

2016 Annual Issue - Saving Lives Everyday FREE www.catwelfare.org

Mews

SAVING LIVES EVERYDAY

2016
vol.1

IN THIS ISSUE: A Couple Who Volunteers Together Stays Together | My Home, My Playground | A Voice For The Vulnerable | Cats That Have Stopped a Nation | What's in My Bag? | Survival Guide to Cat Adoption Drives



EDITOR'S NOTE



It's a truth almost eagerly acknowledged that Singapore has begun an inexplicable love affair with its cats. More accurately, with our locally speckled and mottled 'long kang' cats.

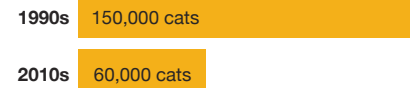
That love letter was signed, sealed and delivered when the Singapore Tourism Board made cats the star of their Jan 2016 campaign.

This compliment follows on the heels of big changes in the way Singapore deals with its cats. We are choosing sterilisation over culling as a humane way to control its population. Adoption numbers are up. There are growing partnerships between government officers and volunteers and shared efforts to promote responsible cat ownership.

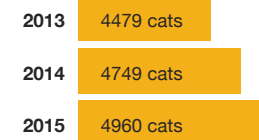
Even if you don't like cats, you might be happy to hear that there are now far less of them. Still, we'd like to invite everyone to truly experience the joy a cat can bring and the important lessons they teach us, in acceptance, wonder and compassion. Enjoy.

<http://www.yoursingapore.com/singapore-itineraries/cat-lovers-guide-singapore.html>

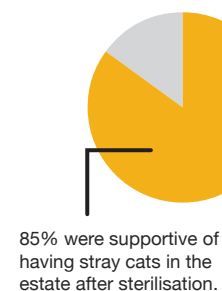
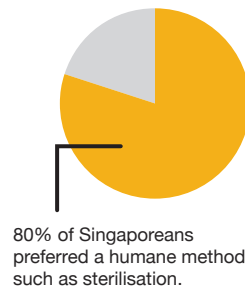
Estimated number of community cats in Singapore



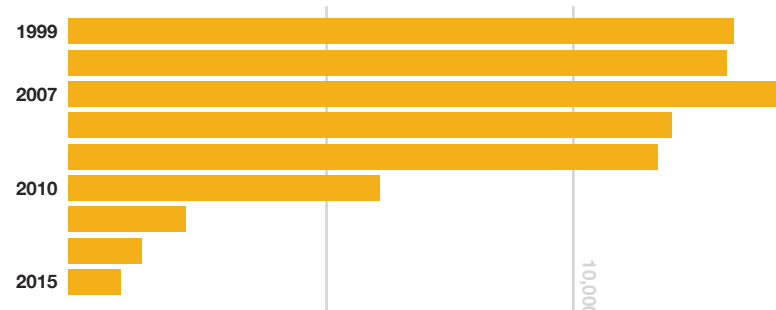
Cats sterilised through CWS programmes



Is Singapore ready to be humane? Yes!



Number of cats that are culled



Source: 2011 Survey in Chong Pang

Source: AVA Annual Reports

RAISING THE BAR ON CAT WELFARE



Kat Reichelt

Moving to Singapore from Australia, Kat brought her beloved cat along with her as it wasn't an option to leave her behind. She has since fallen in love with our local cats and adopted one of her own. Volunteering her experience in marketing and communications, Kat contributes to the Cat Welfare Society's outreach efforts.

"Animal welfare comes naturally to me and it's not something I can define but something I feel - a gut feeling that it's the right thing to do. I believe that caring for animals is a reflection of our humanity and it's what I would like to impart to my unborn son.

I recently found a very sick and abandoned scrawny cat living in fear. It took a few weeks for my husband and I to gain her trust but we persevered and finally got her to the vet. Many residents in our neighborhood advised us against it, saying the cat was dirty, diseased and

even evil – an ignorant misconception. I ignored them and named this little fighter T-Bone, who was suffering from a severe case of flu. With medical attention and some TLC, she is now back in the community. Seeing her gain strength and confidence reaffirms my belief in being kind to all living things and doing the best we can to help the vulnerable."



