

SPCA PETITION AGAINST CRUELTY TO ANIMALS : 83,032 SIGNATURES HANDED OVER TO PM'S DEPARTMENT

After three years of collecting signatures for its **petition against cruelty to animals**, **The Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals (SPCA) Selangor** finally handed over the signatures to **Dr Vincent Lim, the PM's Political Secretary** during a meeting with him on Monday, 22nd January at Putrajaya. **SPCA Chairperson Christine Chin, ex-Chairperson Mrs Mea Wheatley and Committee Member Datin Maria Musa** represented SPCA at the meeting. Chin was very happy that the meeting was arranged so promptly and that the PM's Department was so receptive to accepting the petition. **Dr Lim was presented with the stack of the 83,032 signatures**, and documentation of several recent abuse cases attended to by the SPCA Animal Inspector. He thanked the SPCA for its good work in taking care of the welfare of the local animals, and seemed very concerned about the issues raised.

The petition calls for the Government to take a pro-active stance on the prevention of cruelty to animals by passing effective legislation – by **significantly increasing the fine from a paltry RM200 to RM 10,000 with jail time of at least 6 months, imposing a lifetime ban on pet ownership on those found guilty of animal abuse, and in urging the public to be responsible pet owners by spaying/neutering their pets, providing adequate food, space, exercise, love and medical attention and in being considerate neighbours**. The organisation would also like the Government to **make abandonment of animals an offence**, as the shelter receives numerous reports from concerned citizens of animals abandoned in various locations- **from vacant houses, markets, foodcourts and highways to right outside the SPCA shelter gates**.

“We urge the Government to impose effective deterrents against animal cruelty and to take action against these perpetrators of cruelty against defenseless animals,” says Chin. **“A compassionate nation that cares for its animals is also a nation that will care for its people,”** she continues.

The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) has recently announced that they are looking into amendments to the **Animals Act 1953**, as thousands of animal lovers around the country wait with hope for **laws that will better protect the local animals** in light of the slew of animal abuse cases that had surfaced in the media recently.

The SPCA would like to extend their **heart-felt gratitude** to all the individuals, groups and organisations who have helped make this **petition a great success, bringing together the voices of animal lovers locally and internationally** to take an **united stand against animal abuse** in Malaysia.

Note To Editors:

- The Society For 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 defenseless animals and alleviating their suffering.
- The SPCA does not receive any government funding, relying entirely on donations from the public to support its services & activities.
- The SPCA Animal Shelter & Adoption Centre at Ampang Jaya temporarily homes 300-350 unwanted animals at any one time while seeking new homes for them. The animals are made up of surrendered pets, rescued cruelty case animals and stray or abandoned animals brought in by Good Samaritans.
- The SPCA would like to work closely with the people of Malaysia to elevate the welfare standards for our Malaysian animals – ensuring they responsibly neuter their pets, provide adequate food, space, exercise, care and medical attention, as well as encouraging them to be responsible neighbours.

For more information, please contact Jacinta (012-2881421) or Shabana (012-3754957), PR & Marketing Officers at SPCA Selangor.