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## ABOUT THE CAT WELFARE SOCIETY

The Cat Welfare Society was registered under the Societies Act on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1999. It was set up by a group of people concerned about the welfare of a growing number of cats living on the streets of Singapore.

The Cat Welfare Society believes that animals are sentient beings whose lives deserve our protection and consideration. Our mission is to:

- promote tolerance, kindness and respect towards cats and other living creatures
- raise awareness about the plight of Singapore's stray cats in order to stop abuse, abandonment and neglect of cats
- provide for the well-being of cats who are sick, injured or otherwise in need
- advocate sterilization as opposed to eradication as a means of controlling the stray cat population
- promote responsible pet ownership and responsible management of stray cats
- cultivate better understanding and appreciation of cats, and
- foster better cooperation between caregivers, management councils and government authorities

The Society works closely with other organizations and individuals who care for the many stray cats on our streets. Through our education, adoption, rescue and stray cat management programmes, we hope to enhance the lives of these cats so that there will eventually be no more abuse, killing and suffering associated with life on the streets. We also organize and participate in exhibitions and events to raise awareness of the plight of our stray cats.

The Society has one full time employee, but is still run almost entirely by volunteers and does not have an office or other premises due to a lack of resources. The Society does not receive any regular funding. All the money needed for our work comes from members' subscriptions and donations, sale of Society merchandise, as well as contributions received from friends, supporters and the public. As our overheads and administrative costs are still kept at a minimal, most funds we raise will go towards helping the cats.

More information about the Society and our work can be found at [www.catwelfare.org](http://www.catwelfare.org). Many of the items mentioned in this report – such as newspaper and magazine articles, interviews, speeches and information on exhibitions can be viewed on our website.

The Society can be contacted by email at [info@catwelfare.org](mailto:info@catwelfare.org) or by post at Orchard PO Box 65, Singapore 912303.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2003/2004**

President	Lynn Yeo
Vice-President	Wee Liang Tong
Treasurer	Evelyn Toh
Secretary	Loh Yeow Nguan
Committee Member	Christina Eng
Committee Member	Dawn Kua
Committee Member	Jean Lau
Committee Member	Judith Lindley
Committee Member	Serina Rahman
Committee Member	Tay Sia Ping

Thank you to Gayle Koh who served on the committee.

The committee meets every month.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE**

2003 was a hard year for cats in Singapore. Due to the termination of the Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme (SCRS, which had been commended both locally and overseas), many cats were caught and killed. Killing is not the solution. Already, cat populations in a number of areas have become de-stabilised and have increased because the sterilised cats that have been removed are no longer there to defend the territory from newcomers.

The reasoning and principle behind the SCRS were sound, but to be successful it needed more time, resources and commitment from the authorities and Town councils who had agreed to implement the Scheme. Unfortunately these were lacking, and sadly the Scheme was terminated without consultation with the various animal welfare groups.

We also felt that abandonment of pets should have been taken more seriously by the authorities because abandoned cats were increasingly contributing to the rising numbers of street cats.

On the subject of shelters, because of the problem of irresponsible ownership and abandonment, we feel that the establishment of cat shelters is not a workable nor practical solution in the long term. This is why the CWS did not take part in AVA's call for a bid for land to set up shelters. As the population of cats continues to increase (especially with the cessation of the Sterilisation Scheme), there will always be a greater demand for spaces than we can cater to. Shelters drain resources and finances – the money and volunteers could be used more efficiently in a well-managed sterilisation programme. This would ultimately be more effective, humane and cheaper than culling or sheltering. Nevertheless, we recognise and appreciate the efforts put in by other animal welfare groups to run such shelters.

The current situation has made the need to address the ruling against the keeping of cats in Housing Development Board (HDB) flats all the more urgent and necessary. We feel strongly against this ruling, which we believe is based on flawed reasoning and fear of change. We will continue to try to have this ruling amended so that more homes will be available for our street cats. With our proposed conditions of sterilisation and microchipping, owners of pet cats will be easily traced and made responsible for their cats, and this would be a deterrent against abandonment.

The Society also had a tough financial year, running at a deficit of almost \$40,000! The increase in culling and the termination of the SCRS made it imperative that we intensified our adoption and fostering work to save more cats. This, together with the rise in the number of sterilisations the Society had to pay for, made our expenses far exceed the funds we received. The Society does not

receive any funding from government or other organisations and has to survive solely on donations and membership subscriptions.