Joanne Ng

Compelled to do something to give back to society, Joanne took a sabbatical from her career in banking to head the Cat Welfare Society as its Chief Executive Officer. Not only did she contribute her invaluable management experience to professionalising the Society, she donated her salary back to the Society to advance its cause.

"I will never forget the experience of being on-site at the Tampines Dormitory where two cats were killed and dismembered. The amount of pain and suffering the cats had gone through was beyond my imagination and I could not comprehend how anyone in the right frame of mind could intentionally hurt a helpless cat. Yet even with evidence of cruelty in plain sight, the case was never resolved. The dormitory received a warning but the abusers had in fact gotten away scot-free. The recent attention given to the Yishun abuse cases had happened too late for these dormitory cats. Everyone can be the voice for helpless animals. We must continue to fight for more support from the government, lawmakers and rainmakers so that animal welfare in Singapore can fully evolve to the point where there is no room for abusers to slip through the cracks."



THE SECRET LIVES OF CATS

& the people who love them

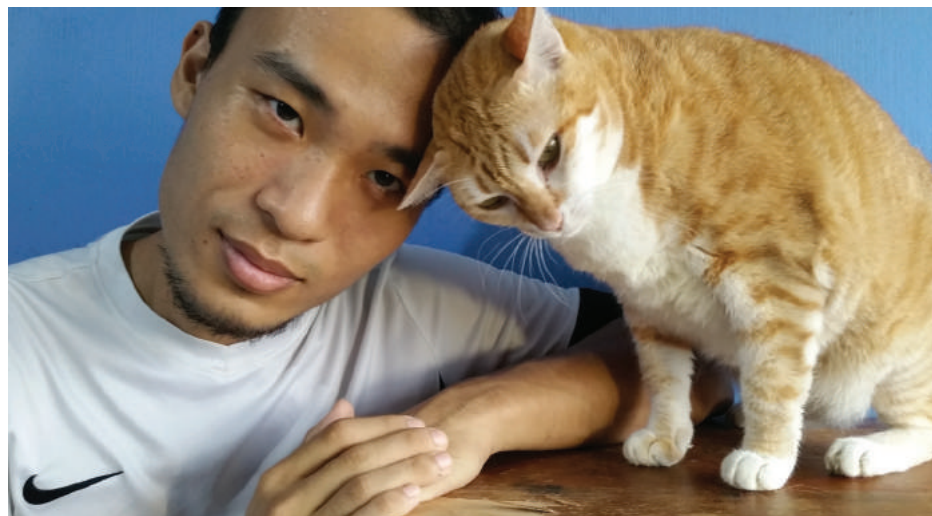
“People often think cats have less emotions. I am starting to think they have more complex and sophisticated ones.”

The truth is out. A study in the U.S. confirms that most pet owners are dog lovers with a result of 60% to 11% of cat lovers. This isn't great news for the many cats in search of a new loving family and a forever home. However, we'd like to think that all of this is changing. Whilst the bond between dogs and their fur parents are very strong – often helped by popular media and public display – social media such as Facebook has been lifting the lid on the secret lives of our feline companions.

The advent of social media has led many cat lovers and cat owners to share their experiences online and in turn, engage the masses with heartwarming stories or hilarious encounters. We have certainly jumped on the bandwagon as well and have been actively sharing stories from our community with our loyal followers on Facebook.

It is true that cats can come across as complicated and therefore, many find it hard to comprehend or win the affections of a cat. However, for those who understand the beauty of an enigma, they can see beyond the complication. They are able to see a cat's inherent need to love and connect with fellow felines and humans but understand that trust needs to be earned through patience and kindness. A cat simply cannot be commanded! There is nothing quite like the affection of a feline.

