

# +SPCA Bulletin

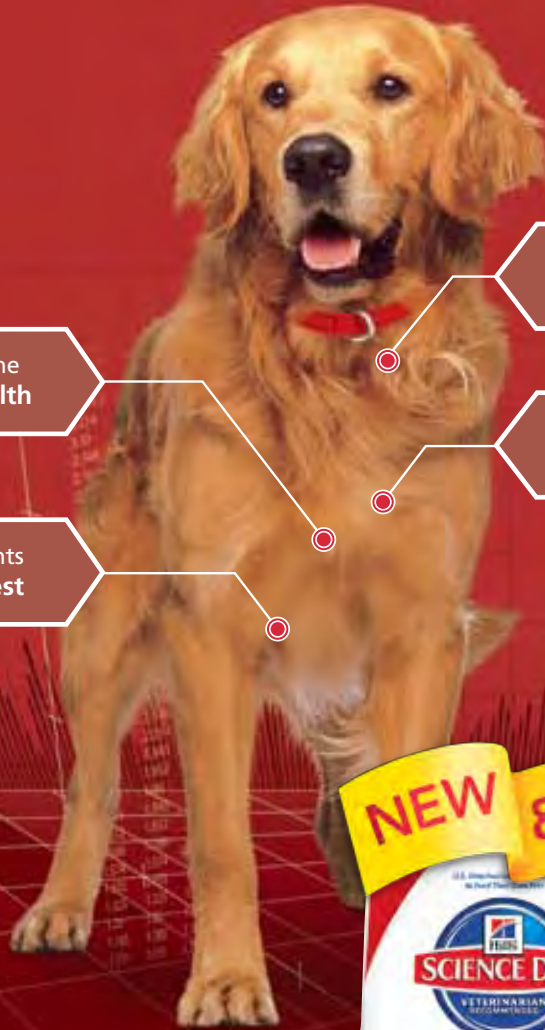
JAN11: A TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE  
PUPPY MILL CAMPAIGN  
COMMON SKIN DISEASES



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# SPCA BULLETIN

JANUARY 2011

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We welcome contributions to the SPCA Bulletin. Send them to the Editor, no later than 31st May, 2011. The next issue is due August 2011.

The articles published are views of the writers and may not necessarily be the views of the SPCA.

SPCA (In Association with RSPCA, England)  
Registered Office:  
31 Mount Vernon Road, Singapore 368054.  
Tel: 6287 5355  
Fax: 6382 4162  
Web: [www.sPCA.org.sg](http://www.sPCA.org.sg)

Cover Layout – Dollah Jaafar  
Assistant Editor – Jo Kent

# SPCABULLETIN

JANUARY 2011

## editorial



Our cover story this issue focuses on our joint puppy mill campaign, launched in early October. Our efforts to step up public education on this issue and increase awareness on the mistreatment of dogs continue to be a priority. You can read more on page 4.

It was a sad day last August when I learnt of the death of SPCA Singapore's co-founder, Mrs Marjorie Doggett. Her dedication to animal welfare was immeasurable and her pioneering spirit indomitable. We pay tribute to her in this issue of the Bulletin, for her role in the birth of our SPCA.

Our animal abuse cases increased in 2010 and there was much outcry over the beating of Butters and the killing of the little Pomeranian, a case that remains unsolved. Turn to page 8 to learn more about our recent cases.

For those keen to learn more about skin conditions affecting dogs, a veterinarian, Dr Simon Quek has contributed an article, Common Skin Diseases, on page 13.

In December, we heard the tragic news of the death of two dolphins housed in Langkawi Island, Malaysia. These were part of a bigger group destined for the planned Marine Life Park at Resorts World Sentosa. SPCA voiced its views strongly in the press – we are against the importation of wild caught dolphins for the purpose of public entertainment. *Is Captivity so Captivating?* on page 25 reflects on the human impulse to remove these wild animals from their natural habitat and completely transform their lifestyle and behavior — a cruel process indeed.

It is always a joy to hear news of our adopted animals and their new lives in loving homes. *Pet Lovers Write* on page 28 highlights a few of our pets that have been so fortunate.

The Lunar Year of the Rabbit has arrived and our message continues to be “adopt, don't buy”. We hope it will be a happy year for rabbits, with less of these furry friends being bought on impulse, mistreated or abandoned.

I wish you all happy times ahead. Thank you for your support.

*Deirdre Ross*



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# SPCA and animal welfare groups launch puppy mill campaign

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**O**n 10 October 2010, the SPCA joined forces with other animal welfare groups in Singapore – Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES), Action for Singapore Dogs (ASD), Animal Lovers League, Cat Welfare Society, House Rabbit Society of Singapore and Noah's Ark CARES – to celebrate World Animal Day and raise awareness about puppy mills in Singapore (See page 20).

Following this, the SPCA together with the other animal welfare groups conducted an undercover survey of pet shops and pet farms selling puppies in Singapore. The main focus of the survey was to see if shop attendants were giving good pet care and licensing advice, whether buyers were allowed to see or obtain information about the puppy's parents and to check the general living conditions of the animals.

## Living condition

Welfare concerns were found in 19 shops and farms out of a total of 36 surveyed. The main problems were improper flooring (wire mesh floors without suitable mats), small cages and generally unhygienic conditions. These cases have been referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) for follow-up action.

## Licensing

Although the AVA requires pet owners to get their dogs licensed, only 67 per cent of shops surveyed said that they would help with licensing, while all pet farms declined to assist.

## Pet care

Puppies have special feeding requirements based on their age, but shop and farm attendants seemed unaware of this. In fact, all of them said that it was sufficient to feed puppies ranging between two and five months old twice a day. Rather worryingly, 92 per cent of the 36 shops and farms surveyed clearly said that it was acceptable to keep the puppies in cages and 69 per cent said that it was not necessary to spend a lot of time with the puppy. If shops selling puppies are not capable of giving the right advice to buyers, how will new owners take care of a puppy?



## Details on puppy's parents

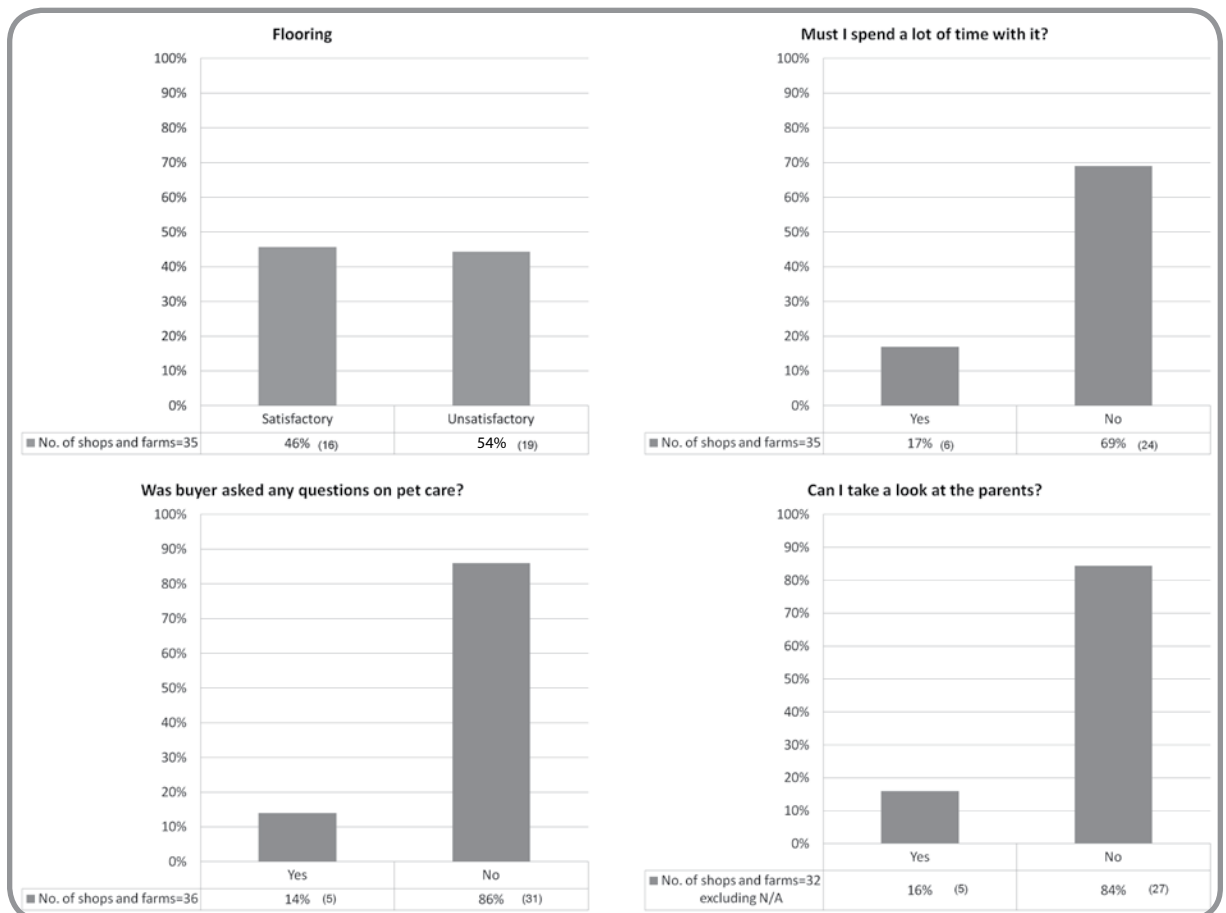
When asked if they would give details about the puppies' parents, one attendant said 'If you can find another pet farm which allows you to see the parents, the pup [he was selling] is free'. Sellers are capable of making such statements confidently, knowing that a lack of transparency in this industry is normal and accepted.

