



## CAMPAIGNING FOR A STRAY-FREE MALAYSIA

### NEWS FROM SPCA SELANGOR

Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2004

## **‘VET SWAP’ FOR MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA BOOSTS ANIMAL WELFARE FOR THE FUTURE**

Veterinary medicine in Indonesia and Malaysia has taken a major step forward following a ‘vet-swap’ workshop organized by SPCA Selangor and the Bali Street Dog Foundation (Yayasan Yudisthira).

In August a group of four vets traveled from Kuala Lumpur to Bali for an insight into the work in controlling stray dogs on the island, seminars and practical sessions on the latest techniques for neutering animals. Two vets from Bali made the return journey on October 4<sup>th</sup>, World Animal Day. They were joined by around 40 vets from private veterinary practices, universities and NGOs in KL and Penang for an intensive training workshop.

One of the techniques explored was Early Age Neutering – the sterilization of animals at the age of around three months. Common practice is currently to neuter over six months, but the new technique results in a smaller wound and less pain for the animal as well as minimizing the risk of an early pregnancy and more unwanted puppies or kittens.

Delegates also went out on the road in Bali to see dog catching techniques, and visited the SPCA shelter and the ground-breaking Klinik Kembiri in KL, a low-cost neutering centre run in partnership between the SPCA and the Municipality.

The workshop was held in conjunction with Universiti Putra Malaysia, the Department of Veterinary Services and Klinik Kembiri and sponsored by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Humane Society International (HSI).

SPCA Selangor Chairman Christine Chin said: “This is an investment in veterinary surgeons that will reap benefits for thousands of animals. Vets influence how animals are treated, wherever they are based in the world.

**More follows.....**

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## **'VET SWAP' FOR MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA BOOSTS ANIMAL WELFARE FOR THE FUTURE/2**

“Early Age Neutering is an important issue. Our adoption policy states any animal must be neutered before leaving our Shelter, but as we currently do not neuter under six months the onus is on the owner to bring the animal back to the center for the operation when they are old enough. Only 20% of puppies rehomed by us returned for neutering in 2003. This means we could unwittingly be fueling the fire of over breeding.”

Dr Dayu Martini, Lead Training Veterinarian for Yudisthira Field Clinic said: “This is an excellent way of building relationships between local, regional and international animal welfare groups. And most importantly to improve standards of animal welfare in both our countries.

“We do not have a shelter in Bali. It is a huge job - in Yudisthira we have 10 holding cages only! We heard about euthanasia and how they must do this as part of their job, even after an animal has been at the shelter for a few months if there is no home, it must be euthanased to make room for more, over 1500 animals come into the shelter every month. I cannot imagine this number of animals in front of me.”

Plans for similar projects in the future are already being drawn up including further intensive training in other parts of Malaysia and hopefully in Singapore, resulting in a network of vets skilled in Early Age Neutering. The SPCA also wants to create workshops to share humane methods of catching dogs using nets.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

**For more information please contact Christine Chin at the SPCA Selangor office on 03 4256 5312 or 03 4253 5179 or email Janet Kipling at [janet@cakepublicity.co.uk](mailto:janet@cakepublicity.co.uk). Photographs taken throughout the training sessions are available via email. A number of the vets involved in the workshops are available for interviews.**

- The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Selangor is an NGO which serves Selangor and the Federal Territory.
- SPCA Selangor was established in 1958 with the aim of protecting animals and birds and alleviating suffering.
- The SPCA is an NGO and therefore receives no government funding, relying entirely on donations from the public and local businesses to pay for its work.
- The SPCA's Animal Home (Ampang Jaya) rehomes unwanted animals and has kennel space for 200 dogs and 150 cats. Animals are brought to the home by their owners who no longer want them, by our inspector rescuing animals from cruelty, or by concerned members of the public who rescue animals from their community.
- The SPCA is working towards a Stray Free Malaysia 2010, with the aim of having in place education and facilities to enable the public to take responsibility for neutering their pets thereby controlling the numbers of stray animals.
- The SPCA has already put this project into motion with the overwhelmingly successful 'Klinik Kembiri' - a low cost neutering clinic for owned animals. It is hoped eventually that each Malaysian municipality will have its own Klinik Kembiri. This excellent model of cooperation between the SPCA and the Municipalities is a key solution in stray control.
- Eighty five per cent of pet births are not planned. Following similar clinics in the US and other parts of the world, between 20 to 50% fewer animals have been brought into city animal shelters.

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