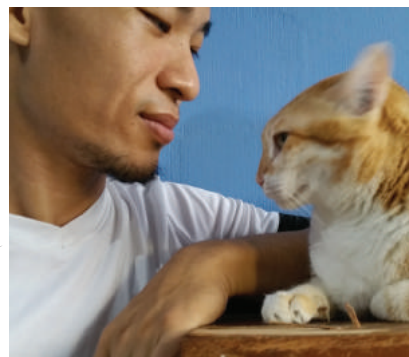
Martial arts instructor Leroy Kwok, who was



always a loyal dog lover, has since been converted from the affections of one cat. Leroy has a very active outdoor lifestyle and was always more inclined to having a pet dog who could accompany him throughout the day. However, a friend's cat changed his perception and was often seen curled up on his lap for attention.

“People often think cats have less emotions. I am starting to think they have more complex and sophisticated ones. There are so many stories now of people who travel with their cats, hike, surf or take them out to give therapy sessions, that latent talent for mutual understanding with humans has always been there and we are only just discovering it.”

He now volunteers to be the eyes and ears for the community cats in his neighbourhood amidst reports of suspected abuse. “I like the reward that comes with attentiveness and refinement in effort like in Chinese martial arts and it is the same with building a relationship with a cat. God help anyone who wants to hurt them.”



Has your cat gone mad?

A day in the life of an average house cat doesn't really include anything very vigorous. They could have energy to spare. Suddenly without warning, this energy could burst out into a little fantasy role playing, alternating between the hunter and the hunted, dashing round the house with a flicking tail and widely dilated pupils. Don't worry, it's just using up that excess energy!



MY HOME MY PLAYGROUND



Simple DIY Catification

- High Shelves
- Toys
- Food Container Treat Puzzles
- Panel Grills & Cable Ties
- Plenty of Cardboard Boxes!



Source: Etsy UpcycleOutlet



When En married Rand, she shared with him her childhood dream of living in a cat heaven. He built one for her in an HDB.

That was around the time Jackson Galaxy's Catification ideas were changing the way people saw their cats. "The show taught me a lot about cat behaviour and how important it is to understand and accommodate our feline's needs," En said and they have done so with impeccable design that is pleasing to both humans and felines.

The designing couple has been sharing this piece of heaven not just with their own cats Cami, Dora and Boots but also their rescues. Most recently is 5-month-old Earl Grey who was rescued from a construction site after being grazed by a moving car. Thankfully he was not hurt.

Integrating new and existing cats who come to the home at different times is always a challenge. What this home does is provide plenty of special corners for the cats to play together or find their own private space when they want to hang up a 'Do not disturb' sign.

One of the biggest essentials Rand and En focused on is a cat-proof window grill to keep their little scampers safe. After a long search, they had Legate put in their barely there invisible grills and made sure every single window is cat-safe.

Rand and En enjoyed this catification process so much they are now helping other cat lovers build their own cat heaven with design and build cat furniture and catwalls. They have not only transformed homes, they have changed the way people view cats as pets and what it means to own them. Turn your home into a beautiful playground too. Indulge away at www.jenrand.sg.



How to Build Bridges Despite Conflict

- Always stay calm
- Focus on the issue not the person
- Help others understand cats
- Be kind even when you disagree
- Be reasonable even when others escalate
- Find mutually agreeable solutions

A VOICE FOR THE VULNERABLE

How do you stare down a caseload of 80 – 100 cat-related feedback every week? With passion, tenacity and a little trepidation. That's what a Cat Welfare Society mediator does with the help of volunteers in every estate and its government agency partners.

What compels Laura Ann to keep going was an early memory of a community cat who would go over to her home and curl on her lap when she was doing homework. It was a ginger. The cat disappeared one day and she later found out that someone had complained about it. Pest control took it away. She remembers the stunning helplessness she felt and the heartbreak of her neighbourhood cat caregiver.

Back then, it was just something that happened and no one could stop it.

Recently, when she attended a case of an abandoned ginger cat in an old HDB estate, it really stirred those memories. The cat was heavily disoriented and kept running up and down the HDB block, eliciting calls for its removal amongst residents. Laura put her passion for her ginger into helping this one, educating the residents and placing cat deterrents like a sonic repellent to keep the cat away from feedback providers.

In the end, she did not have the heart to leave the cat in the community even though a

caregiver was ready to help with its integration with her cats.