With so many dogs abandoned each year, the SPCA hopes to educate potential buyers about the reality of buying a puppy and encourage them to adopt a pet instead. Potential dog owners should carry out their own research (reading books or on the internet, asking friends who own pets) before deciding to invest in a pet, which is a lifetime commitment. The SPCA has always been concerned about the lack of education at the point of sale in many commercial outlets, and cautions the public on buying animals from them, if sufficient or adequate information on the animals is not forthcoming when making enquiries.



Our survey has illustrated that there is still a long way to go before the right information and advice is conveyed to potential owners purchasing puppies. And it is a case of buyer beware! We will continue to work closely with the AVA to bring about improved conditions for the animals in commercial establishments, in addition to highlighting the need for higher standards in terms of animal care knowledge.

For more information about the campaign and for the complete survey results, visit our campaign website at





*Cubby, male, 1.5 years: Smart and lively, Cubby is super trainable, loving and a lifelong companion.*



*Guinness, male, 4 years: He is extremely intelligent, socialises well. A good pet for an active family!*



*Cricket, male, 9 years: Gentle and loving with a sweet streak a mile wide, Cricket is a devoted dog.*



*Ida, female, 5 years: She enjoys being with people and would make an excellent family pet.*



*Fat Kat, male, 6 years: Fat Kat is a quiet cat that enjoys sitting near you, nudging your face and purring into you.*



*Pinky, female, 3 years: Pinky enjoys quiet moments on her own by the window overlooking the scenery.*



*Lucius, male, 5.5 years: Proud and beautiful, Lucius is a grown up cat who likes the quiet life.*



*Tom Yam, female, 1 year: Tom Yam looks gorgeous! She's a x-Lion Head and a very stunning one indeed!*



*Hamsters: We have some really adorable and friendly hamsters. Come take a look at them!*

# Adopt-a-Pet



One of these animals you're looking at could be your best friend. Each of them is looking for a loving home.

When you decide to bring a pet into your life, pay us a visit and give these abandoned animals a chance – for every SPCA animal that gets adopted, another one has a chance to take its place.

Note: The dogs are not HDB approved. Adoption is free, but you pay for the compulsory medical costs (that include sterilisation and vaccination), micro-chipping and licensing (dogs).

Some of these animals may have been adopted by the time you read this. Please call us at 6287 5355 ext. 24 to find out more or log on to [www.sPCA.org.sg](http://www.sPCA.org.sg) to check out the rest of our animals.



Over the past few months, our Inspectors have been kept very busy investigating the many reports of alleged cruelty received by the SPCA. We highlight a few of the cases here.

### **Unsuitable cage used to house Retriever puppy**

On 6 September, the SPCA received a report of a puppy being kept constantly in a cage. On arrival at the apartment, our Inspectors were shocked to see a Golden Retriever puppy, around six months of age, squeezed into a 1.5 metre cage (similar to ones used to house rabbits). The pup was unable to stand or even sit without having to crouch. The Inspectors spent one hour talking to the owners, impressing upon them the need to keep the dog in a bigger area. As there was no cooperation from the owners, the case was referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) for further investigation. The SPCA was later informed that the dog had been given away.

### **Guinea pigs abandoned**

On 20 September, two guinea pigs were found by a member of the public. A witness at the scene told our staff that she had witnessed her neighbour carrying the cage containing animals and abandoning them at the



basement of the block. The case was referred to the AVA for further investigation and necessary action. The guinea pigs, which were diagnosed with a skin condition, were treated and later adopted.

### **Poor conditions for Labrador puppy**

On 26 October, it was reported that a Labrador puppy was being kept on a balcony with no shelter and in a dirty environment. On investigating, our Inspectors observed that the puppy was exposed to the rain and sun. The balcony was littered with dog poo and some rotting food, producing an unbearable stench. Flies surrounded the area. The owners were advised on the proper care of the dog and given information on dog care. On a follow-up visit several days later, improvements had been made. We will continue to follow up on this case.

### **Rabbit found in neglected state**



On 12 November, the SPCA received a call from the Bukit Panjang Neighbourhood Police Centre regarding a rabbit which was suspected of being abused by its owners. On arrival at the scene, the SPCA Inspector found the rabbit in a cage in a corridor of the HDB block. It was in a severely neglected state and had matted fur. The case was referred to the AVA for further investigation.

### **Two dogs abandoned**



On 13 November, a member of the public found two dogs in the vicinity of Upper Changi Road. They were believed to be abandoned and were in an extremely neglected state. No microchip could be detected on either of the animals. The Maltese and Miniature Schnauzer were estimated to be around 10 years old. They were immediately sent to a groomer as their extensively matted fur was hindering their movement and vision. Sadly, the Maltese died before we could find him a home. The Schnauzer Prince (above on the left) has found a loving home.

#### **Rubber band found on cat's testicles**

A cat was found at Block 60 Marine Drive in November with a rubber band tied tightly around its testicles. After we were notified by the caller, our Animal Rescue Officer picked up the animal and brought it straight to our duty veterinarian. The rubber band was removed. The SPCA distributed flyers requesting any information that may lead to the perpetrator but no leads were forthcoming. The cat was sterilised and released.

#### **Pomeranian case still unsolved**

The case of the little Pomeranian dog being beaten to death at Compassvale Link on 18 August remains unsolved. Although there had been what looked like promising leads since that time, they have unfortunately come to nought. That a crime like this was witnessed by more than a few people but no one has come forward



with information is very upsetting to say the least. The SPCA is still hoping that one day this case will be solved.

#### **Cat thrown down**

On 28 December, an eight-year-old boy allegedly threw a cat from the 6th floor of a block of flats in Jurong West. The cat died from its injuries the next day. A police report was lodged by the SPCA and the case is currently under police investigation. An official post mortem is being carried out by the AVA.

#### **Terrapin thrown down into swimming pool by 10-year-old boy**

The SPCA received a report from a member of the public that a young boy had thrown a Terrapin (Red-Eared Slider) into a swimming pool from the 21st storey of a block of flats. The animal died on impact. The police had also been notified by the complainant. Following the police investigation, a stern warning was issued.

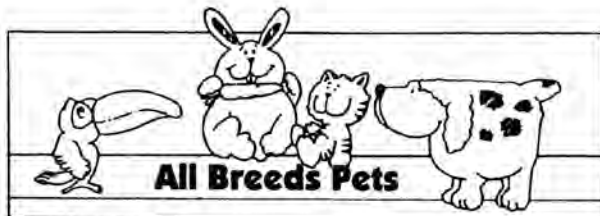
#### **Dog found dead at Ang Mo Kio**



A terrier-type dog was found dead at the void deck of Block 415 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10 on 26 December. The SPCA was notified by the police and sent an officer straight to the scene.

Following a preliminary veterinary examination, the body of the dog was sent to the AVA for an official post mortem to establish the possible cause of death. We also informed the press and printed flyers requesting information. These were sent to the Town Council and were put up on notice boards in the vicinity, and more were distributed in the neighbourhood by our volunteers. Although there were initial leads which were pointing to the mystery being solved, the owner has not been found.

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# animal welfare issues

## SPCA says 'No' to dolphins at Resorts World Sentosa

It was reported on 18 December that in October 2010, two of the seven bottle-nosed dolphins destined for Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) had died from an acute bacterial infection. They had been held at Langkawi Island, Malaysia. Although RWS claims that the remaining five are in good condition, it is noteworthy that the two dolphins that died had also previously been reported as being in 'perfect health'. Dolphins are known to be very intelligent animals with an impressive level of emotional capacity. What escapes many people is that dolphins, being very sensitive animals, suffer greatly during capture and captivity. RWS states on its website that it is committed to marine conservation, but catching dolphins in the wild and forcing them into a life of captivity goes against this very ideal.



The death of these beautiful creatures has clearly reignited opposition to holding dolphins in captivity, and not without reason. In a country like Singapore, which has laws in place prohibiting the taking of animals from the wild, it is extremely disappointing that we can accept the importation of these wild-caught dolphins for the purpose of forcing them to adapt to an unnatural lifestyle in RWS's Marine Life Park attraction.

RWS has to act before it is too late, and rethink its decision before more deaths occur. Deirdre Moss, Executive Director of the SPCA, asks 'If RWS could change its stand on whale sharks, why couldn't they on dolphins?'

The SPCA wrote to Today and The Straits Times on 10 January reiterating its stand. Read the letters at [www.sPCA.org.sg/letter.html](http://www.sPCA.org.sg/letter.html).

## Bunnies crushed to death in videos

'Crush fetish' videos circulating on the internet have shocked animal lovers worldwide. These crush videos, originating in China, show young attractive women cuddling and playing with the bunnies before crushing them. They heartlessly crush the rabbits to death in extremely brutal ways – by sitting on them and crushing them using high heels.

Such sadistic videos clearly unveil the ruthless, barbaric nature not only of the people who produce them, but also of those who create the market for them.

Efforts by angry netizens to track these women down led to one of them turning herself in. Press reports that followed have revealed that she was hired by an abuse-fetish group that makes these senseless and cruel videos and sells them to overseas online video companies.

These crush videos have been officially banned in the USA and many other countries. The SPCA has written to China's ambassadors to Singapore, and the United Nations, requesting that the production, sale and distribution of such videos be banned.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare in Beijing has also called on the internet supervision authorities



to delete all these videos. It is hoped that legislation protecting animals from cruel acts will soon be put in place in China.

### Animal Experimentation

It was announced in the press in December that a study was being carried out on building a facility to breed large animals like pigs and monkeys, for scientists to test advances on. The SPCA wrote to the Straits Times Forum page to express its grave concern whilst emphasising the importance of there being more efforts made to reduce, refine and replace animals in experiments instead of expanding the scope for animal research. Read more at [www.sPCA.org.sg/letters.html](http://www.sPCA.org.sg/letters.html)

### How far will you go to enjoy fresh seafood?

All of us who enjoy seafood would probably agree that fresh is best but does this mean we should go as far as scaling a fish while it is still twitching or steaming a live crab? These cruel practices are fuelled by the misconception that the meat will be fresher and tastier

if the animal is alive up till the point of being cooked and in some cases being served. However, in reality, the stress induced by the scaling/steaming causes an increase in adrenaline that actually reduces the quality of the meat.

The most humane way to slaughter an animal is to spike the brain with a sharp instrument. It is similar to the captive-bolt gun used in abattoirs to stun large animals like cattle, goats, sheep and pigs. The sharp-tipped instrument aimed at the brain causes instantaneous death. The shortened stress period and minimal adrenaline is said to maximise the meat quality. For animals too small to spike (prawns, lobsters, crayfish), the most humane method is to lower the environment temperature (for example by putting the creatures in the fridge). This puts them into a state of hibernation, after which they can be killed and cooked.

Educating chefs and the public is vital in raising awareness and ending this cruelty.

### 2011 – Lunar Year of the Rabbit

*Anticipating a surge in buying of pet rabbits during the Year of the Rabbit, the House Rabbit Society of Singapore (HRSS) and SPCA sent a joint press release to the media on 7 December to urge people not to buy a rabbit. Both organisations were also interviewed by Mediacorp News Radio 938 on this issue. As it is, there are hundreds of bunnies abandoned and taken in by the SPCA every year (SPCA receives approximately 50 each month), some of them in a neglected state. Both groups have followed up with the production of an educational poster which the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has endorsed and forwarded to all pet shops for display.*

**DON'T BUY a rabbit  
just because  
it's the Year of the Rabbit**  
兔年别乱买兔子



A rabbit is a **10-year commitment**.  
Please think twice before you buy.

购买兔子是一项10年的承诺和义务。  
在购买前请务必三思。



# SPCA to the rescue!

**A** total of 7,597 animals were taken in by the SPCA in 2010. Although the figures for cats and dogs were slightly lower, there was a 40 per cent increase in the number of hamsters received compared to the previous year – from 403 to 565. These hamsters were given up or abandoned. 1,058 lost dogs were received with 483 (45 per cent) being claimed back by their owners.

Our emergency rescue service attended to a total of 3,068 calls representing a 14 per cent increase from the year before.

The following are just a few rescues we have done in the past few months:

\*Two birds of prey, a Crested Serpent Eagle and a Changeable Hawk Eagle were picked up in separate cases by our Animal Rescue Officers following reports received from the public that the birds were in distress. Both birds were in a severely dehydrated state and sent to Jurong Bird Park. The Changeable Hawk Eagle, which was found in a dazed state outside a classroom at a kindergarten in Gangsa Road was treated for minor cuts and a wound on the talons. Following their treatment and recovery at the Bird Park, they were released on 19 November at Lim Chu Kang area.



*Pictures courtesy of Wildlife Reserves Singapore*

\* A mynah bird was entangled in a string up a tree at Boon Lay Way. Following a call from a concerned member of public, SPCA rescue staff attended the case, cutting the string and freeing the bird, which flew away shortly after.



\* A cat with a fishing hook embedded in its mouth was rescued by the SPCA from Pasir Ris Drive fishing pond. Following surgery to remove the hook, it was sterilised and released.

\* A kitten was stuck on a tree for a few days at Bedok South Ave 1. SPCA rescue staff made three attempts but could not reach it. A cherry picker was employed to bring the kitten down and it was rescued successfully. The caller reporting the case claimed the kitten.



# common skin diseases

**S**kin problems are one of the most common diseases encountered by a general veterinary practitioner. The skin is the largest organ of the body. It covers almost all of an animal's body, protecting it from the external environment. Any external insult would have to pass through the skin's defences first before making its way into the body. Occasionally, external insults do penetrate the skin and give rise to skin diseases.

Allergies make up a large portion of the cases seen in practice. The general mindset of most owners is that their dog has food allergies. They are always quick to blame the diet. However, environmental allergies and even flea bite allergies occur more frequently than food allergies.

Allergy is the hypersensitivity of the body's immune system to seemingly harmless allergens in the environment. The most common allergen for dogs in Singapore is house dust mites. Pollen allergy is also common in Singapore, particularly grasses and the oil palm tree.

