



The Mews

A quarterly publication of Cat Welfare Society

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A big hello from Cat Welfare Society

On the 27 March 2009, a new committee was voted in at Cat Welfare Society's 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM). Held at NVPC – The Giving Place at Central, the meeting saw new president Ang Li Tin taking over the baton from Dr Michelle Lee, who will continue to serve as an adviser in the society.

In the past year, CWS grappled with fundamental issues such as manpower and funding, as well as figuring our way around the entire cat welfare ecosystem.

Keeping CWS afloat remained our main purpose so we continued to provide financial assistance for

the dedicated caregivers around the island by offering sterilisation reimbursements, as well as medical reimbursements for the treatment of cats in life-threatening situations.



CWS also tirelessly provided subsidised sterilisation slots that were coordinated by then-administrative manager, Wiggie Lim.

With the new committee voted in, we reviewed the internal operations. As we have been running on operating deficit in 2008, we have to cut down on expenditure. So to

maintain our current reserves, we have reluctantly decided to suspend the medical reimbursement scheme for now.

And despite the recession, we aim to raise even more funds this year so that we can continue to give financial assistance to caregivers. This is so they can maintain the Trap-Neuter-Return-Management programmes in their estates.

There are also plans to harness the power of social media to spread the word about upcoming events, news and other updates, as well as educate the general public about cat welfare issues.

We hope to garner more support to fight ignorance against the misconceptions and intolerance of our community cats, and will continue to work towards a harmonious society filled with happy humans and cats.

Cat Welfare Society Committee 2009/2010

President	- Ang Li Tin
Vice-President	- Neo Kai Ling
Secretary	- Dawn Lam
Treasurer	- Jaclyn Lim
Committee Member	- Veronyka Lau
Committee Member	- Minako Yamamoto
Committee Member	- Michelle Lee
Committee Member	- Jeannie Chan

Spay Day saves lives

Caregivers, vets and volunteers joined hands on Spay Day, a Cat Welfare Society (CWS) annual event, to put 157 cats on the path to a better life last October. Neo Kai Ling reports.

On 31 October 2008, 157 cats in Singapore were off to a better life –they were sterilised in the annual CWS Spay Day.

Preparations for Spay Day began months earlier. The Spay Day 2008 Planning Committee was set up with the aim of ensuring that the entire event could be carried out smoothly – from generating publicity to securing subsidised sterilisation slots to confirming the participation of caregivers and volunteers to the charting of transport routes and preparation of logistics.

Rebecca Ho, one of the Spay Day 2008 Planning Committee members, believes that sterilisation “gives cats a better life after sterilisation”.

Caregivers submitted their requests for slots weeks prior to the event. They then had to trap their community cats the night before and make sure they fast through the night in preparation for the operation. On that morning, the cats were brought to the four drop-off points at Ang Mo Kio, Boon Lay, Tampines and Bedok.

Our volunteers were stationed at each of these drop-off points as coordinators who ensured that all cats were tagged and secured. They were then transported to the 22 participating vet clinics island-wide. On the same evening, the sterilised cats were transported back to the same drop-off points where they were returned to their caregivers.

CWS is extremely grateful to the 22 vets for agreeing to be part of this event by providing subsidised sterilisation slots and displaying Spay Day posters at their clinics: Allpets & Aqualife Pte Ltd, AMK Veterinary Surgery, AAVC - Animal & Avian Veteri-



Volunteers tag the carriers at Ang Mo Kio drop-off point

nary Clinic, Animal Practice Pte Ltd, Animal Recovery Centre Pte Ltd, Animal Recovery Centre (East), Animal Recovery Veterinary Centre, Clinic for Pets, James Tan Veterinary Centre Pte Ltd, Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital, Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (Springside) Pte Ltd, Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (East) Pte Ltd, Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (North) Pte Ltd, Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic (Bedok), Mount

Pleasant Animal Clinic (West) Pte Ltd, Namly Animal Clinic, Pet Clinic, The Animal Doctors, The Joyous Vet Pte Ltd, The Veterinary Clinic (Harbour Front Walk), The Veterinary Clinic (Holland Village) and Vet Practice Pte Ltd.