Laura found a fosterer for Mickey and he was eventually adopted from an adoption drive into a big home with loving guardians.

The pain from her childhood will never be diminished but Laura knows because of what she does now, fewer cats will meet a cruel fate.

A COUPLE WHO VOLUNTEERS

together stays together



After a long day's work, don't we all just want to flop on a couch and do nothing? There are people who choose to start their 'second jobs' right about then. The job of cat advocate and cat guardian for their neighbourhood furies.

A volunteer recently got married and guess who turned up at her wedding reception?

Gayes is a community cat who has been living in Atika's residential estate for about 5 years. He is super affectionate and loves kisses. His charming ways mean that he is loved, cared for and fed by many caregivers around the area. When Atika married her fiancé Rafeeq, who better to join in the celebrations than Mr Gayes himself.

Contact South East spoke to Atika and Rafeeq recently. She said "I give my time to Cat Welfare Society because I love cats. I cannot possibly house every stray, so the least I can do is to help ensure they are safe and are well taken care of." Rafeeq described how they work with the Town Council to handle cat-related issues and complaints. As active members of the community, they also help spread the message of responsible cat ownership and take stray cats to the vet for sterilisation.

These rare souls are both beautiful inside and out. Mr Gayes will agree!



GUARDIAN OF THE WEST



Residents and Town Council officers in the West have had the delight of seeing a twice pregnant Cat Welfare Society mediator come to help them with their cat issues in the past year. Just 4 months after the birth of baby Rochelle, Michelle was back on the beat walking the grounds.

"People are generally kinder when they see a woman with a belly, it's definitely an asset," she laughed while also sharing how difficult it was in her final heavy months of pregnancy. "Helping people through education is still one of the best way to promote animal welfare and tolerance towards community animals. When I started doing this 5 years ago, it felt like everyone was against cats. Much have changed and I'd like to think that what we do here is creating a better, more animal conscious society for my own children."

They also have an in-house feline protector. Skinny and bald when found, no one knew Cupid would become the magnificent beauty he is today!

CATS THAT HAVE STOPPED A NATION

the people are listening

Cracking an abuser's code

It often seems that when cats get in the news, it is always because something has gone horribly wrong. From the Pasir Ris Park suspected poisoning, a spate of missing cats in Ang Mo Kio, the Tampines Dormitory killings, the Yishun abuse cases and the most recent hoarding case, can't cats catch a break in our garden city?

The Yishun abuse cases in particular had mobilised an unprecedented show of authoritative muscle when investigation officers from Agri-food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore or AVA worked hand in hand with the police. By Jan 2016, two suspects were caught.

This attention to cat abuse marks an important turning point in the fight against animal cruelty. "We see progress in the way both authorities and citizenry are responding to animal cruelty," says Thenuga Vijakumar, President of Cat Welfare Society. "Having AVA and police presence at the crime scene on reasonable notice and quick access to CCTV footages has made a big difference in cracking the Yishun cases."

"We also see how the public is increasingly using social media to highlight suspected abuse cases to put the community on high alert and have the rest of the community support these reports with information and good solid advice for witnesses to make an official report, send the carcass for autopsy and organise patrols and door to door to seek information. There is so much more potential for concrete action now than just an outpouring of emotion."

14 || 光影 联合编辑 10.04.2016

图刊zbW



志工在驶往乌敏岛的船上检查猫儿的状况。



志工把猫儿搬上乌敏岛码头。



志工召唤年轻人帮忙搬猫笼。



最大的一户人家共“领养”了12只猫。



图中亲吻同伴的母猫，在志工捉猫的时候正好待产，因此暂时没有被阉割。

另一种



这只公猫一回到原住所，即马上跑到树下的石板，似乎这里是它的地盘。

图文
联合编辑

工把这
宜码头于
30个猫儿
工们再包
们的活2
2000元。
除了
猫猫行2
款，志工
息日也多
有意捐
org。

Spotlight on island cats

On a brighter note, sterilisation and care of cats on Singapore's islands like St John's, Lazarus and Ubin have particularly captured a nation's imagination.

