



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PROJECT ADORE OFF TO A WAGGING START

First cross-breed adopted by HDB resident finds a loving, supportive family and neighbourhood

10 OCTOBER 2012—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) adopted out the first cross-breed dog to a Housing & Development Board (HDB) resident through Project ADORE in June 2011. We would like to report that Miko, the dog, has adapted to life in her new home very well and her owners adore her.

Project ADORE was first mooted by SPCA and Action for Singapore Dogs (ASD) last year. In November 2011, the Ministry for National Development (MND) announced that a pilot project to rehome cross-breed dogs to HDB residents would be launched in the first half of 2012. After detailed discussions and planning, the project was launched in June this year.

In order to pre-empt any disputes and maintain harmony among residents, Project ADORE has very strict specifications and requirements. These include that dogs must be adopted from either SPCA or ASD and only cross-breeds or mongrels apply. There are restrictions in height and weight and dogs are also selected on their temperament, with those more quiet and tame being more suitable. Applicants must go through a stringent adoption process to assess their ability and willingness to ensure that the dog adapts to the HDB environment well. Part of this includes signing a Code of Responsible Behaviour (CORB) (see Appendix A) and bringing the dog for mandatory basic obedience training.

Miko is a two and a half-year-old brown and white female dog that was found wandering in the Jurong area in May 2012. She knew basic commands like sit and down and appeared to either be a lost or abandoned dog. When we were assessing her for adoption, we found Miko to be very well-behaved and quiet, and with her small build, she was perfect for Project ADORE.

Sharon Lee had kept a cross-breed for 12 years and had a partiality to our so-called "Singapore Specials" when she met Miko at the SPCA. Our Operations Executive, Kelvin Tang, interviewed her and found her to be an ideal candidate for Project ADORE with the experience and willingness to go that extra mile for Miko.

After approval from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) and MND less than a week later, Ms Lee completed the adoption process and took Miko home.

Ms Lee and her husband sought their neighbours' opinions and consent prior to bringing Miko home. Thus far, there have been no complaints. A month after, Mr Tang visited Ms Lee's home and found Miko settled in and very obedient, though she had only gone for one out of six training sessions at the time. Ms Lee and her husband walk Miko twice a day, provide plenty of toys and care for her mild skin allergy.

"We feel that people need to know about how wonderful cross breeds can be and with Project ADORE, it is gratifying that MND is making the move to allow HDB home dwellers to adopt cross breeds. Dogs do not know their breeds, it's humans who do. Cast away your pride and prejudice and adopt a mongrel under Project ADORE today", said Ms Lee.

Our second and third Project ADORE adoptions happened in July and August respectively. Ms Anusasheenee adopted Hazel and Mr Bock Steve adopted Phoebe. Hazel and Phoebe are both also doing well in their new homes and are attending obedience classes.

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About the SPCA

The 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 solely on donations from the public and fundraising, the Society provides various animal welfare services including a 24-hour 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, visit <http://www.sPCA.org.sg>

CODE OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR (CORB)

Project ADORE (ADOption and REhoming of dogs) is a one-year pilot project that seeks to assure the general public that medium-sized mixed breed dogs can lead happy, healthy lives in HDB flats. The success of this project will see long-term benefits for our local mixed breed dogs who are finding it hard to fit into a home when they are not HDB-approved.

In taking part in Project ADORE, you are an ambassador of the project. This means that the success of the project is greatly dependent on you. We believe that you want to see more local mixed breed dogs find loving homes in Singapore. As an ambassador of Project ADORE, the responsibility is on you, to be an example for Singaporeans to follow. Let's work together to make this project a success.

1. You must enrol your dog in a compulsory basic obedience course, within one month of adoption, which teaches methods of proper handling, adequate understanding of your dog's personality, and ensuring that it does not become a public nuisance
2. Under the licensing conditions, it is a must that dogs are leashed and under owner's control at all times when in public areas
3. It is a must to clean up after your dog defecates in or dirties public areas. If you fail to do so, you are committing an offence under the Environment Public Health Regulations. A first-time offender is liable to a fine of up to \$1,000
4. You must comply with the dog management protocol in public areas in these situations
 - i) Be sensitive towards people who have a fear or aversion of dogs. Adopt a respectful approach to the sensitivities of others
 - ii) You must be in control of your dog at all times when encountering people in corridors, lift landings, stairs or confined spaces and at void decks and communal facilities at open spaces (e.g. covered walkways, playgrounds, pavilions)
 - iii) Use the stairs instead of the lifts if practical or to wait for the next empty lift
5. You must ensure that your dog does not bark incessantly and must take immediate action to remedy such issues
6. You must ensure that your dog does not run out onto the common corridors unleashed or without a handler by keeping your gate closed at all times
7. You must ensure that your dog's behaviour does not frighten or shock passers-by who walk past your door
8. You must ensure cleanliness within your flat and immediate surroundings (corridors), and ensure issues such as fur shedding, dog odour and defecation do not become a problem and nuisance to neighbours



Ms Lee and Miko



Ms Lee, her husband and Miko