

足印 Pawprint

Issue 119 · AUG / OCT 2022



/ The SPCA Animals on the Other Side of The World
/ Adopting Four Cats at the Same Time

The Transformation of Max the Anxious Dog



Darren

Max 🐾

Lucy

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Dear Readers,

As we wrap up this summer and head into fall, there's a sense of change in the air. In this issue of Pawprint, we zero in on a Hong Kong in transition and the impact of the change on our community.

We start off with the topic of emigration, looking at what happens to pets when families decide to leave the city. On a positive note, our team has followed up with pet owners who have moved abroad. Each of them recalled an emotional journey not only for themselves but also their pets.

Some pets are less lucky though. They have been abandoned by their owners and therefore need your financial support to help them find a new home and give them a second chance at love.

Luckily, we received great support from many animal lovers who have participated in the "ForeverGift x One Degree: Legacy for Furry Friends" programme to donate part of their legacy to the SPCA. Their generosity has enabled us to continue the mission of protecting animals in Hong Kong.

I would like to thank all the kind-hearted donors for their love of animals, as well as their trust in and support for the SPCA. In this issue, we interviewed two supporters who joined the legacy-giving programme. They talked about how they first crossed paths with the SPCA and their loving relationships with their pets.

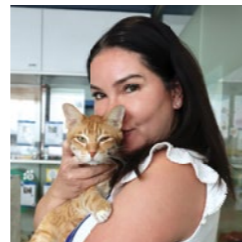
Other highlights of this issue include an interview with famous TV hosts Darren Wong and his wife Lucy Li. They shared the adoption story of Max, who had been abused and later stayed at our centre for a long time. The couple gave the dog a new lease of life through persistent training, love and patience.

Also featured in this issue is a story about Bevis, our new Inspector who joined the team last year. He tells us how his passion for animals brought him to the SPCA and how rescuing animals continues to inspire him.

Separately, we welcome the government's proposal to widen the feeding ban to all wild animals covering the whole of Hong Kong and to impose tougher penalties on offenders. We believe the strengthened measures can help alleviate the issue of boars causing nuisance in urban areas by establishing a respectful boundary and restoring harmony between wildlife and humans.

Read on to find out more about the SPCA and our work in education and animal rescue, welfare and campaigns. We thank you for your support for what we do and we look forward to bringing more of our work to the forefront.

Fiona Cumming
Executive Director



Pawprint 足印

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Cats are curious by nature. From time to time, there are hair-raising scenes in which they run away from home and sit on a windowsill dangerously.



Chief Inspector of the SPCA
Felix

To curious cats, the world is full of wonders. It is no surprise to find them venture out of their comfortable home and sit precariously on some windowsill at a high-rise building.

From 2021 to 2022 alone, the SPCA inspectors received more than 220 calls for help related to such "windowsill cats". That makes an average of nearly 20 cases per month. Unfortunately, in 25% of these cases, the cats had already fallen to death or disappeared without a trace before the arrival of our inspectors.

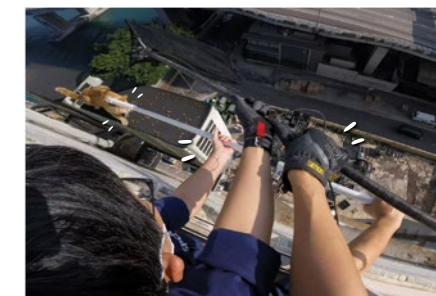
Saving animals trapped at high-altitude places requires high EQ, wits and lots of physical strength. Felix, Chief Inspector of the SPCA, shares his action-packed experience.

According to Felix, when an inspector receives a call reporting on a windowsill cat case, he should first ask the informant to provide details of the location, best with a photo or a video, and the emotional state of the cat. Such information will help the inspector devise a rescue strategy and pick the right kind of rescue tools, such as ropes, nets and cages to help the troubled cat.

After arriving at the scene, the inspector will ask the owner, if present, for the details of the cat, including its personality and age as well as the duration of the ownership. Most importantly, the inspector needs to precisely assess the emotional state of the cat because a slight human movement, a loud noise or an unexpected appearance of a rescue tool will likely frighten the animal, causing it to stumble and fall.

The pictures in this article show vividly how challenging and dangerous a windowsill cat rescue can be - for both the saviour and the saved. The process can be as nerve-racking as riding a rollercoaster and pump up the inspector's adrenaline.

Felix said, "During the rescue, the inspector is highly focused on the state of the cat. There is no chance for him to get distracted or feel frightened. Only after he saves the cat and puts it in a cage, heaving a sigh of relief, will he realise that his heart has been beating so fast this whole time."



Most apartments in Hong Kong are in high-rise buildings, making it more difficult to carry out a rescue.

From Felix's experience, he believes that carefully observing the cat's movements, thinking from its perspective, and planning the appropriate strategy are the key to success.

He recalled one of the most memorable cases he had handled, "I was trying to save a cat trapped on a windowsill outside its owner's apartment. I saw it constantly looking at the other window of the apartment. So I asked the owner to slowly open that window and sure enough, the cat jumped back into the apartment through that window he couldn't take his eyes off from. Sometimes, good observation before rescue can help us save a lot of time and minimise the risks."

On another occasion, Felix had to save an adult cat which had just been adopted by its owner for a few days. The owner found that it was walking on top of several adjacent air-conditioners outside the apartment, so he called the SPCA for help.

Upon arrival at the scene, Felix started to worry that the nervous cat might fall into an unreachable corner if it made a jump forward. He set up a cat cage outside the window and put some food in the cage to lure it back to a safer place. Fortunately, the cat got so hungry the next day that it walked into the cage by itself, saving its own life.

Apart from cats, the SPCA inspectors have rescued other animals from window sills, such as dogs, rabbits, chinchillas and turtles. Usually such incidents happened because their owners had forgotten to close the windows properly, giving these naughty ones a chance to escape.