In these difficult times, a piece of good news was that we managed to find homes for even more cats last year through our adoption drives and our website. 235 cats found homes and we hope that this trend will continue in 2004.

The increased publicity about cats in 2003 also raised the profile of the Cat Welfare Society, and more people have heard about the work we are doing for our street cats.

A lot more needs to be done, and we hope we can count on the continuing support of our volunteers, well-wishers, supporters and all who have assisted and encouraged us in one way or another through the years. With your help, we are confident that some day we will see all cats given consideration, respect and hopefully, a loving home.

lyco    *Handwritten signature*    *EVU*    *Handwritten signature*    *Handwritten signature*

Dawnha    Jean Law    Judith Lindley    *Handwritten signature*    *Handwritten signature*

## **AGENDA FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of Annual General Meetings

To confirm and adopt minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

2. Annual Report of the Committee

To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 2003.

3. Audited Account

To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003.

4. Election of 3<sup>rd</sup> Management Committee.

To elect the following office bearers and ordinary committee members for the year 2003 & 2004.

- a. A President
- b. A Vice-president
- c. A Secretary
- d. A Treasurer
- e. Six Ordinary Committee Members

5. Any Other Business

To consider any other business as may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting of which notice has been given in writing to the Secretary.

## MINUTES OF 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON : 24 MARCH 2003  
AT : 7:00 pm  
VENUE : Conference Hall, Teck Ghee Community Club,  
861 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10, Singapore 569734

The Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong apologised that the President, Lynn Yeo would be late and the meeting began at 7:30 pm. The attendance list is attached.

### 1. **Agenda**

#### 1.1 To confirm and adopt the minutes of the 3rd AGM

Proposer : Ellen Gaw

Secunder : Lim Ming Foong

#### 1.2 To receive and adopt the annual report of the committee

The Annual Report for the year 2003 was presented by the President, Lynn Yeo and Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong. They highlighted the following:

- Work of Dawn Kua as Director of Operations
- Daniel Phipps to help set-up our Adoption Bulletin
- Tay Sia Ping highlighted the work of her team of 8 in the adoption programme.
- World Animal Day Exhibition and Walkathon
- HDB issue and its progress
- Free cat sterilisation programme

The President asked whether any clarifications were required before confirming and adopting the Report.

Proposer : Aminah Bee

Secunder : S T Soh

#### 1.3 To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002

The President thanked Shirley Ong and Wong Ee Choon for auditing the accounts and Ros Seah for preparing the accounts.

The Audited Accounts was presented by Dr Lynn Yeo and was adopted

Proposer : Ellen Gaw

Secunder : Lim Ming Foong

#### 1.4 To include Life Membership in the different categories of membership.

The President explained that a new category of Life membership was to be introduced, and this would involve a one-time payment of \$250. The

President asked whether any clarifications were required before putting this to the vote. This was passed unanimously by all members present.

## **2.0 Any Other Business**

- 2.1 Aminah Bee asked about the number of memberships and Dawn Kua replied that we have about 600 members.
- 2.2 Chen Jun Wei wanted to know what procedures are required for sterilisation
- 2.3 Wee Liang Tong mentioned that the Society was ordering cat traps that have been modified to be more humane and ease of use.
- 2.4 Lee Ee Fong mentioned that it was difficult to always be able to catch the no. cats as per sterilisation reservation made in advance.  
The Vice President advised her not to overbook so as not to deprive others the chance of a slot
- 2.5 Aminah Bee says that she still sees the 'No feeding of strays' signage' and it is frustrating as this subject was brought up a year ago.  
Dawn explained that the AVA is withholding their approval and the Town Councils will use the posters if the AVA has approved them.

## **3.0 Closing of Meeting**

There being no further business, the President thanked Teck Ghee CC for the use of their premises. She also thanked the floor for their attendance, feedback, contribution and comments.  
The meeting ended at 8.00pm.