Sizing up an allergic patient requires a good history from the owner. Information such as previous response to steroids and antibiotics would help in the diagnosis. There is no diagnostic test for allergies. Hence a systematic trial and elimination process is required to identify the allergies. Most owners usually bring their pets to the vets only when they are sick or if the skin problem gets too severe for them to handle. With allergies, I usually like to see the animal when it is doing well. This gives me a clue that a drug or treatment is working and helps with identifying the allergy.

Steroids, antibiotics, antifungals and antihistamines are usually used to treat infections associated with allergies. As allergy is an incurable disease, good owner compliance is required. A multi-centric approach is used to manage allergies, such as reducing exposure to allergens, skin barrier protectants, shampoos, conditioners, omega oil supplements and sometimes even alternative medicine such as traditional Chinese medicine.

Heat rash, moist dermatitis and Schnauzer bumps are some of the names given to the 'pimples' and bumps that we see on our dogs' skin. These are caused by external insults to the skin causing itching, which in turn



results in scratching and secondary bacterial infection or even secondary fungal infection. External factors may include environmental allergens, contact allergens, warm weather and humidity or even procedures that may cause irritation to the skin such as grooming.

A good history is again required to assess if the skin rash is a short-term or long-term problem. This helps to differentiate between a recurring allergy and a simple bacterial infection. These conditions are often treated with steroids, antibiotics and antifungals. Shampoos with antiseptic properties are helpful in reducing the bacterial count on the skin to prevent recurrence. Omega oil supplements are used to help reduce skin inflammation.

Fleas, ticks and mites are some common parasites that cause skin problems. Ticks not only cause skin irritation with their bites, they also spread blood-borne diseases such as tick fever. In a tropical climate like Singapore's, it is impossible to completely eliminate the parasites from the environment. Flea bite allergy is common in Singapore. However, most owners I have met swear that they never see fleas. Unfortunately, even some vets deny their existence and their potential to cause allergies. The owners are only convinced of the flea problem after we have confirmed the flea bite allergy.

Fleas are also very difficult to eliminate from the environment. Their eggs are resistant to drying and they only stop reproducing at temperatures below 17 degrees Celsius. Due to our large stray cat population, the flea life-cycle persists in the environment. Prevention is the best form of control and there are many different products on the market that can be used. Beware of some pet shop ectoparasite medications, as they can cause seizures when applied. Check with your vet about which products are safe for your pet.

Hormonal skin problems are also commonly seen in private practice. The common hormonal diseases that cause skin problems are hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism. Hypothyroidism is the inadequate production of the thyroid hormone. This usually only happens in dogs. This would lead to the slowing down of the metabolic rate, lethargy, thinning of fur and hair loss, particularly over the body and sides of the animal. A blood test is required to check the thyroid function of the dog. If thyroid production is inadequate, lifelong supplementation of thyroid hormone is required. Hyperadrenocorticism, also known as Cushing's disease, is the overproduction of a steroid hormone, cortisol,

by the body. This leads to increased appetite, thirst and urination. It also causes thinning of the skin and fur. It gives the animal a pot-bellied appearance. Blood tests are required to confirm the disease. When diagnosed, long-term medication is again required to control the amount of cortisol production. Long-term management of these hormonal diseases is usually fair to good.

I have seen people who think that their dogs get skin problems because they were sterilised. Others have even claimed that their dogs were menopausal, and hence had developed skin problems. This is not true. Dogs do not get menopausal because they do not have a 28-day cycle like human females. They only get a three-week spike of hormones when they are on heat and the rest of the time nothing happens. Hence they are not as reliant on sex hormones as humans are. Besides, sex hormone-deficient skin diseases are rare.

Skin diseases can be frustrating, and different skin problems may often look the same. It is important to have a systematic approach to identify and then manage these skin diseases.

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# in loving memory of Marjorie Doggett

*A personal tribute by Deirdre Moss*



I first met Marjorie in 1983 at an SPCA AGM when I was still a volunteer, but my memories of her that remain vivid are the occasions I spent in her home where she would be researching information from her vast collection of animal welfare literature to share with me. Her pets were always in close proximity and were very much part of the household. A person who enjoyed her smokes, she also delighted in relating her fond experiences meeting fellow activists when on a trip to the United States in the early days.

As a pioneer in the animal welfare arena in rural Singapore from the 1940s through to the 1970s, Marjorie lived her life, going out in the field to help animals in distress. She taught me a lot about how it was in those days, without resources but making do. I came to realise that it was a God-given privilege to be able to work closely with someone so dedicated and committed at the outset of my career with the SPCA.

We embarked on a 12-year working relationship when I asked if she could write a regular column for the SPCA Bulletin, launched in April 1984. And so Marjorie became a regular contributor, producing International News for our bi-annual

magazine for members and writing as a representative of the International Primate and Protection League, and Advisory Director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

She contributed countless articles covering a wide range of animal welfare issues, including the international wildlife trade, animal experimentation, animals in circuses, dolphins in captivity and responsible pet ownership. In general she focused on creating awareness about animal suffering, whether it was a dog, cat, gorilla or whale. Her letters to the Forum page in the Straits Times were direct and to the point, never straying from her passion to create awareness and highlight the injustices to animals universally.

Over the years, we often shared intimate moments on the telephone, grousing about the latest frustration that was hindering the cause. That was part and parcel of the life-long struggle which Marjorie, through her indomitable spirit, kept up until she was no longer physically able to.

In recent years on the occasions when I visited her, she eagerly listened to any news about the SPCA's work and future plans – always wanting to communicate and share her thoughts, with her own illness and discomfort taking a back seat.

On my last visit, as I settled near her on the bed, one of her 11 cats, Romulus, was massaging her body gently through the blankets with his paws. Another one was sitting at the foot of the bed enjoying his snooze. It was as if they were saying 'Marjorie, rest well – we are there for you, just like you were always there for us.'

She died on 15 August, the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven. This is a celebrated feast day in the Catholic Church calendar and to me has great significance. As Marjorie looks down on us from her place in heaven, I would call on us to not only reflect on this great loss of a dedicated soul, but to celebrate her fulfilling life being the voice of the voiceless.

# midge – a tribute

**I** have known Marjorie literally since I was born. She was the health visitor when I was a baby, and she and her husband Vic became the closest of friends to my parents. She was there all through my childhood in Singapore. She fully understood the ways of children, and was always tremendous fun to be with. I used to call her Auntie Marjorie as a child, as I grew up she was just Marjorie, who also fully understood the ways of adolescents and adults. Later, like many people, I came to call her, lovingly, Midge.

It was she that first made me aware of the plight of animals, particularly of those in laboratories. Her whole life was dedicated to the prevention of cruelty to animals in all its hideous forms. I remember her telling me that a teacher at school in England had first told her about the horrors of vivisection, and that set the pattern for the rest of her life. She never stopped doing everything in her power to end this useless abomination. She had seen things that would make most people vomit and turn away, and blank out what they had seen. Yet she never turned her back on the suffering, no matter what distress it caused her. She was concerned also with the transportation of animals, with zoos, with live animal markets, with blood sports, with strays that she frequently rescued, in fact with any situation in which an animal might be suffering.

Yet she was no dotty, sentimental animal lover. I know that she has disguised herself as a technician in order to get into laboratories to see what was going on. That takes a rare courage. It is so much more than signing an occasional petition, or sending a few bucks to charity. She was a true and selfless campaigner for the welfare of animals, every single day. Her work has earned her the respect and admiration of animal welfare campaigners worldwide.