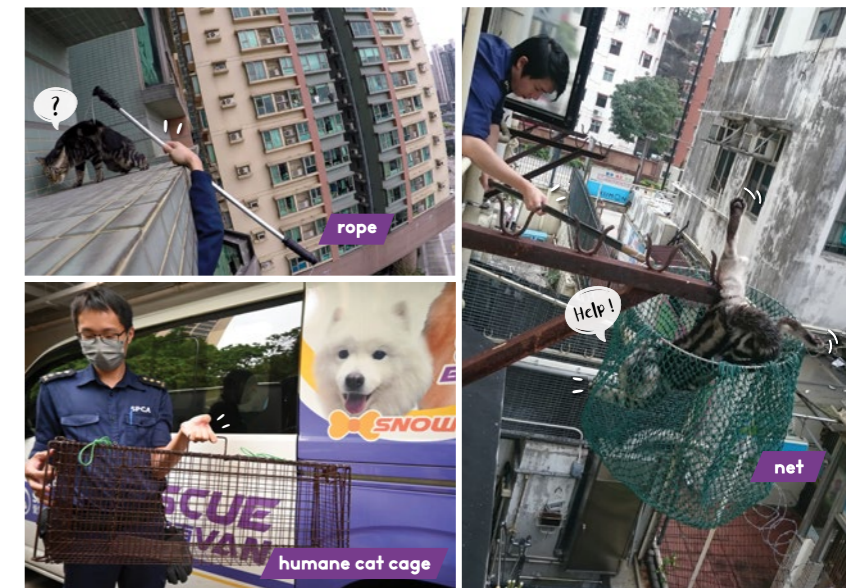
First and foremost, observe the emotional state of the cat carefully. Do not do anything that may scare it lest it should stumble and fall.

Ropes, nets and humane cat cages are commonly used for rescuing trapped cats.

Over the years, Felix has also played the important role of an educational ambassador, teaching pet owners the importance of home safety for their little animals, installing cat nets on windows and balconies, and constantly paying attention to the animals' whereabouts.

Last but not least, Felix reminded people not to attempt to rescue animals trapped at high altitude. Without a well-thought-out plan, one might easily scare the nervous animal and cause injuries. In some situations, pet owners can try lure the animal back into a safe place with its favourite food.

In sum, a successful rescue requires professional knowledge, skills and experiences. Call the SPCA 24-hour rescue hotline at 2711 1000 if you spot an animal in need of help. Remember to provide clear descriptions of the location, ideally with a photo or video. This can help our inspectors come up with the best rescue strategy possible.



The SPCA Animals on the Other Side of the World

Pet relocation has become a hot topic in recent years. Many SPCA adopters have moved with their beloved pets - once our homeless animals - to other countries and started a new life. We spoke to four such pet owners who shared their determination to bring their beloved pets along with them on their adventures despite the many challenges. Also, read on to find out how their pets are doing on the other side of the globe.

Sam, Sarah & The “Chu” Sisters

1

Three years ago, Chu Lui was trapped starving inside the infamous Stay Wonderland Animal Shelter when she was just a little puppy. Fortunately, this beautiful white mongrel was rescued by our Inspectors and eventually met her owners Sam and Sarah at the SPCA adoption centre after she turned one.



Penfold Park is the girls' favourite place to go when they are in Hong Kong.

Chu Lui and Chu Yi Mui are ready to board.

Later on, the couple had the idea of emigrating to Leeds, the UK. The first thing they did was not to book a flight but to go back to the SPCA and adopt another dog. Sam explained, "In case Chu Lui couldn't make any friends in the UK, she would have this new dog to be her friend." In 2021, with Chu Lui's approval, the couple welcomed Chu Yi Mui, a black female mongrel, to the family.

Finding a pet-friendly apartment in the UK was the first and foremost task for the couple in preparing for the big move. After some serious discussions, Sarah decided to resign from her job in hospitality. She flew to the UK alone in April to look for a home that would suit their family of four, leaving Sam to take care of the girls in Hong Kong and crate-train them.

Travelling around Leeds, Sarah was amazed at how pet-friendly the UK is as a country. Most public transport such as buses, trains, the London Underground and cable cars welcome dogs on board. Some shops have water fountains and snack bowls at the entrance to pamper any pass-by dogs.



After four months apart, Chu Lui and Chu Yi Mui joyfully reunite with Sarah with hugs and kisses.

With such an animal-loving culture, one may think it is a piece of cake to find a pet-friendly apartment in the UK. In reality though, it can be a daunting task. Sarah recalled, "As soon as the estate agents heard that we had dogs, they said there were no suitable apartments for us. So I went through online rental listings by myself and contacted the landlords one by one to try my luck. After being rejected about 30 times, a landlord finally agreed to rent to us."

After four months of preparation in the UK, things were all set for the girls' arrival. When Sarah reunited with them, they kissed her and wagged their tails with excitement.

Sarah said, "I am so proud of them as they remained calm inside their crates during the 30-hour flight and car ride. Of course, they got their potty breaks every two hours during the ride. But once Sam put them back into their crates, they were very well-behaved. We must thank the SPCA's behaviour trainer who shared with us tips and tricks and taught us how to crate train the girls."

According to Sam, the training was not difficult but must be done step by step. "First, I put some of their favourite snacks and toys inside the crate to lure them in. Gradually they associated the crate with happy memories and this was how I got them to like the crate."



Snacks are essential for crate training.

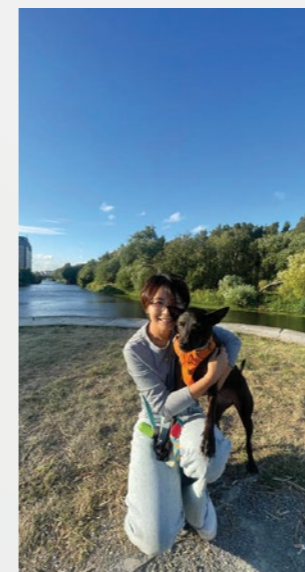
Sam hand-picks some winter clothes for the girls.

While they focused on their treats, I levelled things up by closing the front door of the crate. As the training progressed, I increased the length of time I left them in the crate and got out of their sight."

Recently in the UK, a record-setting heatwave struck the country, leading to a rise in heat-related deaths and illnesses. Without air-conditioning in public places like restaurants, shopping malls and buses, Sarah also fell victim to the scorching heat and suffered from heatstroke.

But it wasn't too bad for the two girls. Sarah explained, "The heatwave only lasted for a few days and we often had our fans on at home to keep the girls cool. Also, it is often quite chilly in the morning and at night so there is no problem for the girls to enjoy some outdoor activities in summer. They enjoy running in parks so much as they are spacious and similar to Penfold Park, which is the girls' favourite spot in Hong Kong."