Dr Lynn Yeo, President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee

## COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2003

- January 8<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Tampines  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> : Teck Ghee Community Club Sterilisation Clinic  
January 19<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with volunteers in Woodlands  
January 26<sup>th</sup> : Exhibition at Teck Ghee Community Club with MP Tan Boon Wan as the Guest of Honour  
January 29<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with volunteer in Pasir Ris
- February 7<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Singapore Tourism Board to discuss promotion of local Singapore cat  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> : National University of Singapore Rotaract Club Bazaar  
February 13<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with Pulau Properties to try and resolve stray cat situation humanely  
February 20<sup>th</sup>: Radio Interview aired on FM 95.8  
February 26<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Tiong Bahru
- March 5<sup>th</sup> : Meetings with Goodwood Park Hotel and Royal Holiday Scotts to discuss humane solutions to the stray cat situation  
March 10<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Woodlands  
March 16<sup>th</sup> : Cat Club's Annual Cat Show  
March 24<sup>th</sup> : Fourth Annual General Meeting  
March 25<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with the Esplanade to discuss humane solutions to the stray cat situation  
Mediation in Ang Mo Kio
- April 11<sup>th</sup> : Discussion with Hougang Town Council to discuss humane solutions to the stray cat situation  
April 17<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with volunteers at Jalan Kayu  
Cat rescued from flat
- May 8<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Kuo Chuan Avenue  
Mediation in Toa Payoh  
May 9<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Tampines  
Mediation in Toa Payoh  
May 13<sup>th</sup> : Mediation in Yishun  
May 14<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Esplanade to discuss humane solutions to the stray cat situation  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> : Press Conference with Action for Singapore Dogs and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) about cat culling  
May 24<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Senior Minister of State, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, and other Agri-food and Veterinary

- Authority of Singapore (AVA) and Ministry of National Development (MND) officials
- May 28<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with AVA with the other animal groups
- May 30<sup>th</sup> : Dr Lynn Yeo, President of CWS, featured in Business Times
- May – June : Articles appeared on cat culling in newspapers around the world, including newspapers in Japan, India, Israel and USA.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> : Radio interview with NewsRadio 93.8
- June 6<sup>th</sup> : Submission to AVA of proposal for revamped Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme
- Meeting with AVA
- June 14<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with AVA with the other animal groups
- Launch of 'Kill Ignorance, not Animals' t-shirt with several other groups
- June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup> : Exhibition at Alley Bar of Lomographic Photographs
- June 20<sup>th</sup> : Talk to children attending YMCA Vacation camp
- June 29<sup>th</sup> : Forum at NUSS Guildhouse
- July 12<sup>th</sup> : Visit by singer Cyndi Wong, to a volunteer's home to Film the message of responsible pet ownership for local programme
- July 17<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Ministry of Environment Official
- July 20<sup>th</sup> : Took part in Assisi Carnival
- July 21<sup>st</sup> : Meeting with volunteers and East Coast Town Council
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> : Meeting with manager of private condominium
- July 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> : "Open Hearts, Open Minds" Pet Adoptathon at National Youth Park with Action for Singapore Dogs and House Rabbits Society
- August 7<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Ang Mo Kio Town Council
- August 8<sup>th</sup> : CWS volunteers on Tamil News submitting patchwork for Fabric of a Nation
- August 9<sup>th</sup> : Dawn Kua, Director of Operations, featured in National Day Special
- August 12<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Management agents of private condominium for discussion on humane management of cats
- August 14<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Tanjong Pagar Town Council
- September 5<sup>th</sup> : Merchandise sale at JP Morgan at Capital Towers with Action for Singapore Dogs and House Rabbits Society of Singapore

- September 7<sup>th</sup> : Participated as store holder at MUIS' President's Challenge
- September 11<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Pasir Ris Town Council
- September 13<sup>th</sup> : Participated in SITF's Volunteers' Day at Ulu Pandan CC
- September 14<sup>th</sup> : Participated in Jurong Central Residents' Committees' Residents' Day
- September 19<sup>th</sup> : Mediation at Ang Mo Kio  
Meeting with Renci Hospital
- September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> : Singapore Management University Volunteer Day
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> : World Animal Day exhibition at Suntec City
- October 8<sup>th</sup> : AVA announcement of cessation of Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme  
CWS press conference
- October 13<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with private condominium to discuss humane alternatives to stray cat population control
- October 16<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Venerable Shi Ming Yi with SPCA and ASD
- October 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> : Participated in Citibank's staff sale at Capital Square
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> : Meeting with Punggol Cassia RC
- October 26<sup>th</sup> : "Open Hearts, Open Minds" Adopthaton
- October 30<sup>th</sup> : Mediation at Jurong West
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> : World Animal Day Celebrations at Fort Canning
- November 8<sup>th</sup> : Airing of programme on Channel I on the killing of strays with an interview with CWS' Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong
- November 12<sup>th</sup> : Meeting with Tampines RC
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> : Participated in Pet'acular Spectacular
- November 26<sup>th</sup> : Mediation at Ang Mo Kio  
Mediation in private housing estate
- November 27<sup>th</sup> : Talk at Haig Girls' School
- November 28<sup>th</sup> : Mediation at Telok Blangah Heights  
Mediation at Edgefield Plains
- November 29<sup>th</sup> : Participated in National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre's Volunteer Event
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> : Interview on NewsRadio
- December 4<sup>th</sup> : Citibank staff sale at Tampines
- December 28<sup>th</sup> : "Open Hearts, Open Minds" Adopthaton at National Youth Park