Marjorie was also the most loyal friend anyone could ever have. She had that rare gift of really listening to what you said, and giving you her full attention. Her love extended to



people as well. She could understand people, with all their faults, without judgement, and do her best for them too. I should know. She has helped me immeasurably in my life, with her warmth and generosity, and I am sure there are many people who would say the same. She always welcomed me to her house, saying that it was my home in Singapore, and that I could come whenever I wished, and stay as long as I wanted. I have often shared my problems and grief with her, as well as my joys and triumphs, and I was privileged that she could also confide in me. She also had a wonderful sense of humour, and I have shared many laughs with her over the absurdities of life. To me she was a rare combination of being a second mother and a best friend, someone to trust who was always there for me.

*She had so many gifts apart from the gifts of selfless friendship and concern for all beings on the planet. She was a brilliant photographer, in an age when very few women were taken seriously as photographers, developing and printing her own photographs as well as taking them. She wrote an iconic book called Characters of Life on the historic buildings of Singapore. This book has inspired a number of people in Singapore to go into heritage work and conservation of buildings as a profession. It may be through her inspiration that there are still such buildings in Singapore, and Singapore should be grateful.*

*What a legacy she has left us to live up to. To care, and back it up with action; to give and not expect rewards or even appreciation; to do what is right, against all opposition.*

*Marjorie's was a life lived with integrity. She was a tiny, quiet, gentle, wise, truly great lady.*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*On 15 August 2010, SPCA Singapore's co-founder, Mrs Marjorie Doggett, passed away at the age of 89 years. Her pioneering spirit and immense passion for fighting animal cruelty and preventing animal suffering were an inspiration to generations that followed. We at the SPCA thank Marjorie for her dedication and commitment in helping animals in need and for being the voice of the voiceless.*



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# in and around SPCA

## Flag Day 2010 – You made it happen!

On our recent Flag Day (11 December 2010), we had more than 600 volunteers across the island helping us. With your help and donations, we raised a total of \$76,790 – thank you!

Let us also take this opportunity to share some wonderful stories from that day.



At the collection centre next to Tampines MRT Station, two long-lost friends bumped into each other and were reunited. One was a volunteer who came to take a tin from us and the other, her friend, came forward to donate, and voila! They found each other again after 10 years!

In the afternoon, a very kind emcee stepped forward and offered to make announcements about the SPCA's services and to encourage passersby to donate to us. He was promoting a Christmas road show at the nearby shopping mall. He raved that he's a huge animal lover and supporter of the SPCA!

Over at Goodwood Park Hotel, another of our collection points, an elderly volunteer stood out amongst the crowd. After seeing our appeal in a Chinese newspaper, the 79-year-old lady asked her daughter to volunteer with her. They came to the Goodwood Park Hotel to return their tins. The tins were so heavy that the elderly lady's arm was tired from carrying it – they had collected donations around Lavender Street. Volunteers and SPCA staff at the collection point were very touched that the lady had gone this distance despite her frailty, to help the animals.

Another inspiration was a 63-year-old volunteer who came forward to help. He cannot keep pets at home but he still wanted to find a way to help the SPCA. He also

expressed interest in helping us with our dog walking programme.

There were also about six dog owners who came with their pets to Goodwood Park Hotel to take a tin.



Whilst raising funds for our animals, the Flag Day opened our eyes to the hearts of many people, beautiful memories and touching stories.

We cannot thank you enough for making this a memorable occasion and hope you will join us again this year on 10 September.





### World Animal Day 2010

Last year, the SPCA joined forces with other animal welfare groups to celebrate World Animal Day on Sunday 10 October at East Coast Park. Hundreds of animal lovers (and their furry friends) joined us on a beautiful sunny day to celebrate animal life in all its forms. The event was a huge success. A big ‘thank you’ to all of you who came together to celebrate this important occasion in the animal calendar! Almost \$6,500 was raised from sales of our merchandise.

The fun kicked off with a parade of Harley-Davidson motorbikes to raise the profile of the event and our latest campaign ‘Stop cruelty in puppy mills. Adopt. don’t buy’. The rest of the day was filled with lots of activities like the ‘Happiest Pet’ contest, a dog obedience demonstration by the Singapore Kennel Club, a magic show by our magician Kunalen and a talk by Valerie from FuzzYard. The evening’s last performance by Smart Doggy’s highly energetic and interactive dog Frisbee show awed the entire crowd.



There was also a dog adoption drive at the event for both the SPCA and Action For Singapore Dogs (ASD). The



doggies all enjoyed a fun day out at the beach mingling and cuddling up to people. The adoption drive emphasised our goal of raising awareness of the poor conditions existing in puppy mills and encouraging people to think twice about buying an animal commercially.



As a show of solidarity, support and love for animals, the day ended with a mass walk of animal lovers and their four-legged friends around East Coast Park.

Here’s what some visitors had to say about the day:

‘Great event! Many friendly doggies roaming all over the place!’

‘Awesome event! Congratulations on the success, SPCA!’





With special acknowledgement to:

- Action for Singapore Dogs
- ACRES
- Animal Lovers League
- Benjamin + Squeaker
- Cat Welfare Society
- Dinesh Pasrasurum
- FuzzYard
- Feline Tattoo
- Hill's Science Diet
- House Rabbit Society of Singapore
- John Tan
- Mirage Event Management
- National Parks Board
- Noah's Ark CARES
- Pet's Magazine
- Richard Copping
- Singapore Kennel Club
- Sivakunalen Samuel
- Smartdoggy
- SMU PAWS
- SPCA Volunteers
- Tampines Junior College
- Victoria Junior College
- Warpigs (MC)

### **A visit by Utt**

We had a celebrity visitor in December - MTV VJ Utt. The super friendly and likeable star brought chocolates and biscuits for the volunteers and staff and made a donation for the animals. He spent quite a lot of time with the animals



and was a natural with them. He also spent his time talking to the volunteers that were on duty. Thank you, Utt for thinking of the SPCA and animals this holiday season.

### **The Naked Truth Dog care seminar**

The SPCA's Executive Director, Deirdre Moss, presented a paper 'What it really means to own a pet' at The Naked Truth Dog Care Seminar, organised by Addiction Foods on 30 October. The turnout was exceptional – around 200 participants came along to learn more about caring for their canine friends.

### **AVA RPO road show 2010**

The SPCA participated in the annual Responsible Pet Ownership road show organised by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority once again. Held at Singapore Expo, the event was a great success. Besides the booth set-up, our volunteers brought along their pets to meet the visitors. Our education team delivered four talks (one in Mandarin) at the well-attended event.



### **Asia for Animals Conference 2011**

The Asia for Animals Conference 2011 will be held from 10 to 14 June in Chengdu, China. For anyone interested in animal welfare issues, log on to [www.asiaforanimals.org](http://www.asiaforanimals.org) to learn more about the successes and challenges facing individuals and groups in their quest to end animal cruelty in Asia. Hosted this year by Animals Asia, this conference held internationally every two years has become the largest event for animal protection in Asia. With the theme 'Out of the box – bringing animal cruelty to an end', the conference will see over 400 speakers and delegates share creative solutions to end animal suffering across the Asian continent.



### Books of Hope

Four dynamic and kind-hearted CHIJ Katong Convent students formed the group 'Books of Hope' to help the SPCA in our efforts to advance animal welfare in Singapore.

The group was comprised of Team Leader Charanpreet Kaur, Nerin Tanu, Risa Yee and Angelia Fernandus. They were taking part in the YMCA-Citibank Youth for Causes social entrepreneurship scheme that encourages youths to get behind causes that they care deeply about. They won the Best Team Award (Category A) and raised a total of \$33,000 for the SPCA.

Charanpreet was the recipient of 'The Most Promising Entrepreneur Award' for raising \$21,785 for the SPCA in 2008.

The four budding entrepreneurs designed and produced attractive animal-themed notepads that represented the four seasons:

- Garfield, the Cheshire cat grinning from ear to ear (Summer)
- Maxi, the Golden Retriever relaxing in a field (Spring)
- Ratatouille, shivering in the cold (Winter)
- Nicki, the puppy Labrador longing for a home (Autumn)

The notepads, priced reasonably at \$5 each, were a huge hit with people of all ages.

