



**Annual Report**  
for the year ended 31 dec 2008



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## ABOUT THE CAT WELFARE SOCIETY

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The Cat Welfare Society was registered under the Societies Act on 23rd 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:

- advocate sterilisation as opposed to eradication as a means of controlling the community cat population
- promote tolerance, kindness and respect towards cats and other living creatures
- raise awareness about the plight of Singapore's community 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
- promote responsible pet ownership and responsible management of community 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 organisations and individuals who care for the many community cats on our streets. Through our community cat management, education, adoption and rescue programmes, we hope to enhance the lives of these cats so that there will eventually be no more killing, abuse and suffering associated with life on the streets. We also organise and participate in exhibitions and events to raise awareness of the plight of our community cats.

The Society is 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 minimum, most funds we raise go towards helping the cats.

More information about the Society and our work can be found at [www.catwelfare.org](http://www.catwelfare.org). 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. Our sterilisation mailbox number is 7000-CATSNIP.

## 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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|                  |   |                    |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| President        | : | Michelle Lee       |
| Vice-President   | : | Sarah Ismail       |
| Treasurer        | : | Marcus Lee         |
| Secretary        | : | Salina Jefrydeen   |
| Committee Member | : | Ang Li Tin         |
| Committee Member | : | Aliah Ali          |
| Committee Member | : | Clodya Kennedy     |
| Committee Member | : | Ivan Ong Leok Poon |
| Committee Member | : | Jacquelyn Seetoh   |
| Committee Member | : | Neo Kai Ling       |

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

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Promoting Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM) programmes continued to be the cornerstone of the Society's work in 2008. While the Society provides the know-how, the equipment, and the financial support for TNRM work, the sweat and toll of actually carrying out that work is borne by caregivers. We are therefore very grateful to the many caregivers out there, without whom the Society's efforts would never bear fruit. To show our appreciation for caregivers and to touch base with them, we organised a tea session with caregivers on 2nd August 2008 – an event that we hope will become a yearly affair.

2008 was marked by a significant number of organisational changes. In March, the Society convened a new committee comprising almost entirely of newcomers, including Ang Li Tin, Neo Kai Ling, Ivan Ong, Salina Jefrydeen, Aliah Ali, Clodya Kennedy and Jeannie Chan. Some committee members had previously volunteered with the Society, others had been long time caregivers, and still others were animal welfare activists in their own right, outside of the Society's domain. The infusion of new blood was beneficial as new perspectives were brought to discussions and the operations of the Society were re-examined with fresh pairs of eyes. It did, however, mean those new to the committee had much catching up to do in fully comprehending the challenges that the Society faces. All took on the task valiantly, but some ultimately found it a lack of fit between their role and the Society's work, leading to a parting of ways. We are much indebted to the contributions of Ivan, Salina, Sarah, Aliah, and Clodya, without whom we would not have had the enthusiastic start to the year that we had. We have begun a search to fill vacated positions and have made good progress on that front.

We had the good fortune of hiring Wiggie as our part-time Administrative Manager, who so effectively performed the crucial functions of attending to queries from caregivers and the public, liaising with vet clinics to get subsidised sterilisation rates for caregivers, and managing our sterilisation and medical reimbursement schemes. We would also like to thank the following volunteers who sacrificed personal time to help out the Society: Roger Lee (IT), Sabrina Tan (adoptions), Delia Toh (volunteers management), Shelly Sim (membership), and Low Wei Ling (lost and found).

We held our 3rd annual Spay Day on 31st October 2009, a day when the co-ordinated efforts of 22 participating vets and a dozen volunteers enabled us to sterilise a total of 157 cats. With two years of experience organising Spay Day under our belt, we had a better handle on logistics this year and the event ran to completion with hardly a hitch. Kai Ling was the committee member who oversaw the entire event. We are extremely grateful to Rebecca Ho and Wiggie Lim, the experienced hands who spearheaded the event, to Sharon Chia, Herbin Chia, Betty Lee and Cheo Meng Tuan, the team that took the administrative reins, and to Sharon Chia and Herbin Chia for putting together a goodie bag for caregivers.

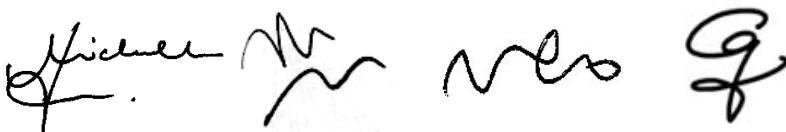
There were also a number of noteworthy initiatives during the year, including a membership perks programme that gave members of the Society discounts and privileges at 18 participating merchants. Ivan led the enormous effort of 'cajoling' merchants and continues to be involved in this project. We are ever grateful to the merchants for agreeing to be part of our programme. Another project involving significant effort was the long overdue revamp of our website. This was spearheaded by Li Tin and the result was a refreshing facelift that also made the website easier to navigate.

2008 proved to be a challenging one for the Society as we coped with a fall in donations and membership subscriptions, due in no small part to a trying economic climate. However,

we kept our eye on the ball – our mission of promoting Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage as a humane and effective way to manage the community cat population – and continued to fund caregivers' sterilisation efforts.

However, to cope with changes in our financial circumstance, we made modifications to our reimbursement scheme. In 2007, we raised our sponsorship of sterilisation to \$20 per cat and up to \$60 for the 5th cat sterilised. In 2008, we made the decision to continue with the scheme, but tweaked our policy to make a distinction between members and non-members. Non-members continue to be eligible for reimbursements but at the lower rate of \$10 per cat sterilised. With this change, we hope that caregivers will be provided with an incentive to take up membership. A second change we had to make had to do with our medical reimbursement scheme. While we would have liked to generously fund the medical expenses incurred by caregivers, we had to be mindful of our changed financial situation and the Society's expressed mission. We prioritised sterilisation and scale back our funding of medical treatments. Our new medical reimbursement policy reimburses members 50% of the medical bill, up to a cap of \$300. Non-members are reimbursed 25% of the medical bill, up to a cap of \$150. To ensure that the financial help we extend benefit those who need it most, we further specified that only those with a gross monthly income of \$1200 and below would qualify for medical reimbursement.

The Society receives no financial support from the government and is very much dependent on financial contributions from the public. As such, we expect a tougher year ahead as 2009 continues to be shrouded in economic uncertainty. While the committee is committed to diligent monitoring of the Society's financial health and to revise our reimbursement policies as necessary, we also urge one and all to not forget our feline friends in this economic downturn. The reproductive rate of cats has no regard for economic climate and a single pair of breeding cats and their offspring can produce 325 cats in 2 years. For as little as \$20, a cat can be sterilised. This can go a long way towards preventing unnecessary births and unnecessary deaths of cats. We hope to have your continued support in this trying time.



## AGENDA FOR 10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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### **1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

To confirm and adopt minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting held on 26th March 2008.

### **2. Annual Report of the Committee**

To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 2008.

### **3. Audited Accounts**

To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008.

### **4. 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 THE 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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On : 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
At : 7.00 pm  
Venue : School of Economics and Social Science  
Singapore Management University  
Classroom 3.1

As there was no quorum, the AGM began at 7:30 pm. President Michelle Lee introduced the Executive committee members – Sarah Ismail, Marcus Lee and Jacin Chan.

### 1. Agenda

#### 1.1 To Confirm and Adopt the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007

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

Proposer : Marcus Lee  
Secunder : Jacin Chan

#### 1.2 Focus of Cat Welfare Society and future plans

##### *Working with AVA & MND on TNRM*

CWS is continuing with efforts to step up the promotion of Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM) programmes such as by conducting more workshops.

The Society continued in its efforts to engage the Housing Development Board (HDB) to get them to reconsider the 'no cats in flats' policy. However, there had been no response to the most recent email sent to them. In previous replies, the HDB had made the stand that the policy would not be changed because of their belief that the majority of residents are not in favour of allowing the keeping of cats in flats.

Members of CWS who were present asked whether CWS would continue to write to HDB. The President replied that the Society would continue to try, but expressed doubt that the same tact would lead to a favourable outcome. Members were encouraged to provide feedback to HDB to debunk the belief that Singaporeans are not for keeping cats in flat and that the majority, in fact, take no issue with the matter. The President noted that it would take more people need to speak up on the issue, to write to the media and relevant government agencies in order to make a positive impact.

##### *Adoptions of Cats / Sterilisation Cost*

The President mentioned that adoption efforts had been scaled back due to a shift



in focus to sterilisation. For adoption drives at exhibitions and events, photos and write-ups of cats were put on display instead of having the cats brought to the premise, to avoid unnecessary stress to the cats.

In June 2007, CWS increased the reimbursement rate to \$15 per cat and full reimbursement of up to \$50 for every 5th cat sterilised. In September 2007, on reviewing the financial status of the Society, the committee decided that we were in a position to provide a further increase. The current reimbursement rate is \$20 per cat and full reimbursement of up to \$60 for every 5th cat sterilised.

The President said that the Society had been hoping to increase the fee for Life Membership from \$250 to \$300 since the last AGM. This change, however, requires a change to the Society's constitution. All changes to the constitution must be voted on by a quorum at an AGM and since we have not been able to get a quorum at AGMs, this matter will have to be revisited at a future date.

### 1.3 To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 2008

Proposer : Sarah Ismail  
Secunder : Michelle Lee

### 1.4 To receive and adopt the audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

The President asked if there were any questions before the adoption of the accounts.