## **Our Activities**

### **Response to Cat Culling Situation**

In late May 2003, Cat Welfare Society received the alarming news that there would be an increasing number of sterilized stray cats caught in a drive to improve public hygiene as part of the "Singapore's OK" campaign, instituted after the SARS outbreak in Singapore. Volunteers reported sterilized strays missing and tried calling their town councils, and the Cat Welfare Society tried to check with the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore, but everyone denied that there was a step-up in culling.

In addition, volunteers that brought strays to the AVA were told that the Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme ("SCRS") was suspended, but again, there was no official confirmation of this.

#### **1. *Press Conference held jointly with Action for Singapore Dogs and Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2003***

Faced with official denials about a matter CWS felt was urgent, the Society together with Action for Singapore Dogs ("ASD") and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("SPCA") held a press conference at the Substation. The three organizations met and urged the government to reconsider the suspension and to bring back the Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme ("SCRS"), which had actually been started by the AVA in the first place, and which had showed good results.

CWS also mentioned that they had requested a meeting with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister of State for National Development the next day.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May, the newspapers reported that the AVA had admitted that the SCRS had been halted and that culling had been stepped up.

#### **2. *Meeting with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State for National Development, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2003***

CWS' President, Dr Lynn Yeo, Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong, committee member Christina Eng, Director of Operations, Dawn Kua, and a volunteer, went into the meeting with Dr Balakrishnan and several officials from both the AVA and the MND.

The meeting was a closed door meeting, so the Society is not at liberty to discuss what happened, but it suffices to say, the meeting was most disappointing.

### **3. Meeting with AVA, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

The AVA invited CWS and several other animal welfare organizations, including SPCA and ASD for a meeting to discuss the stray cat situation. AVA representatives stated that the SCRS was not working and that as a result the scheme was suspended, pending review.

### **4. Meeting with AVA, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

CWS met with AVA officials on 6<sup>th</sup> June to submit our proposal on how to revamp and improve the SCRS. These suggestions included having more resources put into the SCRS so that more cats could be sterilized, allowing better publicity for SCRS as many people were not aware the scheme was on and allowing volunteers to continue with mediation of any complaints. We also proposed that complaints be verified before action is taken – especially with regards to anonymous complaints. CWS also suggested that the Housing and Development Board rule would need to be changed. As it was estimated that there are 80,000 stray cats, and 800,000 HDB households, if only a small percentage of these households took in a cat each, the stray cat population would be reduced tremendously.

CWS to date still has not received a reply to our proposal.

Immediately, after submitting the proposal, CWS joined other animal welfare groups in a meeting with the AVA. All spoke up again against the culling. AVA responded by saying that land would be put up. However, as was later learnt, the land was also open to commercial enterprises, and only those with experience in boarding animals could apply.

### **5. Land Shelter Results Announced, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003**

No animal welfare group won the tender. CWS did not bid, for reasons which we explained in our Committee Message.

### **6. Announcement of termination of SCRS, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

The AVA announced that the SCRS was terminated. Unfortunately there was no more consultation done with the animal groups. The reason given was that town councils did not support the scheme. CWS had, however, met with four town councils, and one more town council unofficially, prior to the AVA meeting, and all agreed that they would support the scheme, as long as there were responsible volunteers. CWS was thus very surprised to hear about this result.

## **7. CWS Press Conference, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

CWS held a press conference after the AVA announcement and their subsequent press conference to announce the cancellation of the scheme. CWS expressed our disappointment that the scheme had been cancelled. CWS stated that putting the cats down was more expensive than sterilizing the cats, and that it was less effective and humane. We also pointed out that for the first time in more than 20 years, the number of cats put to sleep had been reduced to 10,000, which we feel shows that the sterilization programme was reducing the stray cat population.

CWS also announced that we are trying to raise funds to start a low cost sterilization clinic.

## **Adoption & Fostering**

Our adoption and fostering team managed to find homes for more than 235 cats. In addition to our website, where members of the public and CWS fosters post cats for adoption, we also held regular adophatons, where cats were adopted.