At the tender age of 15, these girls showed, through their example, what it meant to be compassionate, kind and thoughtful towards other living things besides humans. They juggled studies, homework and home activities while selling the notebooks in shopping malls and offices, all to raise awareness and much-needed funds for animal welfare.

Congratulations girls and a big thank you from SPCA.

## acknowledgements

### The SPCA thanks:

- Coastes for raising \$2,810.65 on the occasion of its 6th Anniversary on 16 October.
- 5 Emerald Hill Cocktail Bar for raising \$3,545.77 on the occasion of its 19th Anniversary on 8 December.
- 5 Emerald Hill Cocktail Bar for raising \$1,793.55 from an auction at its Sa5ire Ladies Party on 20 December.
- Mr Choo Chiau Beng for helping to raise funds in celebration of his birthday in December 2010.
- American Home Assurance Co, Singapore Branch for donating in memory of Dr Celina Chua.
- Madam Agnes Chia Poh Cheng for donating in memory of her late sister, Miss Lucille Chia Poh Swan on her Death Anniversary on 23 September.
- Ms Wong Rui for donating in memory of her pets Genki & Benji Wong.
- Ms Gaw Kwan Neo for donating in memory of Mrs Juliana Gaw.
- Mrs Katherine Oehlers for donating in memory of her beloved pet dog Russell, originally adopted from SPCA 15½ years ago.
- Ms Patricia Ho Ai Leng for donating in memory of her beloved pet dog Bubbles.
- Mr Koh Kok Leong for donating in loving memory of his dearest "Foxy" Baby.
- Linklaters LLP for donating and sponsoring tins, tin labels for SPCA's Flag Day 2010

### Kennel Sponsorships:

- Mr Klaus Duss & Mrs Lisa Duss, *With Love, Sunny & the Duss-Tombalakian family*
- ACRE Engineering Pte Ltd, *In Remembrance of Lydol, Gary, Lucky, Pepsi, Happy & Catly. Thank you for the memories.*
- Mr Steve Ting, *Hunk & Diego have found a home*
- Ms Lim Jen See, *Wander, LeslieBear and Coco wish you find a good home soon*
- Mr Christopher Inglin, *In memory of Alpha and Bruce – loyal companions*
- Ms Ong Liang Cheak



### Nursery Sponsorships:

- Mr Harrison Lim Kheng Leong, *With Love from Baby Caelen and Baby Charlyn*
- *With love, Friends and Family of SPandJ. In celebration of Boy Weds Girl.*
- *In loving memory of the Roborovski hammies. Love always, us at zeFarm.*
- *In loving memory of Dumpling, Licky and LaoZi hammies.*

### Donations in memory of Marjorie Doggett:

- Mr Nicholas Doggett
- The Animal Clinic
- Peter & Ellen Ng
- Ms Ilsa Sharp

### Spread the love with Benjamin + Squeaker this Valentine's Day

Benjamin+Squeaker will be donating \$2.50 to the SPCA for every pair of slippers purchased!

Go to [www.benjaminandsqueaker.com](http://www.benjaminandsqueaker.com) and click on the Facebook link and become a fan.

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Call Gwen at 6287 5355 ext. 17 or email to [membership@spca.org.sg](mailto:membership@spca.org.sg) now!



### In Memorium

The SPCA was saddened by the loss of a young volunteer, P. Tharshini, who passed away from illness on 4 January. Tharshini had volunteered in our shelter, sales and administration departments during the past 16 months. Even up until a week before her death, she had visited us with her mother so that she could help in the SPCA office and visit the dogs. She was a cheerful girl throughout her ordeal, always ready to help the animals. We thank her family for their part in helping Tharshini help the animals and our deepest sympathy is extended to them on their tragic loss.

# an evening of giving - in loving memory of Boris

I adopted my darling Boris the Pomeranian from the SPCA six years ago when he was five years old. It proved to be a fateful day because Boris truly changed my life. Boris was my little rock and I loved him more than any family member or boyfriend. He was quite simply perfect – loving, affectionate, caring, sensitive, sweet, funny, well-mannered and gorgeous to look at! He was so much more than a cute fluffy dog and we truly had a special soul connection.

When he died of a heart condition on 1 October last year I couldn't get out of bed for ten days. I loved him so dearly and his death is utterly devastating and heartbreaking. To get out of this dark depression I decided to do something good in his memory, so I organised an SPCA charity event, 'An Evening of Giving' at the Singapore Polo Club.

The event's emcee and auctioneer was the popular rugby pundit Justin 'Sambo' Sampson from ESPN Star Sports. Over 100 lovely people bought tickets and a fun night was had by all. The live auction, silent auction and raffle proved very popular and the event grossed just under S\$20,000.

I always thought it ironic that Boris cost a mere \$120 from the SPCA yet he filled my heart with so much love and was so precious to me I wouldn't have swapped him for a billion dollars. So it's a fitting tribute to Boris that he raised such a princely sum for the SPCA, a far more fitting price for all the joy he has brought me during our time together. I thank God for blessing me with Boris and thank all the sponsors and supporters for their kind participation in making Boris' event such a success.

With special thanks for their splendid assistance: Toni Finan, Jane Song, Ana Duek, Jacqueline Peterson-Jarvis, Gail Sperring, Goh Beng Yeow, Marie Cronogue, Justin 'Sambo' Sampson and our kind sponsors:

- Worldwide Real Estate Investments Pte Ltd
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- The Palms of Boracay
- Sahaja & Sawah Boutique Resort Bali
- IYAC Aesthetic & Anti Aging Clinic
- MDBS Singapore Chartered Yacht
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- The Finder Magazine
- Asian Financial Planning Journal Magazine
- AngloInfo Ltd
- Singapore Polo Club



## is captivity

Swimming with dolphins is a dream harboured by many. Those who have swum with these amazing, playful creatures often say that touching, feeding or swimming with dolphins is one of the most captivating experiences of their lives. Then why are so many animal welfare organisations campaigning against holding dolphins in captivity? Why are they against allowing people to experience the magic of swimming with dolphins? The truth is masked by the dolphin's smile. Dolphins are intelligent and social creatures that, in the wild, interact with hundreds of pod-mates, hunt communally and have entire coastlines as their playground. In captivity, all of this is lost. Establishing a complex social group in a limited space leads to high levels of stress for these creatures. Compared to their natural ocean home, tanks are small, cramped, bare and featureless. Captive dolphins are often restricted to swimming in circles, as compared to the average of 50 km a day that they cover in the wild. This environment causes stress, aggression, reduced life expectancy and breeding problems. Dolphins in captivity not only have to adjust to sudden confinement, but also to enforced interaction with humans. Furthermore, chemically treated water and UV exposure frequently cause ulcers and skin lesions. Undoubtedly, such a captive environment fails to provide for their behavioural or physiological needs. And all of this is on top of tremendous amounts of stress provoked by capturing the creatures in the first place and transporting them to their final destination.

There are currently over 800 bottlenose dolphins in captivity around the world. Although dolphins have been bred in captivity, the infant mortality rate is high and captive dolphin populations are not currently self-sustaining. Hence, dolphins are captured from the wild in order to maintain the numbers of captive dolphins. Tragically, for every wild dolphin taken alive, it is estimated that on average at least one other is injured or killed during the capture process. The methods of capture and transport of dolphins can be extremely cruel, and some dolphins die of shock in the process. Yet there are no international welfare standards for the management of dolphins in captivity. Despite animal rights concerns and questions about its efficacy, dolphin therapy is booming.



There are a number of organisations that offer Dolphin Assisted Therapy (DAT) for a wide range of special needs and psychological conditions. It is claimed that even brief exposure to these charismatic creatures is so uniquely rewarding that it produces benefits all by itself, thereby potentially jump-starting a patient's receptiveness to more conventional therapy. However, even after 20 years of research, there is still no proof that DAT is more effective than other animal-assisted therapies. Furthermore, if swimmers are not screened thoroughly, DAT can encourage the spread of human/cetacean diseases.

