

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



28 July 2009

Forum Editor
The Straits Times
Forum Page

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to Tan Tuan Khoon's letter "Sterilisation not good enough – which is why culling is required" (On-line Forum page 25 July).

Mr. Tan went on to conclude that the stray cat problem never abated following the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority's (AVA) Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme (SCRS), and that culling had proved very effective over this past five years because SPCA's numbers in May 2009 dropped to an all time low of 260.

The SPCA for the years 1996 to 2003, took in an average of between six and seven thousand cats per year, the peak being in 1999 when we received 7,644 cats. Five years into AVA's SCRS which began in 1999, our annual figures (for the year ending 30 June 2003) had dropped by 1,400 per year. This surely must prove that the government's sterilisation programme had begun to work. By the late 1990's with many more individuals and organisations joining in the sterilisation of community cats, it was inevitable that the stray cat population would gradually decrease in spite of the halting of the government's scheme.

The drop in figures today therefore, cannot be attributed to culling as Mr. Tan believes, because culling does not address the root cause of the problem – uncontrolled breeding.

The SPCA believes that if the HDB rescinded its rule on the prohibition of cats making cat owners accountable for their pets, the stray cat problem would indeed be lessened, and if the AVA brought back its SCRS in conjunction with the Town Councils, the surplus stray cat population most probably would become a thing of the past.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Moss (Ms.)
Executive Officer