Open Hearts, Open Minds Pet Adophaton, July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> 2003

Held at the National Youth Park, we held three pet adophatons in 2003 in an effort to get more cats adopted out. In our first Pet Adophaton, Action for Singapore Dogs and House Rabbits Society of Singapore (“HRSS”) also came down with animals for adoption.

The adophatons were a huge success. We will continue to hold adoptions every other month into 2004 and would like to thank WHISKAS for sponsoring our pet adophatons.

## **Education and Public Awareness**

We gave a number of talks this year, and took part in exhibitions to try and drive home the importance of sterilization, and the suffering of the strays. Thanks to committee member Serina Rahman, and her team for all the hard work they put in for exhibitions.

In late 2003, our new education sub-committee was started up under Serina.

### **1. Exhibitions**

Exhibition at Teck Ghee Community Club, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2003

We were honoured to have Dr Tan Boon Wan, Minister of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio Group Representation Committee (GRC) grace our exhibition at Teck Ghee Community Club. Held to mark the end of the successful free sterilization clinic which was open to all residents, CWS set up our usual exhibition panels, and had a mini-adoption drive. 105 cats were sterilized during this three month sterilization clinic.

#### Exhibition at Alley Bar, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 2003

Organised by the Alley Bar and the Lomographic Embassy, this was a photography exhibition to show the beauty of stray cats and cats in general. The Alley Bar also held an opening event, at which CWS was able to pass out information about the importance of sterilization and to raise awareness of the plight of the strays. The beautiful photographs were then donated to the Lomographic Embassy, who sold them to raise funds for CWS.

#### Talk to children at YMCA School Camp, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2003

CWS Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong and Director of Operations, Dawn Kua, went to give a talk to children at the YMCA school camp, to teach children the importance of being kind to animals. We also screened our videos for them to watch.

#### Exhibition at Singapore Management University's Volunteer Day, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September

CWS took part in this event which was to support volunteerism and to encourage students to join various volunteer organizations.

#### World Animal Day Celebration, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004

Held at Fort Canning, this was our biggest World Animal Day yet. We worked with several a record number of animal welfare organizations – the Animal Concerns Research & Education Society, Action for Singapore Dogs, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority, Friends of Animals, House Rabbit Society of Singapore, MettaCats, Nature Society of Singapore, Noah's Ark Lodge, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Vegetarian Society of Singapore, SOS Animals, Wildlife Singapore, Wildaid and Green Volunteers Network.

We also screened an animal themed movie "Legally Blonde 2" and all the groups had booths to exhibit their educational material and merchandise for sale. There were also clowns and a bouncing castle for the children.

We thank all the organizations for taking part in the celebrations.

## **2. *In the Media***

Due to the news about the culling, CWS was featured in the media quite frequently over the course of the year. Stories on the culling were carried in media all over the globe, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, India and Israel.

Our joint press conference with SPCA and ASD on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was carried in most of the local English and Mandarin media, both in the newspapers and on the television. Our press conference on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the termination of the SCRS was also covered extensively.

We were also very gratified to see how many people wrote in and made their comments heard about their displeasure over the termination of the SCRS and the culling of cats. The Straits Times' Forum page in an article said that over the period of May 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 119 people wrote in about the culling controversy and that the overwhelming majority were against it. On another Internet poll by the Straits Times, 85% were against the culling.

On a lighter note, entertainment magazines also featured CWS as celebrities rallied to the cause, asking people to be kinder to animals.

### Coverage by I-weekly and U-Weekly, June – July 2003

An auction was organized by local company Musicstreet and UFM 100.3, to raise funds for CWS and ASD. Singers from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan, including groups like 5566, Tension and others donated items to be auctioned off to raise funds for the groups. More importantly, You Weekly ran an article about kindness to animals and got these celebrities to contribute stories about their own animals.

Thanks to You Weekly, Musicstreet, UFM 100.3 and all the celebrities for their help.

### Message by Cyndi Wong, July 2003

Singer and actress Cyndi Wong was filmed at a volunteer's home promoting the message that animals were a responsibility to be taken serious and this was aired on a local variety programme in July.

Thanks to Musicstreet and to Cyndi Wong for taking time out to help pass on this serious message.

### Interview with Vice-President, Wee Liang Tong, October 8<sup>th</sup> 2003

The Society's vice-President, Wee Liang Tong was interviewed for a programme on Channel I about the situation on strays, as were ASD volunteers. Liang Tong explained that sterilization was a better solution than culling, and that coupled with a change in HDB laws, it would reduce the stray cat population.