2016 will see AVA's funding programme for stray cat sterilisation expand beyond HDB estates to

cover cats on islands and in private, industrial and commercial areas. This plan to help the Cat Welfare Society and SPCA bring humane management to more parts of Singapore will significantly improve the welfare of these cats and lessen animal-human conflicts that often put them at a disadvantage.



这只猫的地盘是木屋的天花板，它从猫笼被释放出来后，先是在木柱下转一圈，然后突然爬上柱子，一下子就钻进天花板。

中关爱



图文 梁麒麟
早报记者

猫福利协会 (Cat Welfare Society) 的志工向来在全国各地展开猫福利行动，1月20日在乌敏岛的行动是该协会自1999年成立以来的，属刺最多只猫的一次，共有30只野猫和家猫被运到本岛刺。

拍摄当天，正好是志工把这批被刺过的猫送回乌敏岛，我从樟宜码头开始跟拍。几名志工包了一艘船，把30个猫笼一次运到乌敏岛。上岸后，志工们再包一辆面包车，把猫儿们送回它们的活动地点或住家。此次行动共花费约2000元。

除了乌敏岛，志工们也到其他岛屿展开猫福利行动。猫福利协会十分依赖公众的捐款，志工们来自各行各业，他们的年龄和休息日也多用在改善猫的生存环境上。公众如有意捐款，可电邮询问：info@catwelfare.org。



志工Thenuga Vijakumar (左) 和林梅珠，在木屋前一打开猫笼，猫儿即飞快地冲出笼子。

Lifting the lid on hoarding and neglect

The investigations into Yishun abuses had an unexpected outcome - the uncovering of a case of cat hoarding in that had gone on for over a decade. Various agencies and the Cat Welfare Society had been mobilised to try and make contact with the owner who avoided all contact.

The extent of the neglect was not discovered until the AVA gained access to the flat and immediately ordered the evacuation of 39 caged and emaciated cats living in their own filth. 35 cats were eventually released into the Society's care in Mar 2016. 5 had died and at least 10 were fighting for their lives at the Society's partnering veterinary facilities. Another 6 finally succumbed to organ failure from their extreme state of starvation.

The Cat Welfare Society deals with at least 7 cases of hoarding every year in varying degrees of severity. When volunteers are able to befriend these cat owners early, the Society assists with sterilisation to quickly stabilise the cat numbers, provide cat care solutions and help in the rehoming process where possible. Providing in-home management and engagement is a crucial step as forced removal can often trigger the need to collect cats again, encouraging a new cycle. There is often a need to address the owner's psychological and even financial wellbeing although not all of these cases receive help from other social sectors. Volunteers persevere by falling back on simple human empathy to connect, donating supplies and assisting to clean even, while encouraging good cat ownership practices.

What do you do when you witness abuse?

1. Take photo or video evidence (with your own safety in mind)
2. Report to AVA. Only the witness or first responder's testimony is of use.
3. If the animal is alive, send the animal to the vet to get a vet assessment.

4. If the animal is dead, arrange for SPCA or AVA to pick up the carcass or arrange to send them in.
5. Contact the Cat Welfare Society to arrange for an appeal for information or organise concerned residents to do so.



FOUR FOOD CATEGORIES YOUR CAT WILL THANK YOU FOR

Protein :

Cats are obligate carnivores, their diet must contain good quality animal protein. Where possible, make fresh meat available for your cat. Numerous benefits are associated with feeding cats homemade foods. They contain little to no preservatives and the quality and freshness of ingredients can be monitored. Do not overcook meat. Immediate benefits will be a more muscular cat - not fat but strong. Good diet gives your cat a shiny coat, healthy gums and teeth. Their poop will also smell less.

Fat :

Cats need fat for the absorption of fat soluble vitamins. Fats also act as a flavour enhancer and maintain healthy coat and skin.

What about cats and carbohydrates? Cats cannot effectively metabolise carbohydrates in any form. A wild cat's diet would only contain 5% of carbohydrates. A diet high in carbohydrate will cause obesity, diabetes, poor skin and coat health and other health issues.