Speaking of the two pets running freely, Sarah recalled the first day when she met Chu Lui at the SPCA adoption centre. "She had been trapped in Stay Wonderland Animal Shelter when she was little. The abuse made her so anxious that she refused to take a walk even just outside the SPCA. Now she runs happily without fear. It just shows how far she has come."



Chu Mum and Chu Yi Mui have become inseparable after months of separation.

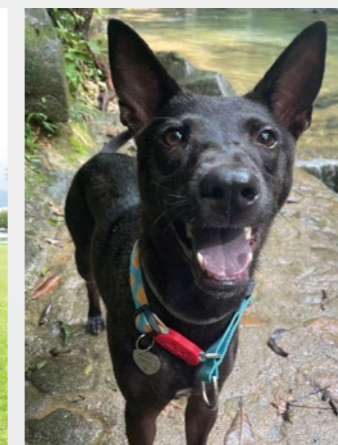
Sadly, not all pets are as lucky as Chu Lui and Chu Yi Mui. Some owners have chosen to abandon their pets as the procedures for pet relocation are often too complicated and costly; some have handed their pets over to their friends or relatives staying in Hong Kong because they don't want to bring along the animals to a new place where they have to face a future of uncertainty.

Nevertheless, Sam and Sarah believe that when there is a will, there is a way - no obstacles cannot be overcome if an owner is determined to relocate with their pets.

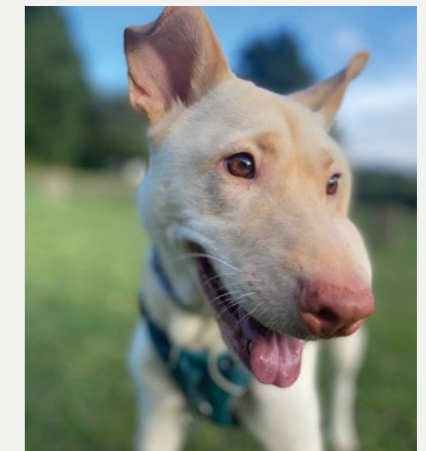
"Our pet relocation company shouldered the burden of handling the complicated procedures and paperwork for us. Their service cost a five-figure sum. That wasn't a huge amount compared to the total expenditure we spent on the entire journey. And for those who plan to emigrate, they should take this into account. And I know one owner who had to abandon his pet because it was too old and sick to fly. Well, how about travelling by sea? On the other hand, we have the greatest respect for an owner who stays in Hong Kong alone to take care of his senior pet as he doesn't want it to die alone. It is only when it passes away one day that he will join his family overseas," Sam said.



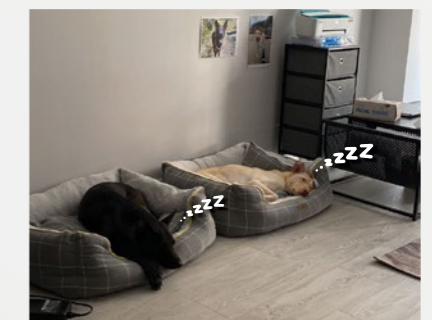
Chu Yi Mui is tired after running in Penfold Park and demands to be held by Sam.



This is one of Chu Lui and Chu Yi Mui's favourite spots in the UK.



Chu Lui always has a smile on her face whenever Sam and Sarah are around.



The girls fall into a deep sleep in their new beds.

The Wonderland Tragedy

In 2019, nearly 100 malnourished animals were found in Stray Wonderland Animal Shelter in Ta Kwu Ling, Yuen Long. The floor was covered with piles of garbage and faeces. At least 20 dog and cat carcasses were discovered at the scene. Some had already decomposed, leaving only bones and pelts. In total, more than 30 animals were found dead at the facility. Fortunately, Chu Lui was rescued by the SPCA's Inspectors and later adopted by Sam and Sarah.

Po Po & Iris 2



This is Iris' room when she stays at the SPCA while waiting for a forever home.

Tuxedo cat Iris was accidentally trapped in a vehicle engine when she was less than two months old. Fortunately, she was rescued by an SPCA's Inspector and met her owner Po Po in November 2019.

Iris is the apple of Po Po's eyes. When the family decided to move to the UK to start a new life, Iris topped their emigration checklist. Together, they have been living in the pet-friendly country for more than six months now.

When Iris first arrived in the UK, she surprised Po Po with her high level of adaptability, which is not common among cats, especially sensitive ones. "On the first night, Iris had no trouble sleeping, drinking, defecating or sleeping. She did much better than me," Po Po laughed.

In winter, Iris is usually smart to find ways to keep herself warm. "She will hide herself under the covers or sit on my lap as I watch TV. I never saw this clingy side of her when we were in Hong Kong. Actually, apartments here are built to withstand the cold in winter so we sometimes don't even need the heaters on."



Po Po treats Iris like her daughter.



Iris loves sitting here in her new home and enjoys the view.

Moving abroad with one's pet is undeniably a trying process. From snatching a plane ticket for the pet to finding a pet-friendly apartment, it is full of obstacles every step of the way. A concerned friend once questioned Po Po's decision to take Iris with her to the UK as most landlords are not keen to rent to people with pets.

"No parents would forsake their children just because they bring challenges to their plans," said Po Po. "Iris is our daughter whom we love dearly. There is no reason to leave her behind. We did spend a lot of time flat-hunting but we finally got this newly built pet-friendly apartment which combines comfort and convenience. The rent is also much cheaper than the other listings we saw. My husband keeps saying that he is very grateful to have Iris with us as she kept us going until we found this beautiful apartment that exceeded all our expectations."



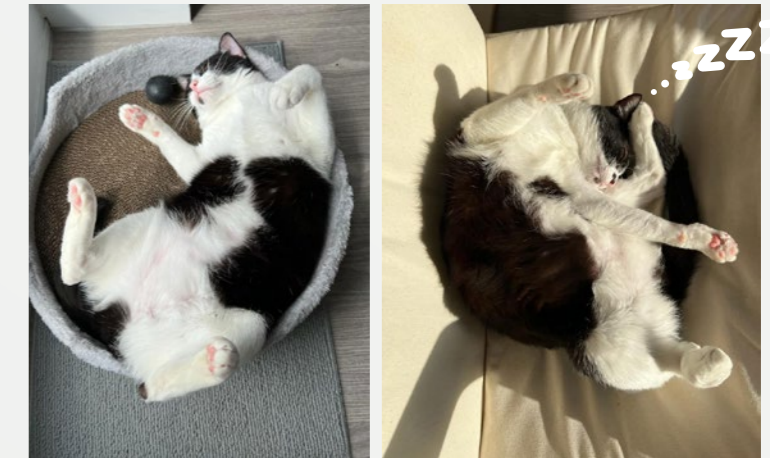
For those who plan to move to the UK with their pets, here is some good news. In June, the UK government unveiled plans to introduce a Renters' Reform Bill, which, if passed, will ensure that landlords cannot withhold consent when a tenant requests to have a pet in their home, unless the landlords can show good reason for refusing permission.

Apart from flat-hunting, Po Po and her husband were also at pains to get a plane ticket for Iris so that she could fly in-cabin and sit next to Po Po. "Our original plan was to depart as soon as possible but it was so difficult to get Iris a ticket due to the small seating capacity for pets. But no matter what happens, Iris must come first in our lives. So, we waited until we got her a ticket. Then we bought our own. We must land in the UK with her at the same time to ensure that we could take care of her along the way."



Po Po puts Iris' favourite stuffed toy inside the crate to keep her calm.

Despite the delay and hassle, Po Po said she had no regrets taking Iris with her to the UK. "The whole point of adopting a pet is to give them a home. Now I have found a new home. Why would I not include it? Also, my husband needs to work a lot. If it wasn't for Iris who accompanied me all this time, I would have felt very lonely at the start of my new life here."



Iris' sleeping position suggests how much she enjoys her new life and new home.



During the cold winter in the UK, Iris gets clingy and likes to sleep with Po Po to stay warm.



Tina & Autumn 3

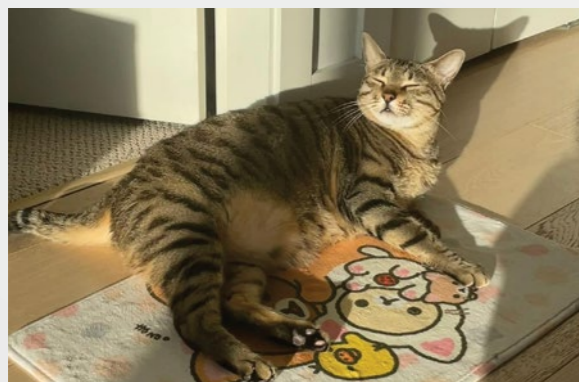


Autumn celebrates Tina's birthday.

Autumn was cruelly abandoned in a tied-up garbage bag when he was less than a month old. Luckily, a compassionate pedestrian discovered him and called the SPCA's Inspector for help. In October 2018, Autumn was adopted by Tina. Three years later, the whole family moved to Vancouver, Canada.

Known for being highly territorial, cats are often stressed out and confused when they are removed from their comfort zone. Autumn was no exception. But Tina reckons that the biggest fear of a pet is not a change in environment, but the possibility of being abandoned. This belief has apparently been proven right by Autumn's experience in Vancouver.

The first few days after Autumn arrived at his new home in Vancouver, he was so frightened that he hid himself in a room all day with no intention to come out at all. However, Tina decided that as long as his diet and stool remained normal, she would stay patient and let him adapt to the new place at his own pace. After a month, Autumn started to feel secure in his new home and comfortably slept anywhere he perceived as a good spot.



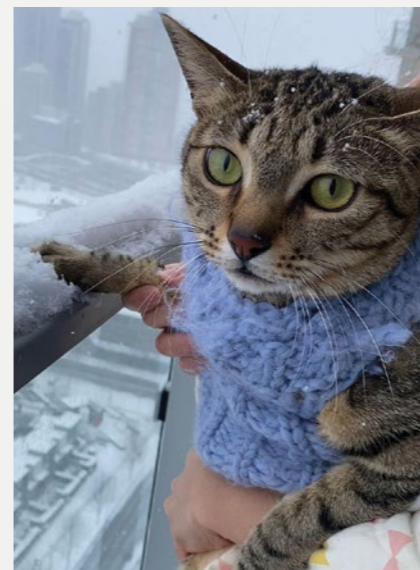
Autumn loves sunbathing.



Do you like my little sweater?



A year later, Tina needed to move house again. When the movers came to move his cat bed and the furniture out of the house, Autumn was petrified. He started to breathe heavily with his tongue sticking out. "We were terrified and immediately took him to a quiet room. We stayed there, reassuring him that we were not abandoning him." Soon after, Autumn calmed down. This time it didn't take long for him to adapt to the new home.



Autumn feels the snow for the first time.



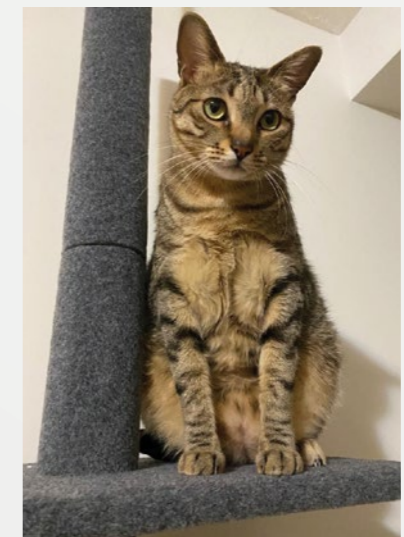
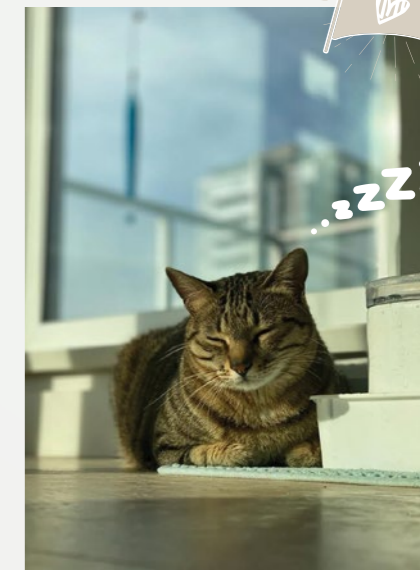
Autumn is enjoying life in Canada.



Autumn always stays close to Tina.

In Canada, Autumn gets to enjoy a much bigger living space than in Hong Kong. With a built-in stairwell at home, he is motivated to go up and down the house and do more exercise. For Tina, she can finally spend some quality time with Autumn in a country that attaches importance to work-life balance.

Tina believes that a pet can overcome any obstacle as long as its owner stands by its side, which is why she insisted on flying with Autumn in the same cabin so that she could take care of him throughout the flight. "However, it wasn't easy to book a ticket for him as the plane only had four seats for pets. We tried to book the earliest tickets but to no avail. Although we could have chosen to fly without Autumn as further delay would mean higher ticket prices, we chose to wait and fly together with him," Tina said.



Autumn has a blast during the Chinese New Year.

Before they boarded, Tina worked hard to help Autumn get used to its new airline-compliant carrier. "We put his favourite snacks in the carrier to help him build some fond memories with it. Also, when we took him out for paperwork and vaccination and to get microchipped, we put him in the new carrier so that he could get used to travelling in it as soon as possible."

"We brought a pet water bottle, dry food and potty pads on board in case he needed them. We also had snacks on hand that could hydrate him if he refused to drink water." As it turned out, Autumn refused to eat and drink for 24 hours, but he remained calm and stable during the flight.

To help Autumn cope with the cold weather in Canada, Tina built a cat bed using carton boxes and a soft mattress. In such an exclusive bed, he felt safe sleeping with some of his favourite toys.

To Tina, keeping a pet is like a marriage, a covenant for life. She said, "I will grow old with Autumn and accompany him until the last moment of his life. I hope that other owners will not give up on their pets so easily as it feels so lonely and helpless not to have a family."

"Autumn has already lost his mom. I don't want him to go through the same kind of pain with me. Besides, I was quarantined at Penny's Bay for seven days before. I missed Autumn so much at that time. If anyone asked me to leave him again, I would not accept it," Tina said.

Ling & Coffee 4

While some owners abandon their pets before emigration, Ling visited the SPCA to adopt Coffee before she departed for Europe. "I always thought that Europe was a good place for medium to large-sized dogs to live. So, when I had the idea of moving to Europe, I adopted Coffee from the SPCA and took him to Europe with me, as well as my other two cats that were also adopted from the SPCA," Ling said.



Ling and Coffee are each other's greatest companions in life.



These two cats have been adopted from the SPCA and moved to Europe with Ling and Coffee.

Coffee is an anxious dog. When she first arrived in Europe, she couldn't make sense of the smell in the new environment, the unfamiliar language and people's tone of voice, all of which were markedly different from what she was used to. It was so overwhelming that she had to hide herself under Ling's bed.

Ling recalled, "She got frightened when she heard a sudden noise or a normal conversation between two people. When I took her out for a walk, she was always scared to go a bit farther."

Ling gave Coffee a new bed as her safe spot but she bit it to pieces and would rather sleep inside her crate or beside Ling's bed. "I have never seen her being so emotional before. I reckoned she was very nervous when she first arrived at our new home," said Ling. To help Coffee adapt to her life in Europe, Ling often took her out to explore the neighbourhood. After merely a month, Coffee felt at home.

Ling is very pleased that Coffee now lives in a country where people highly value animal welfare and protection. "By law, dog owners here must take their dogs out for a walk at least every six hours. The aim of the law is to prevent dogs from being left alone at home without care for a long period of time during the day. You can see dog day care centres and pet sitters are just around the corner to help owners with busy work schedules," Ling said.



When Coffee feels insecure, she will lie on Ling's bed like this for comfort.



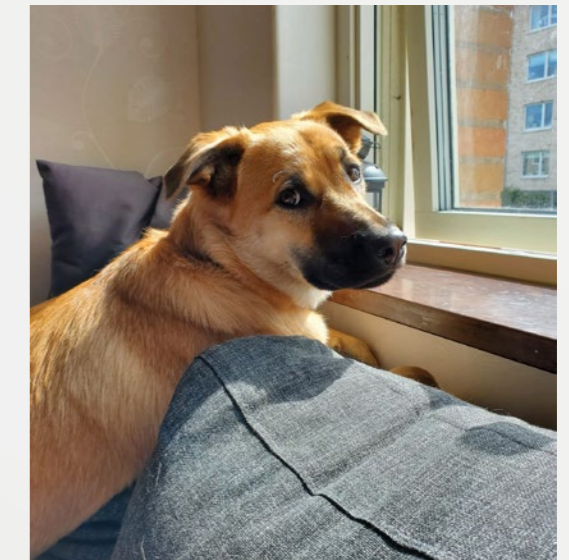
There is wet grass everywhere in Europe that can insulate heat from the ground.



Ling also enjoys her newfound work-life balance lifestyle which enables her to spend more time with Coffee. "I worked in healthcare in Hong Kong. I was always snowed under with work and had no time to breathe. Now I can teach online classes at home where Coffee can see me all the time. Also, the country I am living in has adopted a policy to improve work-life balance for its citizens limiting the maximum working hours to seven hours per day."

Although heatwaves strike Europe every summer, Ling is not worried about any negative impact of the scorching heat on Coffee in the future. "We have lots of wet grass here to insulate the heat coming from the ground. This can protect dogs' paws from getting burnt. Dogs are happy when they can run freely on the grass. That's why I take Coffee out three times a day for a walk. In the hot days, I would give her more water and I have already bought winter clothes for her to keep her warm."

It has been almost a year since Ling moved to Europe. She feels gratified every time when she sees a smile on Coffee's face. "The average lifespan of a dog is no less than 10 years. There can be a lot of changes in the owner's life in a decade. People should bear this in mind before they decide to keep a pet. For me, no matter how life changes, my commitment to Coffee will not change."



Being able to work from home in Europe, Ling gets to spend much quality time with Coffee.

The SPCA is glad that animals that used to stay at our centre looking for a forever home have gone to the other side of the globe to start a new life with their owners. We are also very grateful to the adoptive families for showing their unwavering commitment to their pets amid all the challenges in life.

"Petalk" 貓狗有話兒

PETALK Charity Raffle I'm your BOSS – Follow My Lead

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) is stepping into its second century this year. We will continue to put our best foot forward in promoting the message of **"Adopt. Don't Shop"** and help as many homeless animals as possible.