### **3. Talks**

#### Talk at YMCA Vacation Camp, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Vice-President Wee Liang Tong and Director of Operations Dawn Kua, went to give a talk to a group of children at the YMCA Vacation camp. The Society's videos were shown and the children were taught about kindness to animals.

#### Talk at Haig Girl's School, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Liang Tong and Dawn gave a talk to a group of students on a vacation camp at Haig Girl's school. The talk was organized to give the students an idea of how to treat animals responsibly and what to consider if adopting a cat.

### **4. Presentations and Meetings**

We had a number of important meetings in 2003 on the cat culling issue, some of which are covered in a different part of the report. Here are a few other meetings and presentations that the Society was involved with.

#### Meeting with Singapore Tourism Board, February 7<sup>th</sup>

President, Dr Lynn Yeo, Vice-president, Wee Liang Tong and Director of Operations, Dawn Kua met with the Singapore Tourism Board to discuss promoting the local Singapore cat as a tourist attraction. As our local cats are unique and we have had so much positive feedback from overseas, CWS raised this to the STB and they were very positive. Unfortunately, SARS broke out and the issue was not taken up. We hope to work with STB in the future on this issue.

#### Meeting with Ministry of Environment official, July 17<sup>th</sup>

Liang Tong and Dawn met with an official from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) who assured us again that feeding cats was not against the law and that MOE officers would not fine anyone who cleaned up after their cats. He confirmed that the only offence was for littering, which would not apply to people who cleaned up carefully.

#### Meeting with Venerable Shi Ming Yi, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Dawn met with the Venerable Shi Ming Yi, Abbot of the Foo Hai Ch'an Monastery, along with a representative each from SPCA and ASD. Venerable Shi assured the societies that the Buddhist community was clearly very concerned about the culling as Buddhists hold all life sacred.

### **Mediation and Liason**

The Society took part in more than thirty cases of mediation all over Singapore, dealing with complaints in housing estates, HDB flats and private condominiums. The Society met with volunteers, with complainants and cat owners and caregivers as well as town councils, management agents, residents' committees and management committees.

The Society firmly believes that where all parties are reasonable and are willing to co-operate, a solution amenable to all can almost always be found. The one positive development of the cat culling was that more people especially in private estates heard about the Society and called us in to explore alternatives to killing the cats.

#### Mediation in Tampines, January 8<sup>th</sup>

This was a case of an unreasonable complainant who claimed that cats had scratched his car. Volunteers went down to look into the situation. After speaking with the caregiver and complainant, and looking at the car, it was debatable whether the car had been scratched. Solutions were offered to the complainant. The caregiver then changed the cats' feeding spot to lure them away from the car, and this worked until the complainant started chasing the cats in their new eating area. The complainant also repeatedly called both the town council and several volunteers without trying out the solutions suggested.

As a mark of goodwill, the volunteer also wanted to give the complainant a car cover, which he accepted with thanks. He also said he thought that the problem was resolved as the car cover was a good solution. On the same day, without trying out the car cover, he called up the town council to complain.

The Society hopes that town councils and management authorities will realize that for mediations to work, all parties must be willing to work together. It also hopes that town councils will not continue to remove cats when the complaints or the complainants, are unreasonable.

## **Rescue**

The Society spent \$26,822.51 on rescue bills in 2003. The amount and number of claims increased many times. The Society would like to help with as many rescue claims as possible but at the moment, our resources are very tightly stretched.

The Society also was kept up to date by volunteers on a disturbing number of abuse cases – many more reported to us than in 2002. We sincerely hope we are not seeing an increase in the number of cats abused.

## **Stray Cat Management**

A disappointing setback to the Stray Cat Management programme was the cancellation of the SCRS. Many volunteers were very disheartened by the cancellation of the scheme and for a time, people stopped sterilizing the cats. Fortunately, some have gone back to getting the cats sterilized. Catching sterilized cats not only discourages the volunteers but sets back the good work done by sterilization.

We were pleased however to see more private estates open to the idea of stray cat management. In addition, one private organization launched a stray cat management programme on their premises and we are very pleased to note the hard work that they have put into it. The cats are all being sterilized, have been given basic health care and are fed daily by volunteers. We hope to see more caring corporate citizens like this come forward.

Due to the cessation of the SCRS, CWS increased the number of cats sterilized at private vets. We wish to thank the veterinary clinics who have been so helpful and forthcoming with their aid. By May and June, most volunteers had almost entirely stopped sterilization but by July, sterilizations were picking up. By the end of the year, we were sending in an average of 35 to 40 cats a week.