Vitamins and minerals :

A cat owner should research into vitamin mixes for their cat. Cats require Taurine, Vitamin A, various forms of Vitamin B and calcium for healthy chemical functions within their bodies. There are very good quality vitamin mixes available for cats in the market which contains all the essential vitamins and minerals.

Tip : Make your own calcium supplements! Wash and dry eggshells and pound till it becomes very fine powder. Sprinkle on the food. Use sparingly each time, just a pinch (use only if the current food you are feeding does not already contain calcium).

Water :

Like humans, water makes up between 60-70 percent of a cat's body weight. Ensure your cat is properly hydrated. An interesting fact is that cats drink better if the water bowl is away from their main food. This goes back to the notion that cats are hunters and kill their prey. They avoid drinking contaminated water after their kill. It has been clearly observed that cats drink better if water bowls are placed away from food source. It is also highly advisable to have more than one source of clean water.

Responsible Feeling Poster

(www.catwelfare.org/educationmaterials)



Good Quality Food

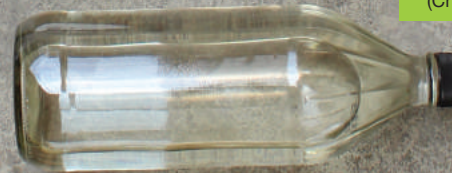


Dry Food Container



Drinking Water and Container

(Changed Daily)



Saline



Antiseptic Power



Argasol™ Pets Silver is a handy caregiver essential first aid kit. It is anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-fungal, it's 4 hours continuous bacteria protection speeds up wound healing. Odorless, food-grade and alcohol-free, a must have for all animals and pet owners. www.argasol.com



Cotton Squares and Buds

WHAT'S IN MY BAG

essentials of a responsible cat feeder

THE COURAGE TO HEAL

What is seen cannot be unseen as they say. And it isn't everyone who can see the silent needs of those around them, especially the ones hidden in a corner on four legs. For those that do, regardless of their life stations and their means, they are not able to walk away.

Cat Welfare Society's Special Appeals helps these people, often cat caregivers, defray the daunting costs of veterinary treatment for ill or injured community cats. Last year, with donor's heartfelt support we dispensed \$113,500 towards 283 appeals.

Caregivers are waiting for their appeals to be funded so that they can use it to help their next cat. You can read their stories at <http://www.catwelfare.org/specialappeals>



Girl Girl

When her rescuer came on the scene, Girl Girl had already had diarrhoea for about a month without anyone wanting to take her to the vet. She was found with parasites and treated but will take some time to grow back her lovely fur. Quote **SA16024** to help her rescuer with her costs. She is also looking for an adopter for this sweet little girl who almost didn't get a second chance.



Ginger

An umbilical hernia occurs when the stomach muscles don't join completely and the intestine or other tissues bulge through this weak spot around the belly button. It's a simple operation and Ginger is all fixed up. Quote **SA16046** to help with her \$64.20 surgery cost that will go towards the next cat on her caregiver's rescue radar.



Big Head

Senior cat Big Head has diabetes. It got so bad he bit the fur off his entire tail. Not everyone will go the extra mile to save a 10 year old cat but Big Head has grown up with his caregiver who now administers his insulin jabs, subcut and a prescribed diabetic diet. He is as gutsy as ever like the Big Head Tom he is. You can help his caregiver give him the care he needs in his retiring days by quoting **SA16072**.

SOCIETY OF CATS

pure feline indulgence

A 100 pages of feline euphoria, the Society of Cats coffee table book features some of the most gorgeous cat photography in Singapore. And they tell a story – a story of love and goodwill towards the cats in our home and on our streets.

Amidst the antics of our feline friends are inspiring personal thoughts and experiences with animals from Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Law, restaurateur Edith Lai, Dale Edmonds of Riverkids and others.

Published by Darby Media, it is an irresistible centrepiece on any respectable coffee table.

Get it exclusively at shopee.sg/catwelfaresociety.



THIS CAT CAVE BEATS YOUR CAT CAVE



This cat cave is very special, not just because it's especially hand-made and designed for CWS. This cat cave is scratch-proof, water-resistant and highly durable. If your cat has decimated one too many cat beds, then this ultra modern and hard-wearing cat bed is perfect for you – after all, cats do love a challenge!

