



Sustainable Long-Term Management and Control of Stray Cats

1. The Town Councils, AVA and NEA have been working to clean up and improve public hygiene in markets, hawker centres and food establishments. This includes the clearing of stray animals and vermin from such places. The Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme (SCRS) has also been put on hold for the time being, pending a comprehensive review and consultation with the stakeholders. AVA has, however, advised Town Councils to avoid removing the sterilised stray cats under the SCRS unless they have become a nuisance to public or inhabit food establishments.

Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme

2. AVA has met twice with the animal welfare groups, on 28 May 2003 and 6 Jun 2003, to discuss long-term sustainable solutions for control of overpopulation of stray cats. There was consensus among the animal welfare groups that the SCRS needs to be reviewed.

3. More consultation is required before the SCRS may be considered for resumption. In particular, the community, i.e. the Town Councils and the residents, will also need to be consulted. The aim is for a balanced approach for the various stakeholders to work towards achieving a long-term, practicable solution for stray cat control that is, at the same time, also acceptable to the community at large.

Multi-Pronged Approach

4. The long-term control of stray animal population at a manageable level requires a multi-pronged approach. Culling is necessary to keep the stray population down in conjunction with other methods of stray control, such as action against irresponsible feeding and public education on responsible pet ownership. In addition, AVA is working with the animal welfare groups to facilitate the re-housing of strays:

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Tender of land for Pet Boarding

5. Currently, there are several commercial pet boarding establishments operating in Singapore. Arising from the consultation process, the animal welfare groups have requested for land where they can provide and manage a proper home for stray cats. AVA is therefore facilitating the release of 5 parcels of land in the Loyang Agrotech Park for long-term animal boarding purposes. The land parcels will be open for tender on 16 June 2003. Any group interested in setting up such animal boarding facilities and has proven experience in taking care of and/or providing boarding for pet animals may bid for the land.

6. Some sterilised stray cats found roaming in food establishments or causing public nuisance, have also been rounded up by the Town Councils. AVA is exploring with the animal welfare groups for such sterilised cats to be turned over to them for re-housing, without returning the cats to public places to cause nuisance. So far, Animal Lovers League and Save Our Strays have expressed interest in working with AVA on this scheme.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority
Ministry of National Development
on 13 June 2003**

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