The number of cats sterilized in 2003 was :-

AVA (till May) : 326  
Private clinics : 1250  
Total : 1576

The Society wishes to continue with sterilization and hopes to continue to do more. We are in the midst of working out whether we can open a free sterilization clinic to do more sterilizations for the cats.

## **Volunteers**

The Society is still run almost entirely by volunteers with one full time staff. People write in via email, volunteer through the NVPC's Ematch programme and sign up at exhibitions.

The Society is always in need of good volunteers to help with our many programmes.

### Education sub-committee

Set up by Serina Rahman, this sub-committee will work to put new programmes into schools to educate younger Singaporeans about the importance of kindness to animals.

## **Staff**

The Society continues to have one full time staff, Dawn Kua, the Director of Operations. To keep overheads low, Dawn continues to work at home as the Society does not have an office.

## **Website**

Our website run by webmaster, Daniel Phipps, was very well received. We have an average of 40,000 people visiting the page every month. To continue improving our website, we will be re-launching a new, improved website in 2004.

## **Working with Other Organisations**

### *Kill Ignorance, Not Animals T-shirt*

Inspired by the t-shirt worn by Mr Balakrishnan Matchap during a vertical marathon, and which he kindly allowed us to adapt, the Society came up with the "Kill Ignorance, Not Animals' t-shirt. Several other organizations worked with us on the t-shirt, SPCA, ASD, HRSS, ACRES, Mettacats and the Vegetarian Society of Singapore. Proceeds are to be split between all the organizations.

### Animal and Environmental Organisations

The Society was also grateful to all the animal and environmental organizations that took part in our WAD celebrations and who have given us support, both logistical and moral.

### Private Vet Clinics

The Society is grateful to all private vet clinics who have provided discounted rates for the stray cats brought in for medical treatment and sterilization. We would especially like to thank Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital and all its branches, Animal Clinic and its branches, Clinic for Pets, Animal Recovery Centre and its branches and Namly Clinic.

### **Other Matters**

#### **Sponsorship**

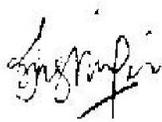
The Society is very grateful for the sponsorship received from several companies and individuals, a list of whom can be found at the back of this report.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF CAT WELFARE SOCIETY**

We have audited the financial statements of the Cat Welfare Society for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's executive committee. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Singapore Standards on Auditing. These Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the Societies Act and Statements of Accounting Standard and so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 and of the cash flows of the Society for the period ended on that date.



Tang Min Pei  
Honourary Auditor



Tok Xiaowei  
Honourary Auditor

24<sup>th</sup> March 2004, Singapore

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

	\$
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS</b>	
Membership fees	18,419
Donations	44,408
Sale of Merchandise	38,713
	<b>101,540</b>
	23,577
<b>COST OF SALES</b>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Education	10,869
Rescue	26,823
Sterilisation	34,364
Food, Litter etc	16,645
Transport	5,617
Cat equipment	8,808
	<b>126,703</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	
Accounting	1,000
Bank charges	72
Postage	529
Printing & stationery	513
Registrations, Licences	180
Staff - Salaries	5,900
Staff - CPF	960
Staff - CDAC	4
Telecom expenses	1,388
General expenses	334
	<b>10,880</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(36,043)</b>
Add: Fund balance b/f from year 2002	65,013
	<b>28,970</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT YEAR END 2003</b>	

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	
	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash at bank	28,368
Deposits payable	2,322
	<b>30,690</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounting fee payable	1,000
Staff - Salary	400
Staff - CPF	320
	<b>1,720</b>
	<b>28,970</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	



Dr Lynn Yeo, President



Ms Evelyn Toh, Treasurer

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### Income

The Society's programmes and activities for the year 2003 were funded from the following:

	\$	%
Membership subscriptions	18,419	18.1
Donations *	44,408	43.8
Society merchandise sales	38,713	38.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,540</b>	<b>100</b>

### Expenditure

Our main expense was for sterilisation as well as for the rescue of sick, injured and abused cats, together accounting for 48.4% of our total expenditure. Sterilisation costs increased by **60%** and rescue bills by almost **200%** compared with year 2002. There was also a huge increase in food and litter expenses (up by almost 4x or 400%!) The sharp rise in sterilisation and food/litter costs were due to the sudden termination of the Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme which made it necessary for us to intensify our adoption and fostering activities as well as pay for more sterilisations on our own. Rescue expenses were increased, largely due to the Society helping more people who were doing their part to help our street cats and also from late claims from year 2002 which we only received in early 2003. Cost of sales amounted to about 17% of our expenditure- this was used for merchandising to raise the profile of our Society, as well as to bring in much needed funds for our work.

