executive Director of the SPCA. "With the authorities and animal welfare groups collaborating, the goal is to streamline our sterilisation efforts to better serve the community."

Community feeders often act as adoptive parents, in the sense of providing food, shelter and medicine for strays. Ms Esah Bte Abdullah, a caregiver in the east, has helped trapped and sterilise close to 100 cats, over the past five years. "There's been a visible decrease in stray cat population in my area. Through SPCA's sterilisation scheme, I am able to get involved and help other like-minded people."

In addition to the stray cat sterilisation programme, the SPCA will continue to assist community dog feeders with controlling and managing the stray dog numbers. Individual feeders and rescuers can arrange to sterilise and microchip the dogs at the SPCA clinic at a subsidised rate of \$25 each.

For more information on the stray cat sterilisation programme, please visit (<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>