



AVA Appoints Cat Welfare Society as Mediator for Cat-Related Issues

7 May 2018: The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) has appointed Cat Welfare Society (CWS) as its third-party mediator for cat-related issues. The arrangement will be for a year. A review will be carried out after the one-year mark to assess the effectiveness and need for such services. The appointment is a formalisation of the existing partnership between AVA and CWS.

2 AVA is the First Responder for animal-related issues. As such issues are often complex, we adopt a multi-stakeholder and multi-pronged approach to manage them, i.e. we work closely with Town Councils, government agencies and stakeholders like animal welfare groups and academics.

3 Mediation has been one of the most effective mechanisms to bring affected parties together to achieve amicable solutions to cat-related disputes. Since 2015, AVA has worked closely with CWS to manage cat-related feedback. This includes having CWS help mediate cat-related disputes and advise community cat feeders and cat owners to practise responsible cat feeding and responsible pet ownership.

4 “CWS is a valued partner in our efforts to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. They play an active role in supporting us to manage cat-related issues on the ground. Given their track record in the use of mediation to mitigate cat-related issues, we are happy to extend our partnership with them. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with CWS,” said Ms Jessica Kwok, Group Director, Animal Management Group, AVA.

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5 “We welcome this opportunity to partner AVA and support them in their response to cat-related issues and feedback in Singapore. As a non-profit organisation that has always stood at the forefront of advocating the humane management of cats, this partnership is acknowledgment of the work that we do and reaffirms the Government's support of mediation as a preferred means to resolve cat-related disputes in the community. We expect that there will be increased costs in sterilisation as well as community engagement and outreach from this scope of work so we hope that the public will continue to support us in this ground breaking endeavour. Together we believe that we can achieve the twin goals of humane management of the community cat population and responsible cat ownership,” said Ms Laura Ann Meranda, Executive Director, CWS.

**Jointly issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and
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