Dolphins have so much to offer us that very often we are ignorant to the fact that we are harming them in the process of interacting with them. When forced to constantly submit to people's desires to be near and touch them, dolphins experience great levels of stress, which can lead to significant health problems. There are still doubts about the educational value of dolphinariums and dolphin interaction programs and hence the claims for the educational value of these exhibits cannot be justified. Education and the raising of awareness can be done in so many other ways, through media such as books, documentaries, campaigns and websites. Sea World, one of the most recognised captive dolphin facilities in the United States, reported 93 dolphin deaths between 1971 and 2002, an average of three dolphins per year. We all love dolphins, and the captivity industry has capitalised on this to make huge profits at the expense of the animals' misery. Have we 'evolved' into a society that needs to disassociate animals from their natural habitats so that our young can learn about them?

The next time you consider visiting a captive dolphin facility, please think again. You could be funding the next

# international news



## Endangered Elephants in Need of Protection

Five endangered elephants were found dead on 26 November 2010 in Riau province, Sumatra. Mr Edi Susanto, a government conservationist, suspects that owners of nearby palm plantations could have used cyanide to poison the elephants, which had been blamed for damaging crops. Investigations are ongoing, and samples from the dead elephants have been sent for analysis.

While farmers may be angered by loss of crops, the root cause of this human-animal conflict is man encroaching on wildlife habitats. District heads in Riau province have been told to ban farmers from tending crops in the areas where elephants forage for food. Local authorities are also planning to bring trained tame elephants to the area to help chase any straying herds back into the forest.

There are only 3,000 Sumatran elephants remaining in the wild. These animals already face the threat of poachers hunting them for their prized ivory tusks. Therefore, laws protecting them must be enforced more firmly if there is any hope of saving these endangered animals.

## International Whaling Commission (ICW) meeting 2010

A draft proposal that aimed to find a compromise between pro- and anti-whaling countries was discussed at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in 2010. The stated aim of the proposal was to support the conservation of whales. However, because the proposal would award whaling quotas to nations, it would effectively spell the end of the moratorium

on commercial whaling. The proposal was opposed by the Whalewatch network, a network of over 40 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from around the world. The Whalewatch network, which supports a ban on whaling, believes that such a quota system actually legitimises whaling. Voting was not conducted, and the proposal was rejected as no consensus could be reached. However, many countries still hope that the status quo will change.

Some challenges faced during the meeting were the lack of discussion about the welfare of whales, and the differences in opinion between NGO groups, with some but not all determined to maintain the moratorium. The EU's position was also divisive, with Denmark and Sweden supporting the proposal. Whaling in the northern hemisphere was not adequately addressed, the predominant focus being on whaling in the Southern Ocean.

Sadly, some pro-whaling countries did score some



victories. Denmark asked for 10 Humpbacks to be added to its quota for its native Greenlanders. Such whaling is allowed for subsistence purposes only, and yet despite the plentiful evidence of the increasing commercialisation of whaling, the IWC granted the request. In addition, this year's meeting was particularly challenging for the NGOs, since there was a last-minute decision to hold the first two days of the meeting behind closed doors. This lack of transparency was most definitely unexpected.

## Pilot Whale Killing in Faroe Islands

The average annual catch for the past 10 years may have been 627, but 2010 saw the slaughter of 1,115 pilot whales in the Faroe Islands. The question of why there has been such a precipitous increase in the killing of whales remains unanswered by the Faroese government. TV footage has clearly shown the brutal methods used

in killing the whales, inflicting appalling suffering on the creatures. The Marine Mammals Programmes Manager of the World Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals responded to this shocking act of cruelty, saying 'The chaos of killing large groups of these intelligent, social whales inevitably results in shocking cruelty. A highly modern community killing over 1,100 whales in this way is completely unacceptable.'

Furthermore, there may be health risks associated



with consuming pilot whale meat due to the presence of contaminants like mercury and PCBs. Extensive research is still being undertaken. Meanwhile, the Faroese Government has recommended consumers to follow its dietary advice that people should eat no more than one or two meals containing pilot whale meat in a month and pregnant or breast-feeding women should totally refrain from eating pilot whale meat. However, the number of whales killed not only suggests that the warnings of the threats posed by consumption of pilot whale meat have been ignored, but also clearly reflect the Government's ignorance about its citizens' health and the appalling cruelty inflicted on the whales.

### **Israel to Ban Fur Trade throughout the Country**

A bill has been introduced in Israel to outlaw the production, processing, import, export and sale of fur from all animal species not already part of the meat industry. Although the bill has already been endorsed by the legislative branch of the Israeli government, it is waiting for crucial votes from the Committee and the Knesset in order to be passed. Austria, Croatia and the United Kingdom are among the countries that have already banned fur-farming. Other countries, including Denmark and the Netherlands, have legislation to prevent the farming of certain animals for their fur. In addition, the European Union and the United States have banned the trade of seal fur products and cat and

dog fur. The cruelty inflicted on animals bred for the purpose of the fur trade has been deemed to offend public morality. Polling conducted by two animal welfare groups, the International Anti-Fur Coalition and Let The Animals Live, to gauge the public's opinion towards the fur trade in Israel, has revealed that more than 86 per cent are against the idea of killing animals just for fur and 79 per cent support a ban.

### **Vaccination Programme Saves 65,000 Dogs**

The outbreak of rabies on the resort island of Bali has killed 100 people since 2008.

In a desperate attempt to control this rabies epidemic, government authorities ordered a cull of all stray dogs. This involved poisoning dogs with massive doses of strychnine, causing the animals to suffer tortuous convulsions and internal bleeding

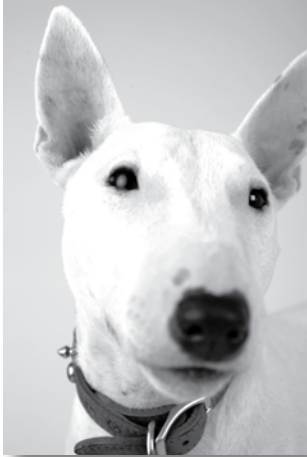
before dying. Although this horrific display of cruelty prompted strong opposition from the dog-loving locals, the authorities were unconvinced that changing to a mass vaccination programme would eradicate the rabies problem.



The Bali Animal Welfare Association (BAWA) addressed the concern of the authorities, which said they did not have enough resources to vaccinate 70 per cent of the dog population (the amount needed to control the spread of rabies), by beginning a mass vaccination campaign. It sent teams from village to village, aiming to vaccinate 400,000 animals, roughly 70 per cent of the island's dog population, by the end of the year. The campaign was funded by supporters of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

After an eight-month vaccination programme, 42,500 of the dogs in the Gianyar area have now been immunized, preventing a cull of 65,000 animals and protecting 390,000 humans from the disease. The success in Gianyar has allowed WSPA member society BAWA to prove to the government that vaccination is the right method to fight rabies and that culling is not the answer. The government now expects to eliminate rabies in Bali by 2012.

# pet lovers write



## Heinz

It has been nearly a year since we adopted Zico the bull terrier and thought it would be a good time to update everyone on how he's doing.

We've always loved bull terriers and couldn't believe our luck when we saw a white mini bull terrier pup

appear in the SPCA Adoption Gallery. The first time we met him, we were sure that he had to be a part of our family! We were particularly keen to give him a home given the unwarranted reputation for aggression that bull terriers have.

Since then, we have renamed him Heinz and he's settled into our pack at home. He's best friends with Tyra the pug and has a respectful relationship with Kari, the family matriarch we adopted from the SPCA 14 years ago. He has also become mates with Harry, a stray cat who 'adopted' us, as well as Pat the Tripod (our resident three-legged cat).

He was very timid when we first took him home, but at the same time could play rough, being a typical male bull terrier. We knew that we would need to take care to socialise him gradually, especially given our already eclectic mix of animal companions. Thankfully there have been no problems at all and Heinz was very quick to learn his place within his new family. We were also helped out by Kari, who is always a good disciplinarian when young pups get too boisterous! Heinz is definitely a special dog and is developing more of a personality day by day. Recently, we were very proud when he featured in a fundraiser shoot by Chris Ling International Photographers for the SPCA. He was not only very well behaved in front of all the lights and cameras, but was also a hit with the Chris Ling studio team.