Proposer : Jacin Chan  
Secunder : Marcus Lee

### 1.5 Election of 5th Executive Committee

The following people were nominated and elected into the new committee:

|                  |                    |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| President        | : Michelle Lee     | <i>Proposer: Marcus Lee<br/>Secunder: Ivan Ong</i>         |
| Vice-President   | : Sarah Ismail     | <i>Proposer: Michelle Lee<br/>Secunder: Marcus Lee</i>     |
| Treasurer        | : Marcus Lee       | <i>Proposer: Michelle Lee<br/>Secunder: Sarah Ismail</i>   |
| Secretary        | : Salina Jefrydeen | <i>Proposer: Ivan Ong<br/>Secunder: Neo Kai Ling</i>       |
| Committee Member | : Ivan Ong         | <i>Proposer: Salina Jefrydeen<br/>Secunder: Ang Li Tin</i> |
| Committee Member | : Ang Li Tin       | <i>Proposer: Ivan Ong<br/>Secunder: Salina Jefrydeen</i>   |

Committee Member : Clodya Kennedy

Proposer: Ivan Ong  
Seconder: Kai Ling

Committee Member : Neo Kai Ling

Proposer: Ivan Ong  
Seconder: Salina Jefrydeen

Committee Member : Aliah Ali

Proposer: Ivan Ong  
Seconder: Ang Li Tin

## 2.0 Any other Business

- The President informed members that Committee Members, Wee Liang Tong, Jacin Chan, Corbie Kiernan Chan, have decided to step down for personal reasons.
- Rebecca Ho, who worked on a part-time basis for a short period, supporting Dawn with mediation work, and who was a key person in charge of Spay Day, has decided to step down too. The Society thanked her for all the hard work she had put in.

### *Questions and Comments*

- Some members including Aminah Bee gave feedback that responses to emails sent to [info@catwelfare.org](mailto:info@catwelfare.org) were slow. She also commented that the website seems to be outdated and people may have the misconception that CWS is no longer in existence. People may also be cautious about donating to the Society because of that.

The President replied that with newly appointed committee members coming on board, she hopes that emails will be promptly responded to and urgent zone problems can be tackled faster. The President hopes that members will continue to be patient as committee members have full time jobs and may only be able to attend to Society matters after working hours.

As for the website, revamping it is one of the main items on the agenda for the following year.

- Members mentioned that each time they write or speak to the authorities, such Town Councils, it always seems like a losing battle. The luckier ones have Town Councils who are willing to work with them, provided the cats are all sterilised, are fed in a responsible manner, and no cat-related complaints are received.

The President replied noting that it is important for caregivers to maintain a good working relationship with Town Councils. If their jobs can be made easier by working with caregivers, they will be appreciative of the effort put in by them. Caregivers need to conduct themselves responsibly, rationally, and have tenacity to driving home the message of why TNRM works.

## 3.0 Closing of Meeting

Meeting called to a close at 8.15pm.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

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### **Sterilisation and TNRM**

The Society engages in the following activities to promote TNRM among prospective caregivers and to support the TNRM efforts of existing caregivers.

#### 1. Conduct TNRM workshops

A TNRM workshop was conducted to teach would-be caregivers the basics of TNRM and how to operate a cat trap. This was held at the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre on 20th December 2008. Volunteers, Herbin Chia and Sharon Chia, helped with the organization of the workshop, while Rebecca Ho, demonstrated the catching of a cat with the use of a trap.

#### 2. Provide cat traps on loan

The Society loans out traps to caregivers solely for the purpose of carrying out TNRM. Loan of these traps require a deposit of \$75 that is refundable when the trap is returned. This is to cover our costs should the trap be lost, stolen or damaged.

#### 3. Liaise with vet clinics to obtain subsidised rates for sterilisation

To date, there are 20 vet clinics that work with us to provide subsidised sterilisation rates to caregivers. Booking of these sterilisation slots have to be done through the Society by emailing [catsnip@catwelfare.org](mailto:catsnip@catwelfare.org) or by leaving a voicemail at 7000-CATSNIP.

We would like to thank Wiggie Lim for so competently handling bookings by email and voicemail. In total, for 2008, a total of 1,449 (or an average of about 120 per month) subsidised sterilisation slots were booked through CVS for the sterilisation of community cats in 2008.

#### 4. Provide partial reimbursement of sterilisation costs

In September 2007, the Society increased reimbursement rates for sterilisation to \$20 per cat and up to \$60 for every 5th cat sterilised. In 2008, we modified the policy a little to make a distinction between members and non-members, and to give non-members an incentive to join the Society. While members continue to enjoy the same rates, non-members are now reimbursed \$10 for every cat sterilised. The usual conditions apply to qualify for reimbursement, namely that (1) cats must be community cats and not home cats, (2) original receipts must be submitted, and (3) a reimbursement form (available by contacting [info@catwelfare.org](mailto:info@catwelfare.org)) must be submitted within one month of incurring expenses.

