



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PET NEGLECT ON THE RISE

23 February 2012— Out of the 1,027 cases of alleged cruelty to animals reported to the SPCA and investigated in 2011. At least 70 per cent of these cases involved pet neglect. The total number of alleged cruelty cases increased 10 per cent since last year. The month with the highest number of cases was October, with 102 cases reported.

Examples of pet neglect included:

- Rabbits left in cages largely unattended outside the premises
- Dogs/cats in small cages or dogs tied up for long periods
- Sick pets left untreated

Even after SPCA 's Inspectors investigated and advised the owners, less than 30% of them made improvements to their pet's living conditions citing reasons such as not enough time, working long hours or their pet was already used to its current living conditions. As the SPCA does not have enforcement powers, the more serious cases, or those where no improvements were made, were referred to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority for further action.

It is our opinion that many owners want to enjoy the perceived fun experience of owning a pet, but are not bothered to accept or take on the accompanying responsibility. A common example from the cases we have investigated is that it doesn't seem to cross the mind of many owners to bring their pets to the veterinarian for regular visits to keep them healthy.

SPCA attributes much of the problem (whether out of ignorance or inconvenience) to insufficient education at the point of sale in terms of what the animals' needs are. For example, cages are often sold together with dogs, and owners are advised to train the animals in them but in the SPCA's experience, the cage often becomes the dog's permanent home, and a welfare issue results.

At the upcoming Animal Welfare Symposium and Public Forum on Animal Welfare Policies on 25 February 2012 at Chong Pang Community Club, the SPCA will be presenting an overview on Animal Cruelty Legislation Change. This will focus on why we need our animal cruelty laws enhanced and that the issue of pet neglect is a serious one

and needs to be addressed. For more information on the Symposium go to <http://www.acres.org.sg/events/2ndforum.html>

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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 a registered animal welfare charity and our 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 hours emergency service, cruelty investigation, education programme for schools and organisations, a sterilisation voucher programme for strays as well as running an animal shelter for abused and abandoned pets and strays. For more information, www.sPCA.org.sg

Appendix:



