

## ISSUANCE OF CODE OF ANIMAL WELFARE (FOR PET OWNERS)

15 June 2017: The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) has issued the Code of Animal Welfare (for Pet Owners) to take effect from today. This follows the implementation of the Code of Animal Welfare (for the Pet Industry) in October 2016 for pet-related businesses.

2. The Code of Animal Welfare (for Pet Owners) provides minimum standards for accountability, animal housing and environment, as well as animal management and care, which pet owners are expected to comply with. These minimum standards apply to all pets, unless otherwise stated. Although failure to meet a minimum standard in the Code is not an offence, it can be used to **support** prosecution or other enforcement actions for animal welfare cases.

3. The Code can be viewed on AVA's website ([www.ava.gov.sg/codepetowners](http://www.ava.gov.sg/codepetowners)). AVA is also collaborating with the National Library Board to hold talks at the public libraries for pet owners to learn more about the Code.

4. Ms Tan Poh Hong, AVA CEO said, "The issuance of the Code is another step forward for animal welfare in Singapore. Owning a pet is a lifelong commitment and AVA has always advocated responsible pet ownership. With the Code, pet owners will now have an official guide that explains their responsibilities. We will continue to work closely with pet owners, animal welfare groups and other stakeholders to enhance animal welfare standards in Singapore."

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## Background

5. The Codes for pet businesses and pet owners were drafted by the Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Committee for Animal Welfare (MSCC), which was formed in October 2013 and chaired by Mr. Alex Yam (Member of Parliament for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC). The MSCC serves as a platform for stakeholders to share their views and build up mutual understanding on animal welfare, and to enhance collaborative efforts in promoting animal welfare in Singapore. The MSCC comprises representatives from different public and private sectors, such as Members of Parliament, the community, animal welfare groups, the pet industry, the veterinary profession and the AVA. While formulating the Code for pet owners, the MSCC took into consideration the varied interests of various stakeholder groups represented in the Committee, and also the views of the wider public through an e-consultation.

**Issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore**

**15 June 2017**

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