While the Society is very much in favour of funding caregivers' sterilisation efforts, we have to be mindful of our financial health and potential cashflow problems given the economic downturn. We have seen a decline in our income from donations and membership fees in the last year and will continue to monitor the situation. A reduction in reimbursement rates may be necessary if the downward trend persists.

## **Spay Day 2008**

Encouraged by the success of Spay Day 2007, we had another Spay Day last year. Spay Day 2008 was concluded on Friday, 31 October 2008. The event was held in October in line with World Animal Day. A total of 157 cats were sent to the various vets for sterilisation. This was almost equivalent to the number of cats sterilised in 2007.

Caregivers submitted their requests for slots weeks prior to the event and had to trap and fast their community cats the night before the big day. The cats were then brought to one of four dropoff points at Ang Mo Kio, Boon Lay, Tampines and Bedok bright and early the following morning.

Wiggie Lim, Rebecca Ho, Ang Li Tin and Michelle Lee were stationed at each of these drop-off points as coordinators and along with volunteers, ensured that all cats were checked in and that all cages were ID tagged and secured. The cats were then sent on their way to one of 20 participating vet clinics. In the evening of the same day, these cats were taken to the same drop-off points where they were returned to their caregivers.

There were also many other volunteers who helped out that day took much initiative in loading and unloading the cats from the vans. They readily approached the care-givers to fill up the carrier forms and tag the cats very efficiently. Thank you June, Lei Chin, Rina, Norzia, Minako, Nancy, Lyva, Anna, Mdm Soon, Jeffrey and Michelle Siau, for taking time off your busy schedules to help out in this event.

We would also like to thank our organizing committee who was in charge of the overall planning and smooth running of Spay Day – Wiggie Lim, Cheo Meng Tuan, Betty Lee, Ang Li Tin, Rebecca Ho, Jeannie Chan, Michelle Lee, Neo Kai Ling, Herbin and Sharon Chia. They were the ones working hard behind the scenes to ensure that Spay Day goes on smoothly - from getting vet slots, to charting transport routes, getting logistics and forms completed and translated, to getting volunteers and tabulating lists. Special mention goes to Salina and Ivan for helping to recruit volunteers. Also to Derrick and Emmanuela for designing gift tags for the goodie bags and calling up the care-givers to remind them about Spay Day before the actual event.

We are extremely grateful to the following 22 vets for agreeing to be part of this event by providing sterilisation slots and displaying Spay Day posters at their clinics:

1. Allpets & Aqualife Pte Ltd
2. AMK Veterinary Surgery
3. AAVC - Animal & Avian Veterinary Clinic
4. Animal Practice Pte Ltd
5. Animal Recovery Centre Pte Ltd
6. Animal Recovery Centre (East)
7. Animal Recovery Veterinary Centre
8. Clinic for Pets
9. James Tan veterinary Centre Pte Ltd
10. Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital
11. Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (Springside) Pte Ltd

12. Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (East) Pte Ltd
13. Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (North) Pte Ltd
14. Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (Bedok)
15. Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (West) Pte Ltd
16. Namly Animal Clinic
17. Pet Clinic
18. The Animal Doctors
19. The Joyous Vet Pte Ltd
20. The Veterinary Clinic (Harbour Front Walk)
21. The Veterinary Clinic (Holland Village)
22. Vet Practice Pte Ltd

On 20 December 2008, CWS held a volunteers thank-you session cum TNRM Workshop at National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre to thank the volunteers for rendering their assistance. Small token gifts were also delivered to the vets to thank them for participating in this event.

## **Education and Public Awareness**

### 1. Brochures

The Society continues to make brochures on “Responsible feeding” and “Sterilisation” readily available. Both brochures are available in English, Chinese, and Malay.

The “Responsible feeding” brochure explains the do’s and don’ts of feeding and how commission of the don’ts can lead to complaints and eventual rounding up of cats to be killed. The “Sterilisation” brochure makes a case for how sterilisation can be beneficial to both cats and communities.

### 2. Talks

The Society gives talks on the need for sterilisation, how TNRM programmes work and what the Society does to promote TNRM as an effective means of controlling the community cat population. These talks are done on invitation and anyone wishing to have us give a talk can write [info@catwelfare.org](mailto:info@catwelfare.org).

The following is a list of talks that took place in 2008.

*Singapore Management University, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008*

By : Michelle Lee  
 Topic : Volunteerism and the Cat Welfare Society

*Republic Polytechnic, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008*

By : Michelle Lee  
 Topic : An Introduction to the Cat Welfare Society and TNRM

*Accenture, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008*

By : Michelle Lee

### 3. Events & Exhibitions

#### Cats of the Word II Photo Exhibition, 20 – 31 May 2008

This photo exhibition was put together by a group of cat lovers who were also photography enthusiasts. The objective of the exhibition was to raise awareness about the plight of community cats in Singapore, as well as around the world. Held at the Arts House this year, some 40 photos of cats were showcased during the event and co-organiser Carlyn Law invited CWS on the opening of the exhibition to give a talk about our work, interact with cat lovers and raise funds through selling merchandise.

#### Singapore Cat Club Championship Cat Show, 6 April 2008

As part of the continuous efforts in raising awareness about TNRM, CWS was invited to set up a booth at the Championship Cat Show held at Expo to educate the public about the importance of sterilisation and responsible pet ownership. It was a chance to interact with cat owners and educate them about the work that CWS does.

#### Animal Welfare Symposium, 24 May 2008

The inaugural Animal Welfare Symposium organized by the Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES), NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group, People for Animal Welfare (SMU PAW) and NTU Animal Lovers' Society was held at the Singapore Management University this year. As part of the panel discussion for the session on Domestic Animal Welfare, CWS President, Michelle Lee, was one of the invited guests to discuss the issue of cat welfare in Singapore. The issue of community cats generated lively discussion about the plight of community cats and ways to garner support for sterilization from government agencies and the public. There was an exchange of ideas in a forum that was unprecedented in terms of scale and there was also, importantly, the opportunity for the different animal welfare groups to get better acquainted, thereby setting the stage for future collaboration. CWS would like to thank the organizers for inviting us to the event and look forward to the upcoming symposium in 2009.

#### Envirofest 2008, 28 – 29 June 2008

This event organized by the Kolam Ayer CC Youth Executive Committee was held at the Toa Payoh Centre Amphitheatre. During this event, CWS educated the public about the importance of trap-neuter-release-manage and raised funds through merchandise sale.

#### Animal Welfare Week at Accenture, 11 September 2008

As part of Accenture Pte Ltd's Animal Welfare Week, CWS was invited to give a lunch talk to more than 20 employees about our cause and the importance of TNRM. We would like to thank Accenture for their invitation for the lunch talk.

#### NTU Animal Lovers's Society Roadshow Event, 29 – 30 September 2008

As part of World Animal Day, the Nanyang Technological University Animal Lovers' Society (NTUALS) invited CWS to be part of the two-day road show event on 29th September 2008 and 30th September 2008 at NTU. This road show aims not only provided a platform to educate tertiary students on CWS' cause and efforts but was also a way to raise funds through sale of merchandise.

#### AVA Responsible Pet Ownership Roadshow, 7 – 9 November 2008

This annual event organised by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) was held at Ngee Ann City and had “Be a Responsible Pet Owner” as the theme. CWS was glad to be part of AVA's effort in promoting responsible pet ownership. In addition to setting up a booth to educate visitors about the importance of TNRM, CWS also had three educational talks as part of the stage events, aimed at educating the public about the myths of terilisation and how to take care of pet cats. A certificate of participation was presented to us by the Guest-of-Honour, Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development.

#### Singapore Cat Club Championship Cat Show, 16 November 2008

As part of the efforts to raise awareness about TNRM in the heartlands, CWS took part in the cat show held at the Sengkang Community Club. It was a chance to educate members of the public about our work and raise funds through merchandise sale.

#### 4. In the Media

Whenever cat-related issues surfaced in the media, the Society took the opportunity to address concerns raised and to highlight the importance of TNRM. In 2008, the issue that received significant attention had to do with the irresponsible feeding of community cats. The following are excerpts of letters written to media forums.

#### Straits Times Online Forum, May 1 2008:

*“Regarding the feeding of community cats, we would like to highlight that feeding should be done as a means to an end – that of sterilising and managing the population – rather than an end in itself. Many people feed with kindness to animals as a motivation, but that kindness is misplaced if the feeding is done irresponsibly, leading to complaints and the eventual trapping and killing of the cats. Community cats are often blamed for problems that could have been averted if people were more cognizant of the potential consequences of irresponsible feeding.”*

#### TODAY newspaper, “When Fines Aren't So Fine”, May 10 – 11 2008

*“We refer to the call for cat feeders to be fined on the Class 95's Morning Express, made by the DJs the Flying Dutchman and Glenn Ong. During the show, the DJs compared cat feeders to people who feed monkeys, saying that the feeders encourage the cats to mess up dustbins and leave their faeces around.*

*The comments made by Mark Van Cuylenberg and Glenn Ong leave many cat caregivers concerned because it unnecessarily perpetuates the false impression that all feeders are irresponsible. There are certainly irresponsible feeders who make no effort to clean up and these people can be fined for falling afoul of littering laws. Surely there is no need to impose a blanket cat feeding fine that takes no account of whether feeding was done responsibly.*

*Our society has always urged cat feeders to observe guidelines, such as cleaning up after feeding, feeding only at areas and at times of low human traffic, and only on ground level. We would also like to emphasize that regular feeding should always be done in conjunction with sterilisation, in a programme called Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM). Sterilisation has been proven to be the best long term solution to reducing the community cat population. In addition, sterilised cats have a better temperament and are easier to interact with.”*

Pets Magazine, “Is HDB’s Pet a White Elephant?”, Nov/Dec 2008

An article about HDB’s ban on the keeping of cats in flats appeared in Pets Magazine. It was based in part on an interview conducted by the author of the article, Mr. Lim Say Liang, and the President of the Society and highlighted the Society’s efforts to get the Ministry of National Development to repeal the ban.

Excerpt of article:

*“Between 2001 and 2002, the Cat Welfare Society (CWS) sent a proposal to the Ministry of National Development (MND) and corresponded with the authorities. In place of the policy, CWS recommended a mandatory sterilization of cats, have them microchipped, and be kept indoors at all times. ... CWS even offered to “assist MND and HDB with the registration process and help ensure that all the stipulated conditions are complied with. Cited “difficulties of implementation”, CWS’s proposal was rejected.”*

Lianhe Wanbao, “建议喂野猫者应被罚款 2 电台DJ遭炮轰”, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The President of the Society was interviewed by Ms. Koh Hsiang Yu of Wanbao and asked to comment on the issue of the responsible feeding of community cats. The key point conveyed to Ms. Koh was that feeding should always be done in tandem with sterilisation. The Society continues to reiterate this point to the public – If you feed, please sterilise.

Excerpt of article:

猫福利协会 (Cat Welfare Society) 主席李佩儿说，协会鼓励人们喂养猫儿一些时日，协助将它们送去做绝育手术，“协会将提供相关协助；之后猫儿可释放回原处，继续喂食。”她表示，目前已有法令管制乱抛垃圾，无需特别设立针对喂猫而弄脏环境的法令。“有责任心的喂猫人，是在控制流浪猫数量，不应受罚。”

## **Website & Facebook**

The Society’s new website at <http://www.catwelfare.org> was completed in December 2008 and went live on 1st Jan 2009.

The previous website had been problematic when it came to updating content. The decision to revamp it was therefore made to improve the functionality of the site.

Apart from a complete overhaul of the layout, the backend was also reprogrammed to be more user friendly with a new content-management system. Some useful features were integrated, such as an automated Public Adoption Bulletin Board for fosters to post cats for adoption and for



potential adopters to private message fosters directly, as well as a more comprehensive FAQ section.

The society will not be actively screening fosters and adopters using the board. Instead our volunteer Sophia will continue to monitor postings to prevent abuse of the board. We hope to be more involved in the screening of users in future.

The Events and Merchandise sections have moved to the main homepage to increase their visibility.

More features will be integrated in 2009 to communicate more useful information, such as a bulletin board for people to post Special Appeals on the homepage.

The revamp, which was completed over the course of 6 months, was made possible by the contribution of volunteer web designer Jeannie Neo, volunteer web programmer Aloysius Choong and our long-time adoptions volunteer, Sophia. The project was overseen by Li Tin.

Social media has proven to be a effective means of garnering support from the public, for reaching out to people concerned about the welfare of community cats in Singapore, as well as to link up with the community of caregivers. With this in mind, we set up a 'Group' on Facebook and have been actively encouraging one and all to support the Society by joining the group. (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=42524608516&ref=ts>).

## **Merchandise**

Two new items were offered for sale - an environmentally-friendly shopping bag, featuring the Society's TNRM graphic, and a cute handmade tissue pouch that is the shape of a cat's head.

The Society sells its merchandise mainly at booths set up at events and exhibitions. A secondary channel for sales is the Society's website. Orders received through the website are mailed out with a small postage & handling fee. Payments are processed using PayPal, a secure mode of electronic payment.

Li Tin, the committee member in charge of merchandise, has take measures to save costs by transporting merchandise to event and exhibition venues via public transport whenever possible.

## **Newsletter**

The year has been a year of instability for the society due to the a number of organizational changes. The newsletter, "Mews" has been suspended for now as we have not found suitable volunteers to take on the task. The newsletter had, in the past, played the important function of updating members about the Society's activities on a quarterly basis, and we hope to restart it again as soon as we are able to find volunteers.

## **Mediation and Liaison**

Due to a lack of manpower in 2008, the Society was not able to maintain a high level of support for caregivers on the ground compared to previous years, when it came to mediation.

However, some committee members spent many hours responding to email enquiries, calling people, as well as going on-site to speak to caregivers and officials to try to solve problems and improve community relations by responding to issues that may lead to cats being caught and culled.

The following is a sampling of occasions when committee members and volunteers stepped up to help resolve some problems.