Raffle Ambassadors

PETALK raffle, an annual programme that offers a great opportunity for us to promote the message of "Adopt. Don't Shop", was held with success this year. The lucky draw took place on 26 July, with a total of 148 winners drawn to win various jaw-dropping prizes, such as a BALL Watch Mechanical Timepiece (\$29,000), a Panasonic 55-inch 4K LED Smart TV (\$11,900) and the Pawfect Stay Package (\$3,959) sponsored by The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong.

Talented local artists and media influencers joined the annual event as ambassadors. Using their creative skills, they created impressive works of art that reflected the needs of stray animals.

Internationally renowned animal oil painting artist LeonLollipop (Leon Lai) created portraits of beauty KOL Pony Pong's adopted mongrel, Tissue, and travel expert Jerry.C's adopted Bengal cat, Jäger. The message of "Adopt. Don't Shop" was effectively communicated to the public through their portraits. Hopefully more homeless animals will find a forever home soon.

Raffle Theme

The raffle this year aimed at encouraging the public to try to think more from animals' perspectives. One of the highlighted activities was the "LeonLollipop – PETALK" art exhibition and oil art jamming, where members of the public were invited to capture memorable moments with their beloved pets on canvas.

At present, there are still many homeless animals waiting to be loved again. Each raffle ticket you bought will be turned into financial and medical aid supporting these animals on their journey to find a forever home!

Thank you very much and see you next year.



Would you like to help abused animals to start a new life?

Animal cruelty cases recur from time to time. To rescue, treat and take care of abused and injured animals in a large animal cruelty case, it usually costs more than \$1,000,000.

To meet the needs of all the victim animals involved in a big case, we need more than 1,000 animal lovers who are willing to donate \$3 every day over the course of more than one year.

\$3 every day

Will you consider being one of our monthly donors to provide critical support for our animal survivors waiting for a home?



Please donate by scanning the QR code or visit our website
<https://support-the-abused.sPCA.org.hk/?locale=en>



mimi mono x SPCA Animal Fundraising Activity

Autumn is coming soon. Here's an exciting opportunity to get new outfits for your children and help homeless animals at the same time!

mimi mono is going to launch a new Autumn collection of animal-themed kid's wear. To support the work of the SPCA and help promote animal care, mimi mono will donate \$20 to the SPCA for every designated clothing item sold from October to December 2022.

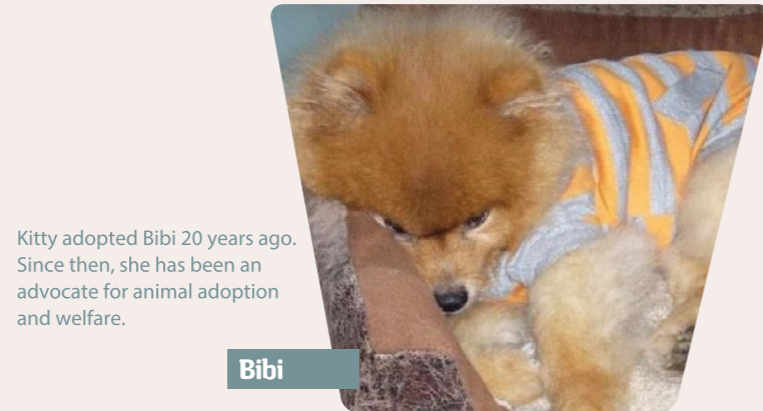
More details will be announced on mimi mono and the SPCA Facebook.

Donate a Gift In Your Will – Caring for Animals for Years to Come

These days it is no longer a taboo to make a will and plan one's legacy. What is surprising, though, is that there is no shortage of generous animal lovers in Hong Kong who seek legal means to donate their legacy to animal organisations, hoping to continue to contribute to animal welfare in the city after they pass.

In light of this trend, Ryanne Lai, co-founder of ForeverGift, recently partnered with local law firms and launched the "Leaving Legacy for Your Furry Friends" programme, which provides free professional and personalised will-drafting services to those who wish to donate their legacy to animal charities of their choice.

In just seven weeks after its inception, the campaign received from such donors a total of HK\$60 million for 21 local animal charities. The SPCA is honoured to be one of the recipients. In this issue of *Pawprint*, two of the donors who have joined the programme share why they put their trust in the SPCA and also explain the meaning of legacy donation.



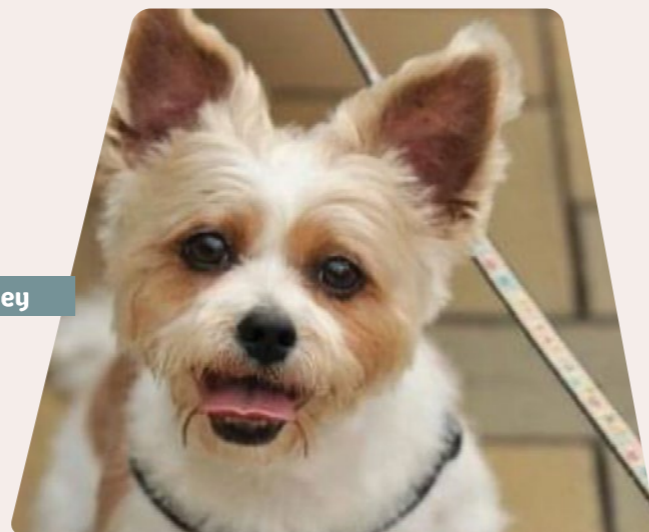
Kitty adopted Bibi 20 years ago. Since then, she has been an advocate for animal adoption and welfare.

Bibi



Honey is Kitty's third adopted dog who was abandoned by her ex-owner living in public housing.

Honey



Kitty

Two Decades of Support for the SPCA

Twenty years ago, Kitty adopted Bibi who had been ruthlessly abandoned by his ex-owner. Although it wasn't through the SPCA that Kitty adopted Bibi, he was the reason why Kitty joined the SPCA as a member. Over the years, her membership has unexpectedly evolved into a precious friendship that has lasted for two decades.

