



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE SPCA

Design for SPCA's new premises finalised

1 FEBRUARY 2013—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) new home in Sungei Tengah will not only be more spacious, but will incorporate many natural and sustainable aspects with respect to its surrounding environment. Humans and animals alike will find it a peaceful and tranquil place where animal welfare is brought to the forefront.

In August last year, seven architectural firms were invited to submit designs for the SPCA's new premises. The current lease at Mount Vernon Road will expire in December 2014.

Among the criteria we were aiming to meet were: state of the art animal housing and care facilities; dedicated facilities for our educational outreach programme; an environmentally sustainable building and process that respected our physical environment; and, most importantly, a place where the animals we rescued would feel happy and loved.

In late December 2012, our panel of judges, made up of SPCA Committee Members and 3 independent judges, being persons of standing in Singapore's architectural and landscaping scene, Mr John Tan, Chairman, Landscape Industry Association (Singapore), and architects Mr Wong Chiu Mun and Mr Amit Upadhye, made their decision. The winning design by RichardHO Architects embodies all the aspirations and features we wanted and more.

"From the beginning, it was very clear to me and my team that the animals must come first. They would have already suffered quite a bit before ending up in SPCA and foremost in our minds when designing this facility is to help them heal—physically and psychologically. On top of that, we tried to achieve in our design a symbiotic relationship between the animals, the landscape and humans," said Mr Richard Ho, Principal Architect, RichardHO Architects.

The unique hexagonal design of the clustered animal housing is reminiscent of nature's organic structures that allow for growth and infinite combinations. The extensive water feature acts not only as a water reservoir, where nature is

assisting in the filtration system to facilitate the reuse of rain water to wash our kennels, but also adds to the atmosphere of serenity and rural charm, connecting the different sections while maintaining a healthy distance to prevent cross-contamination.

With the added space comes the ability to incorporate areas for dogs, cats and rabbits to get the exercise, stimulation and interaction with others of their species that they need for their physical and mental well-being.

In line with the hexagonal design, the kennel walls will be fitted with pre-cast custom-designed ventilation blocks made of cement. These ventilation blocks will not only be more aesthetically pleasing than cage-like metal grilles, but also accord more natural light and ventilation while keeping the rain out.

Another new feature, the Education Centre, will provide a comfortable and inspiring setting for children and adults alike to learn about the various animal welfare issues and how they can do more to help.

“I’m looking forward to our new animal shelter that places so much emphasis on the well-being of our animals; we will have ample space for dog runs, rehabilitation therapy areas and enrichment areas for play and stimulation. We humans have not been forgotten; the staff and volunteers will have pockets of green for reflection and relaxation. The water feature adds a fantastic dimension to the complex as it offers an atmosphere of tranquillity and peace for our animals, visitors and staff.

Visitors can look forward to spending a fun and casual, yet still meaningful, family day at our new complex. This marks a new chapter for the SPCA and I’m very excited about it,” said Ms Corinne Fong, Executive Director, SPCA.

The approximately 7,766 square metre site will certainly allow for many other facilities that the current 2,200 (approximate) square metre site could not. For example, there will be two rehabilitation rooms for convalescent animals; and we will have a dedicated Merchandise Store—a departure from SPCA’s current single display case.

The estimated cost of building the new premises is \$5.6million. The SPCA will be launching several intensive fundraising efforts throughout the next two years, including a gala dinner in September this year.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Corinne Fong (Ms) Executive Director SPCA DID: 6287 5355 [ext. 39] E-mail: execdir@spca.org.sg	Angela Pok (Ms) Communications Officer SPCA DID: 6287 5355 [ext. 29] HP: 8653 7533 E-mail: communications@spca.org.sg
---	--

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 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>

Architect's representational drawings – larger versions are available upon request

1. Aerial view



2. Education Centre



3. Front elevation



4. Events Park at main atrium