Education costs relates to expenses for the production of flyers, posters, cards and advertisements to inform the public and raise awareness about the plight of our homeless cats. Equipment purchased included cat traps, cages and trays for volunteer fosters, etc. The escalation of costs described above is the main reason for the Society running at a large **deficit** of over **\$36K** in 2003.

Administrative expenses amounted to only 7.9% of our total expenditure for the year. This is significantly less (in percentage terms) than last year despite the Society still having a full-time operations director to manage the day to day running of the Society. We are extremely proud of the fact that we have kept the administrative part of our expenses so low as this has meant that more of every donation dollar goes directly to help our street cats. Having said that, we may in the near future have to employ another full-time staff to cope with the ever - increasing workload.

	\$	%
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
Education	10,869	7.9
Rescue	26,823	19.5
Sterilisation	34,364	25.0
Food, litter etc	16,645	12.1
Transport (for cats)	5,617	4.1
Cat Equipment	8,808	6.4
Cost of Sales	23,577	17.1
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Accounting	1,000	0.7
Bank charges	72	0.05
Postage	529	0.4
Printing & stationery	513	0.4
Registrations	180	0.1
Staff - Salaries	5,900	4.3
Staff - CPF	960	0.7
Staff - CDAC	4	0.05
Telecom expenses	1,388	1.0
General expenses	334	0.2
	<b>137,583</b>	<b>100</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, organizations and companies who have helped us in many ways during the year.

5566 Fan Club Action for Singapore Dogs Irene Ang Animal Clinic and its branches Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) Animal Recovery Centre and branches All Breeds Pets All Pets and Aqualife Alley Bar Alley Cat Allies Ang Mo Kio Town Council Animal Watch Asia-Medic Joel Balbin Bouncy Castles Business Times Mariel Catacutan Catcha.com Centre for Animal Welfare and Control, AVA Channel News Asia Richard Chee Club Pets Shawn Dok East Coast Town Council Effem Foods Pte Ltd Esplanade Friends of Animals Ffurious Vadivu Govind	Green Volunteers Network Goodwood Park Hotel Gabriel Ho Dr Hsu Li Chieh Hoover Park neighbourhood Residents' Committee Hougang Town Council House Rabbits Society of Singapore I- Weekly Jurong Town Council Gayle Koh James Lai Dr Lau Soon Teik Lee Weng Choy Helence Lim Simon Lim Lomographic Embassy of Singapore Dr Lou Ek Hee Wendy Lum Dr Jean Paul Ly Balakrishnan Matchap Mediacorp News Metta Cats Music Street Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital and branches Andy Nai National Parks Board National Volunteers and Philanthropy Centre National Youth Park Nature Society of Singapore	NewsRadio 93.8 Noah's Ark Lodge Adele Ong Pasir Ris-Punggol Town Council Benson Puah Jacqueline Rodrigo Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Venerable Shi Ming Yi Singapore Cat Club Singapore Tourism Board Substation Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Suntec City Simon Tay Straits Times Streats Tanjong Pagar Town Council Eric Tee Gin Tee Today UFM 100.3 Vegetarian Society of Singapore Wildaid Wildlife Singapore Cyndi Wong World Society for the Protection of Animals You Weekly
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We would also like to extend a big thank you to all our volunteers who have worked so tirelessly and without whom, our work would not be possible. Our volunteers help with exhibitions, sterilization, fostering, mediation, feeding and a range of activities.

In particular, we would especially like to thank the following people who were unstinting in helping the Society so much over the last year :- Dr Ling Sing Lin, Josephine Teo, Lucy Davis, Margaret Widelock, Larina, Tan Jialin, Kavita Manickavasagam, Richard Ng, Christabel Chai, Marcus Tan, Michelle Lee, Dell Chan, Jolanda and Jan Hengst, Mok Shao Pern, Alison Soh, Catherine Chong, Kuay Soong Teck, Sharon Wong, Corrinne Goh, Foo Wei Fong, Theresa Low, Ellen Chew, Alvin Ho, Tiffany Sim, Kristy Teo, Verg Mermiliod, Tan Li Ling, Tang Min Pei, Jack Teo, Jacqueline Tan.