*June 2008* : Meeting with caregivers regarding Pasir Ris cat abuse cases (Ivan)

*October 2008* : Multiple mediation sessions at Seng Kang (Salina)

*Nov 2008* : Meeting with West Coast Town Council and Minister in Boon Lay for mediation (Li Tin)

Despite our limited resources, we will continue to look into helping caregivers in the coming year and we hope to be more involved and be more efficient in cases where the Society's presence is needed.

### **Abuse Cases**

While the Society's focus has been on sterilisation and TNRM, we have also supported SPCA's call to action in abuse cases. We have done this by matching rewards offered by the organization for information leading to the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible for the abuse and deaths of cats.

Some examples of such cases include:

*\$1000 offered for the solving of Choa Chu Kang Abuse Cases*

Over 20 separate cases of cat abuse were reported in Choa Chu Kang and the location of carcasses were scattered. This included one case of a pregnant cat that had her stomach slit open.

*\$1000 offered for the solving of Pasir Ris Abuse Cases*

Over 12 cats were found brutally murdered, including several that were doused with thinner.

### **Other Matters**

#### **1. Thank-you tea session for caregivers, 2nd August 2008**

The Society organised a thank-you tea session at the National Library to express our appreciation to volunteers who have been actively involved in the Society's activities.

#### **2. Spay Day feedback and thank-you tea session with volunteers, 20th December 2008**

The Society held a tea session with Spay Day volunteers, to thank them for their dedication. The occasion also served the purpose of gathering feedback from volunteers on how Spay Day can

be improved. This session was chaired by volunteer, Herbin Chia, and generated useful discussion on how hiccups can be avoided and how operations can be streamlined.

## AUDITORS REPORT

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### Message to members of the Cat Welfare Society:

*We have audited the financial statements of the Cat Welfare Society for the year ended 31st December 2008. 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 a manner 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 so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as of 31st December 2008 and of the cash flows of the Society for the period ended on that date.*



Roger Loh  
Honorary Auditor

Cowan Phan  
Honorary Auditor

27th March 2009

**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
For the year ended 31st December 2008

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                           |                       |
| Membership Subscriptions                | \$ 2,820.00           |
| Donations                               | \$ 51,257.42          |
| Society Merchandise Sales               | \$ 680.00             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b>\$ 54,757.42</b>   |
| <b>Cost of Sales</b>                    |                       |
| Purchases                               | \$ 1,090.00           |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                     | <b>\$ 53,667.42</b>   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                         |                       |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>               |                       |
| Education                               | \$ 60.00              |
| Rescue                                  | \$ 16,761.39          |
| Sterilisation                           | \$ 52,903.20          |
| Food                                    | \$ 424.29             |
| Transport                               | \$ 1,635.48           |
| Cat Equipment                           | \$ 32.90              |
| <b>Administrative Expenses</b>          |                       |
| Accounting                              | \$ 1,000.00           |
| Bank Charges                            | \$ 100.24             |
| Postage                                 | \$ 251.13             |
| Office Supplies                         | \$ 54.40              |
| Printing & Stationery                   | \$ 1,168.30           |
| Staff - Salaries                        | \$ 1,600.00           |
| Staff - CPF                             | \$ (493.00)           |
| Staff - SDL                             | \$ (2.00)             |
| Staff - CDAC                            | \$ (0.50)             |
| Staff - Benefits                        | \$ 131.00             |
| Casual Labour                           | \$ 7,553.00           |
| Telecom Expenses                        | \$ 208.50             |
| Internet Related Expenses               | \$ 916.64             |
| Refreshment                             | \$ 11.83              |
| Rental (Storage, Equipment, Facilities) | \$ 2,173.05           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <b>\$ 86,489.85</b>   |
| <b>Operating Profit</b>                 | <b>\$ (32,822.43)</b> |

## Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2008

### Current Assets

|                     |           |                  |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| DBS Bank            | \$        | 26,972.69        |
| OCBC Bank           | \$        | 10,084.00        |
| Deposits Paid       | \$        | 472.00           |
| <b>Total Assets</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>37,528.69</b> |

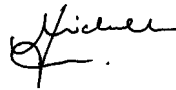
### Liabilities

|                          |           |              |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Accruals                 | \$        | 1,020.22     |
| Deposits Received        | \$        | 675.00       |
| Amount Owing to Dawn     | \$        | (1,604.00)   |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>91.22</b> |

**Net Assets** **\$ 37,437.47**

### Equity

|                              |           |                  |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Prior Year's Surplus/Deficit | \$        | 28,970.50        |
| Retained Earnings            | \$        | 41,289.40        |
| Current Year Surplus/Deficit | \$        | (32,822.43)      |
| <b>Total Equity</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>37,437.47</b> |