Thanks very much to the SPCA for all the hard work in finding dogs like Heinz and Kari a loving home!

Orlando & Samantha

## Sawadee

My name is Sawadee (it was Matilda when I was at the SPCA), and I'm very, very happy here in France because I love to run in the snow.



My family adopted me in January 2010.

I hope everybody is well at the SPCA!

Sawadee

## Chestnut and Yogurt

Chestnut and Yogurt are doing well. They are very mischievous and love to chew on furniture. Yogurt is a



picky eater, whereas Chestnut eats anything. They have grown a lot since we adopted them. They enjoy being around people and Yogurt loves to follow my brother and me around whenever we are home. They bring a whole lot of fun to the family but of course we need to close both eyes when it comes to the chewing!

Tammy

## Roxy

We adopted Juliet earlier last year and renamed her Roxy. We couldn't be happier. She lives in a very busy household with two small boys who give her loads of attention and a backyard where she spends much of her time stalking lizards, birds and cockroaches. But Roxy most of all loves sleeping and is always on the lookout for the cool air from the air-conditioner, or someone she can cuddle up next to. Despite her awful experience of being abused previously (she had been pierced with

beads through the shoulder and SPCA had organised the surgery for her to remove them), she is beautiful trusting and affectionate cat who is now very much loved and spoilt. Thank you for introducing us to her SPCA and we can't thank you, your staff and volunteers enough for the wonderful job you all do.

Best wishes, Sianne, Graeme, Hugo and Oscar



*In memory of*

my most loved Bubbles who passed away peacefully on 10 January 2011. You have given me so much joy for the last 16 years and I will treasure this memory of you forever.

*Lots of love,  
Patsy*

# organise an SPCA day in your school and earn CIP hours!

-By Chong Poh Choo, Education Officer



**H**appy 2011! It's back to school again for another year of learning, exams and nurturing of friendships. Your teachers will soon also be giving you the task of completing your community service with an organisation. Why not consider working together as a class and organise a SPCA Day in your school to help the animals? Here are some tried-and-tested ideas.

## Before the SPCA Day

### Organise a visit to the SPCA

Ask your teacher to make an appointment with us for a class visit. Each visit is 90 minutes long and you'll get to find out more about the SPCA and – the best part! – interact with our lovely animals! Visits are available on weekdays only (excluding Thursdays) at either 10.30am or 2.30pm.

### Deliver a presentation

Education is the best tool to bring about change. If your fellow peers are clueless about animal welfare and what we do, share your knowledge with them! You could give a PowerPoint presentation to your class, year group or

the entire school if you're brave enough. We can provide you with the slides. Alternatively, invite us over to do the talking!

### Become a 'certified' Animal Hero

Sign up for our Animal Hero project before the talk. Everyone who attends the talk will receive an Animal Hero assignment card. You will have to share what you learnt from the talk with 14 other people. Once you have completed and submitted your card, you'll receive an Animal Hero certificate.





## YOUTH



### After the SPCA Day

#### **Hold an exhibition**

Reinforce your schoolmates' learning about what you've shared with them during the talk. We have a whole range of animal care and welfare-related posters, leaflets and brochures that you can put up and/or give away. Take this opportunity to hone your persuasion skills by talking to your friends about the importance of being a responsible pet owner and speaking up for animals.



#### **Pet food donation**

A can of cat food costs only about eighty cents but it can help a kitten stave off hunger. Encourage your friends to grab a can of cat/dog food for the less fortunate animals the next time they visit the supermarket. Set up your collection booth at your school canteen and remind your fellow students that animals need to eat too.

#### **Buy for a good cause**

Sell your handmade/homemade items and donate the profit to help our cause. Students have sold many things from edible food items like cookies, candies, cakes and tidbits to specially made bookmarks, magnets and cards.

Alternatively, order goods from the SPCA and help us sell our products – bookmarks, badges, posters, t-shirts, notepads, etc.

#### **Dedication board**

Create an outlet for your schoolmates and teachers to express their feelings after learning about the SPCA and animal welfare. Fold origami papers into dog and cat shapes and give them away or sell them at a low price. Ask your schoolmates to write their feelings or wishes for animals onto the folded papers and stick these up onto a notice board for the whole school to see.

These are some very successful ideas that many schools have tried, enjoyed and relished. You can create a similarly memorable SPCA Day in your school with these ideas, or some of your very own. If you want to find out more, please contact us at [education@spca.org.sg](mailto:education@spca.org.sg)



# Animal Welfare Symposium for Students

# highlights

Date: 19 March 2011, Saturday  
 Time: 8.30am to 3pm  
 Venue: Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Clementi (Lecture Theatre 26)  
 Food and drinks will be provided

The Animal Welfare Symposium for Students (AWSS) is designed to introduce students between the ages of 11 and 20 to the world of animal welfare and its various issues.

### Topics

We will be inviting experts from various fields in the local scene to share with students.

- Our Community Cats - Our Neighbours (Speaker: Veron Lau, Vice – President of Cat Welfare Society)
- Farm Animals – Spare A Thought For Them (Speaker: Dr George Jacob, President of the Vegetarian Society of Singapore)
- Tormented ‘Food’ - Exotic Meats & Live Seafood (Speaker: Amy Corrigan – Director of Education for ACRES)
- Puppy Mills – Puppies Aren’t Products (Speaker: Jaipal Gill – Assistant Manager (Operations) of SPCA)
- The Wild Side of Life - Keeping Wildlife as Pets (Speaker : Louis Ng – Executive Director of ACRES)

All participants will receive an AWSS 2011 booklet with detailed information about each topic and activities that they can do to aid in spreading the message further.

### Registration Details

If you’re interested in taking part in the AWSS, please email us at [education@spca.org.sg](mailto:education@spca.org.sg) with your name, contact number and school. Seats are limited – so hurry!

Sponsor: Straits Times Foundation  
 Organisers: SPCA and Ngee Ann Polytechnic’s Pawssionate interest group  
 Supporters: ACRES, Cat Welfare Society, Vegetarian Society of Singapore

### First-ever dog walking experience for youths!

It was the December school holiday and we decided to



try out something new for those on our youth email database – a dog-walking CIP opportunity especially for four very special students. Normally, students have to be at least 17 years old to sign up as a registered volunteer with us to walk our dogs; that day was an exception.

Here’s what one of the students had to say, ‘I enjoyed myself today! I wouldn’t mind getting up early and walking the dogs again. Learnt some useful tips which may come in handy when I walk my x-Maltese/Westie soon!’

For those between seven and 16 years old, you can contact us at [educationpr@spca.org.sg](mailto:educationpr@spca.org.sg) if you would like to be included in our youth email database too.

### Join our Facebook Fan Page!



To get the latest scoop on the SPCA, you have to join our Facebook Fan Page! Our fan base is ever-growing and we are working hard to reach out to you with the newest animal rescues, merchandise sales, fundraising activities and educational programmes. With more than 36,000 members and counting, you really don’t want to be left out. Join us now! In your search box, simply type in the words ‘SPCA Singapore’.

# The efficacy which sounds good !



- new active ingredient : **the permethrin**
- very effective on cats and dogs ear mites.
- safe for the animal. and the environment.

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# THE CLASSIC WATCH

No other watch is engineered quite like a Rolex. The Datejust, introduced in 1945, was the first wristwatch to display the date through an aperture on the dial. Its unique magnifying Cyclops eye, added a few years later, became recognised as a Rolex design standard. Now in a larger, more distinguished 41 mm size, the Datejust II is a natural evolution of a classic. The Datejust II is presented here in Rolex signature Rolesor, a unique combination of 904L steel and 18 ct yellow gold.

## THE DATEJUST II