Nancy, a caregiver from Ang Mo Kio, appreciated CWS' efforts in organising Spay Day. “(It) saved a lot of cats. A day that cat feeders are grateful for as not everyone can afford to spare the time and money to send the strays for sterilisation.”

Likewise, CWS would like to thank all the volunteers, transport companies, caregivers and vets who have helped in Spay Day in one way or another. Without your enthusiastic support, Spay Day 2008 would not have been possible. A big thank-you to all!



Top: Spay Day 2009 poster

Bottom: A trapped tom-cat waits for his turn to be sent for sterilisation at Boon Lay drop-off point



For the good of all animals



CWS president Ang Li Tin (second from left) is one of the panelists in the Domestic Animal Welfare session.

The call of the wild was answered on a balmy Saturday morning at the second Animal Welfare Symposium, which was held on 16 May 2009 at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Organised by the university's Student's Animal Welfare Group and ACRES, the symposium features lively discussions on Wild Animals in Entertainment and Domestic Animal Welfare.

Along with panelists from other local animal welfare groups, CWS president Ang Li Tin fielded questions on community cat issues and domestic animal welfare. CWS committee member Veron Lau also shared the Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM) message through a surprise presentation.

Outside, ethical shopping at the cruelty-free bazaar – which showcased vegan goodies and cruelty-free products – complete the experience.



Strip goes meow



The poster was hung at all eight Strip outlets in Singapore

Local waxing salon chain Strip teams up with CWS to raise funds for community cats with its "What's New Pussycat?" campaign.

The tongue-in-cheek campaign features a roguish-looking local cat "DD" with a stylish bowtie. Its message: With every Bowtie Strip (\$5) – a new temporary tattoo that can be added on to your regular Brazilian wax – done, Strip will donate \$1 to CWS.

When you're next at a Strip outlet, don't forget to look for Mimipong's "A Street Cat Named Desire" series. Commissioned by Strip, the series feature eight sets of plush interpretations of community cats, a common sight along Singapore streets. The sets are available at \$80 and part of the proceeds goes to CWS to fund the sterilisation of community cats.

So if you haven't already, hurry to Strip to get a Bowtie Strip add-on now. You'd be helping the community cats while you look good!

Check out the locations of Strip outlets at www.strip.com.sg



A purr-fect new website!

The new official website of Cat Welfare Society at <http://www.catwelfare.org> went live on 1 January 2009!



With a newly integrated automated Public Adoption Bulletin Board, fosterers can now post their cats up for adoption and directly liaise with potential adopters via private messaging. While CWS will

not screen fosterers and adopters who are using the board for now, a CWS adoptions volunteer Kathy Tham will moderate the postings to prevent abuse.

A more comprehensive Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ) section has also been added. These new and useful features were integrated into the website over six months by volunteers: web designer Jeannie Neo and web programmer Aloysius Choong, as well as ex-adoptions volunteer Sophia Tan.

Stay connected to CWS

We are also on Facebook and Twitter!

Join our Facebook Page for updates
<http://companies.to/catwelfareociety>

Follow our Tweets on Twitter
<http://www.twitter.com/catwelfareorg>

The MEWS Team

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About us

Cat Welfare Society (CWS) is a charity whose mission is to save the lives of community cats through sterilisation. Our main focuses include:

* Sterilisation

CWS acts as a voice for the network of caregivers in Singapore and assists them in their work by providing emotional support, helping with the negotiations with the authorities, as well as providing highly subsidised sterilisation slots at selected vet clinics.

* Education

Through roadshows and events, CWS informs and educates the public on the benefits of sterilisation for the cats and the community.

* Adoption

On the CWS website, fosterers can help their cats and kittens find good homes by listing them on the Adoption Bulletin. Interested adopters can contact the fosterers directly.

* Mediation

CWS works with its network of caregivers and town councils to resolve residents' complaints about cats.

How you can help

Cat Welfare Society relies on donations, membership subscriptions and merchandise sales to pay for the sterilisation of community cats, medical care for rescue cases and the expenses incurred in fostering cats (such as vaccinations, medical care and sterilisation). If you wish to make a donation or apply as a member, you can go to any AXS stations in Singapore to do so. Or, you can download a GIRO form or membership form from our website and mail it back to us. To donate via internet bank transfer, please email us for details.

If you wish to volunteer with us, please check out our website for the type of opportunities available.

Contact us

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