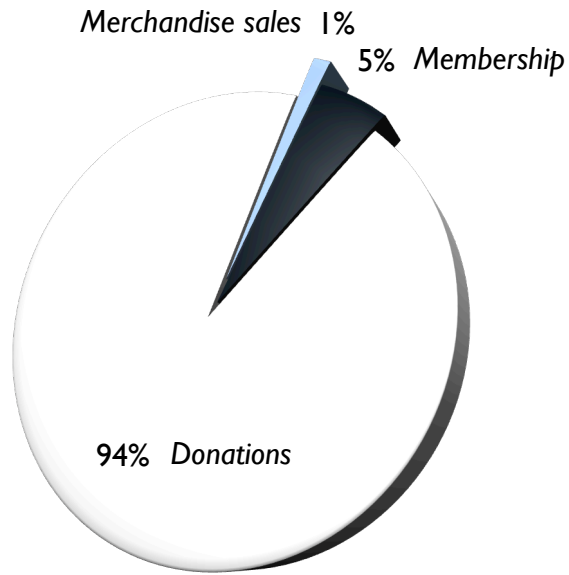
Michelle Lee, *President*



Marcus Lee, *Treasurer*

**Income**

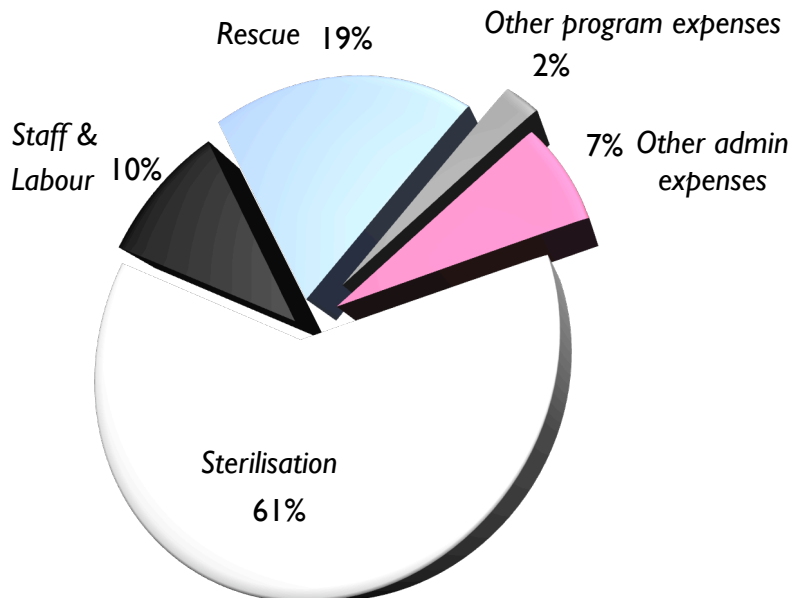
Donations accounted for almost all of our income at 94%, while membership subscriptions accounted for 5% and merchandise sales 1%. We saw a 20% decrease in income across all three sources of funding relative to the prior year. This is the second consecutive year of a 20% decline.



**Expenses**

Reimbursement for sterilisation accounted for the bulk of our expenses (61%) and represents a 63% increase over what was spent on sterilisation in the previous year. This is accounted for by a change in our reimbursement policy that took effect in September 2007. This change involved an increase in reimbursement rates to \$20 per cat and up to \$60 for every 5th cat sterilised. Rescue expenses arise out of reimbursing caregivers in financial need for medical costs they incur. This made up 19% of our expenses and did not differ significantly from rescue expenses incurred in 2007 in absolute terms.

Our program expenses (including sterilisation, rescue, education costs) made up 83% of our total expenses and administrative expenses (including staff salaries, warehousing, facilities rental costs) accounted for the remaining 17%. This is consistent with our aim of ensuring that the bulk of funds the Society receives goes towards benefitting community cats and their caregivers.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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In addition to those we have thanked in the body of this report, the Society would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and organisations who have helped us in many ways during the year

### **Organisations**

SPCA  
ASD  
ACRES  
Singapore Cat Club  
Singapore Buddhist Federation  
Centre for Animal Welfare and Control, AVA

### **Individuals**

Dawn Kua  
Sophia Tan  
Wiggie Lim  
Low Wei Ling  
Jodie Puah  
Dr. Tan Chek Wee  
Nancy Tan  
Dawn Lam  
Jaclyn Lim  
Minako  
Dr. Lou Ek Hee  
Mdm Soon Soo Moi  
Carlyn Law  
Colin Hu  
Phyllis Tan  
Caron Tan  
Geffree  
Windy  
Weiyan  
Melissa  
Ian Cheong  
Sherry Nee  
Roszanah  
Roger Lee  
Irene Lee  
Roger Loh  
Cowan Phan

We would also like to express our gratitude to the many caregivers across the island who carry out TNRM work, without whom none of this would have been possible.



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