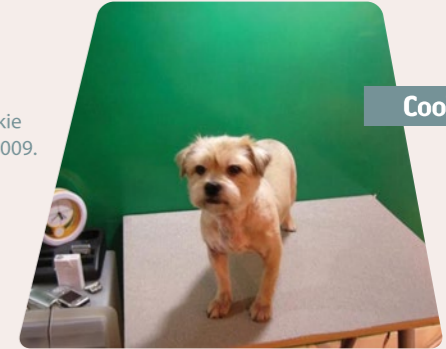
She said, "I joined the SPCA just for its veterinary services. It was not until Bibi exhibited some behavioural issues that I realised the SPCA also offers a variety of services that aim at improving animal welfare in Hong Kong. When I saw their dog training course was still open for applications, I decided to join it." Having gleaned a better understanding of the work of the SPCA, Kitty stepped up her support for us by adopting two dogs from our adoption centre – Honey, abandoned by her ex-owner who lived in public housing, and Cookie, a stray dog found by a passer-by on the street.

Kitty has adopted three dogs over the past 20 years. When it comes to adopting, the breed, health and abusive past of the animal do not concern her at all. Instead, the bonding between her and the animal is of paramount importance. To strengthen the bond, she goes above and beyond to ensure her newly-adopted animal can settle into her family as quickly as possible. Play time, exercises, lots of praise, affection and nutritious food are on her daily agenda and she never misses a single item. The most gratifying moment for her is when she sees how her love can transform an animal, especially those that have been abandoned and abused.

What breaks Kitty's heart, though, is to see social media flooded with news related to animal cruelty, such as animals being mistreated and injured strays not getting the medical care they need. To make the city a better place for animals to live, Kitty seeks every feasible way to promote animal welfare in Hong Kong. When Cookie and Honey were still alive, she would take them to join the SPCA's annual Dogathon to raise funds for the homeless animals.

As a monthly donor of the SPCA and other animal organisations, Kitty believes that regular donations are vital for providing quality food, veterinary care and loving attention to homeless animals while they are waiting for their special adopters. She doesn't want her financial support for animal organisations to stop after she passes. That is why she has sought help from the lawyers of "Leaving Legacy For Your Furry Friends" programme and donated part of her legacy to an animal organisation of her choosing.

However, it wasn't an easy choice to make until she stumbled upon the annual review of the SPCA that stated its annual income and total expenditure on its animal services. The clarity of the information gave her the confidence that her money would be used directly on animals in need and the SPCA's animals would benefit for the years to come.

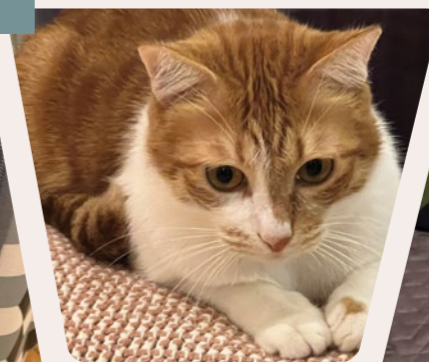


Kitty adopted Cookie from the SPCA in 2009.

Cookie



Nemo



Fox



Tiger

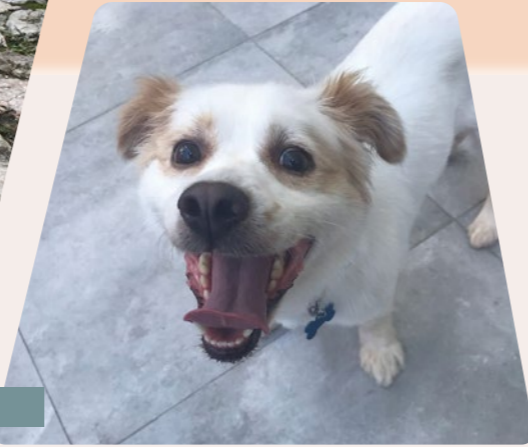
With a busy work schedule now, Kitty chooses to keep cats instead of dogs as they seem more independent. Nemo, Fox and Tiger are Kitty's current furry family members.



Antony



Antony takes this picture of Milos when they first meet in Travnik.



Milos

Do you like Milos' new haircut done by the SPCA's grooming team?

From Bosnia With Love

Some lucky souls find love on vacation. Antony is one of them.

Seven years ago, when he travelled 8,000 km from Hong Kong to Bosnia to see the captivating historical architecture in the Balkan country, he met the love of his life – Milos, a starving stray dog living in Travnik, a town one-and-a-half hour drive away from the famous Sarajevo.

When Antony was sightseeing with his tour guide, a white dog started to follow them, but from a distance as if it didn't want to disturb them. Whenever Antony took a break at a café or dined at a restaurant, the dog would wait patiently at the door for him. It would follow him 10 hours a day. That aroused Antony's interest and so he took a photo of the dog.

The homeless dog was a miserable outcast, often sitting alone by itself while a pack of dogs nearby acted in a group. Apparently, they ignored the loner. Years of civil war in the region caused thousands of human casualties, leaving many dogs without owners. But they continued to reproduce in a city with no animal birth control policy. Kids on the street would often cruelly throw stones at the dogs. No adults would bother to educate or stop them.

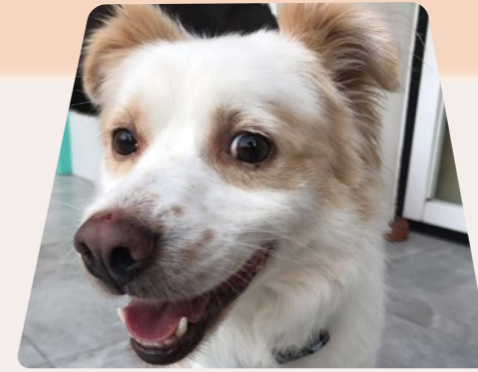
On the last night of his trip, while Antony was packing in his hotel room, he took a look at the photo of the dog and started to worry if the dog had enough food to eat or been bullied by some naughty kids on the street. He realised he wanted to be the one who cared for it the rest of its life, and so he decided to take it back to Hong Kong with him.

As soon as he woke up the next day, Antony and his tour guide rushed back to the places they previously visited in hopes of finding the dog, but to no avail. They took a break at the same café they frequented during the trip and talked with the café owner about the missing dog.

Fortunately, the cafe owner offered some clues: the dog often went to his son's home for food. That was an exciting piece of information for Antony as it meant there was a chance to reconnect with the dog. Feeling hopeful, he asked the shop owner and his son to contact him and keep the dog safe if it ever appeared again. Meanwhile, he would prepare for the documentation required for transporting it to Hong Kong.



Antony often takes Milos out for it to learn to socialise with strangers and other dogs.



Milos shows its confidence wherever it goes and is no longer the scared stray bullied by other dogs.