Branded with the CWS logo, you (dear owner of diabolical feline) can be assured that all proceeds from the sale of this cat cave will go towards our continuous efforts to improve the welfare of cats in Singapore.

Get them exclusively at shopee.sg/catwelfaresociety

Comes in Grey or Charcoal in,
Size M - W 50 cm x D 38 cm x H 48 cm
Size L - W 55 cm x D 40 cm x H 52 cm
*Pictured is a Grey cat cave in size M.

ADOPT!

a rescued cat wants to meet you!

It has never not been a meowly month since the Pet Lovers Centre and Cat Welfare Society first came together to save lives on the first Sunday of every calendar month! It's been 5 tremendous and rewarding years!

Their adoption drives are a place where people have found the love of their lives and cats have found a rare second chance. Find out how you can be a proud owner of a rescue cat too.

Adoption Considerations

Before you get a pet cat, have you thought about:

- The 15 – 20 year commitment for the length of its life?
- The essential costs of food, litter and veterinary care?
- Does your family members approve?
- Do you have the time?

Adoption Drive Survival Guide

- **Come and take a look** at the beautiful cats. You have plenty of time to decide if you are ready to adopt.
 - When asked why they chose a certain cat, many adopters have responded by saying, "The cat chose me". It could be the way it looks at you or responds to you. Again, **take your time to find the right cat.**
 - **Talk to the fosterers** to find out more about the cat, its rescue story, its temperament and its quirks.
 - **Be familiar with the conditions.** Fosterers and rescuers have seen it all. Cats neglected, abandoned, fallen out of windows. They want to know their rehomed cats will be well taken care of. The common criteria for adoption are that the cat be sterilised, meshed windows and gate to keep them indoors, providing a quality diet and veterinary care and agreeing to a house visit.
- Now you are all set to save a life and let a special feline companion into yours!

Save a Life
Adopt a Cat

Locations	Dates
The Pet Safari VivoCity	OVER 5 Jun ♥ 7 Aug ♥ 4 Dec
The Pet Safari EastPoint Mall	OVER 3 Jul ♥ 4 Sep ♥ 6 Nov
Pet Lovers Centre One KM Mall	OVER 1 May ♥ 2 Oct
United Square Shopping Mall	OVER

Time: 1pm to 6pm

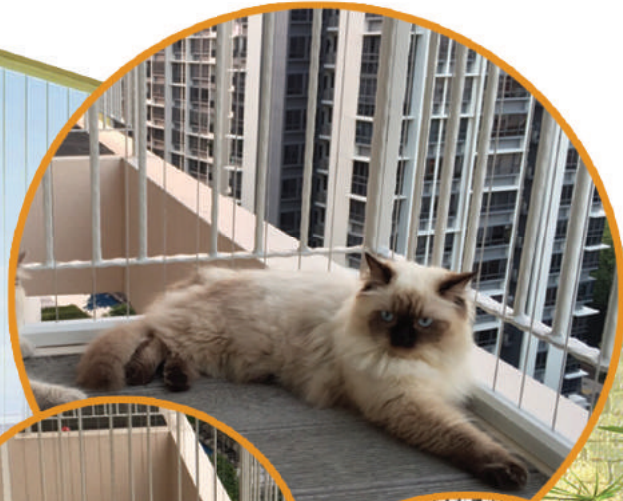


In partnership with
cat welfare society

Pet Lovers FOUNDATION
The partnership unit of the Cat Welfare Society



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WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

While there are still pockets of untouched safe havens in Singapore, our local cats largely live with us in our high rise homes and our urban spaces. It is a jungle for them as they navigate the difference between the empathetic, the indifferent and the unkind.

We can make a difference. By arming ourselves with a little information, a little compassion, their lives in our urban jungle can be forever transformed.



Subscribe to MEWS to be kept up-to-date on the latest Singaporean feline adventures at mews@catwelfare.org.

Donate. www.catwelfare.org/donation

Volunteer. www.catwelfare.org/volunteer

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