Milos sleeps peacefully in its home in Hong Kong.

One week after returning to Hong Kong, Antony received some good news from the café owner: his son had verified that the dog was a stray without owner. Subsequently, the tour guide sent it to Sarajevo for a 27-day quarantine and full vaccination before flying to Hong Kong.

Unfortunately, before Antony could make any step forward, he learnt that the dog was prohibited from entering Hong Kong as dog-mediated rabies was still endemic in Bosnia at that time. Devastated but not ready to give up, Antony then met a couple who advised him to first send the dog to Vienna for 27 days of local quarantine. After that, it would be allowed to fly to Hong Kong on a direct flight. It took two months for Antony to be finally reunited with the dog that flew 8,000km from the other side of the world to be part of his family. Antony named him Milos and brought it to its forever home. Upon arrival, Milos seemed a little overwhelmed after the long quarantine and hours of flying. Since it had been homeless for six years, it wasn't used to living in a home with Antony. Nonetheless, while it did pee at home occasionally due to emotional stress, it never made a mess, bit or barked incessantly. Antony would take Milos out for a walk every morning and night to help it get used to living in a city profoundly different from Travnik.

To keep Milos healthy, Antony took him to the SPCA clinic for a thorough medical examination. The vet found that Milos was suffering from skin diseases and kidney stones, which required prescription food and a surgery. Antony also took Milos to the SPCA grooming centre for a haircut that gave it a cool new look. Now the ex-stray has turned 12 years old. It is enjoying his life to the fullest and its health has remained stable.

Milos' transformation was not just physical. Living in a loving home has boosted its confidence as well. It used to be anxious around strangers and large dogs, but now it gets excited going to the park and meet its canine friends. The story of Milos often makes Antony think of the stray dogs in Hong Kong. He is grateful to have animal organisations such as the SPCA that go above and beyond to save and treat stray animals and help them find a home.

He is also very supportive of the SPCA's animal birth control initiatives, such as the Community Dog Programme which aims to regulate the population of Hong Kong's loosely owned and unowned roaming dogs and improve dog welfare.

With the support of his family, Antony has donated part of his legacy to the SPCA. He wants to be able to continue to support the SPCA's efforts in providing rescue and veterinary services and to help pet owners with financial difficulties after he passes.



Loved by Antony, Milos always has a smile on its face.

The SPCA would like to thank all the animal lovers who participated in the "Leaving Legacy For Your Furry Friends" programme and chose us to be their beneficiary. Their generous donations will help us build a better future for animals through our rescue and veterinary services, behavioural training programmes, animal sterilisation, adoption services, education programmes and community development projects.

If you are also interested in donating your legacy to us, please visit the "Forevergift" website www.forevergift.hk for more details.

You can also contact the SPCA directly:
 ☎ 2232 5510 ✉ donor@sPCA.org.hk

A Perfect Dog in Disguise

For some prospective adopters, dogs that are mixed breeds, bark incessantly, and appear anxious or fearful of being touched and making eye contact are major turn-offs. Max unfortunately have all these traits, having previously been trapped in a tiny tin house in darkness with no chance of getting out in the open air.

People visited the SPCA adoption centre but few laid eyes on him. But after waiting for more than a year, he finally met Darren and Lucy, a local celebrity couple who decided to take him home.

Since Max became part of their family, the couple has been showering him with love and helping him grow through persistent training. They are waiting patiently for the day when Max can finally let go of his trauma and live his life to the fullest without fear. Time will tell he has been the perfect dog all along.



When Max meets our reporter, he starts barking but soon stops as Darren and Lucy calm him down.



Darren

Lucy

Max

Darren and Lucy, hosts of an infotainment TV programme, once had two golden retrievers which they loved dearly. Sadly, the elderly dogs passed away from illness last year. Grief-stricken, Darren and Lucy started visiting the SPCA's Sai Kung Adopt-a-Pet centre every week, trying to channel their pain into love for the homeless dogs.

At the centre, the pair saw various cute, family-friendly puppies, but none touched their hearts like the troubled, one-and-a-half-year-old Max did.

Lucy recalled, "A lot of the dogs had already found their homes but Max just seemed to be waiting endlessly at the centre. Whenever a stranger passed by, he would either bark fiercely or hide himself in a corner. Nobody stopped to give him attention. Honestly though, I was also a little scared by him when I first met him."

Yet Max's behavioural issue did not stop the couple from visiting him. If anything, it only drew them closer to him. At one point, the SPCA's homing staff noticed the couple's interest in Max and explained the dog's background to them.

Max was born in a small dark tin house in Yuen Long, living together with other 40 cats and dogs. All the animals were isolated from the outside world, and were never touched or hugged by a human being. Because of the poor hygiene, they also had skin diseases. It's little wonder that Max was wary of humans.

Having learned the story of Max, the couple's passion for him started to grow.

Darren said, "Friendly, cute puppies stand a better chance of getting adopted. We need to give Max a chance at love, too."



Max looks happy when he learns that he is about to go for a walk.

Love Is Patience

Since then, Lucy took things slowly and tried not to do anything that might scare Max. Every time when she visited him, she squatted in front of his room and looked at her mobile phone quietly with her head down. Despite the lack of human-and-dog interaction, Lucy felt it was the right thing to do at that moment and hoped that her silence would help Max slowly get used to her presence and accept her as his future owner.

As for Darren, he refrained from making any eye contact with Max at the advice of the SPCA's homing staff. He would also stand away from Max and reached out his hand to give him a snack or two. Gradually, Max left his guard down and stopped barking at Darren. In February this year, he went home with the loving couple.

That day, the SPCA's behaviour trainer accompanied the couple to bring Max home. At one point they went to a nearby park, where Max had a blast for an entire hour. However, things took a sharp turn when the trainer left, with Max suddenly feeling highly anxious. It was then Darren and Lucy realised there was still a long way to go before Max could settle into his new family.



Darren never looks directly at Max at the SPCA adoption centre.



Max goes on a staycation with Darren and Lucy.

Max shows his affection to humans when he feels safe.



Tough Start

On the first two days, Max was at home with Darren while Lucy was out for work. As usual, Max didn't like making eye contact or being touched. Darren explained, "When Max feels secure, he likes going out for a run or playing games with us at home. But during the first few days at his new home, he had no trust in us yet. I didn't know what to do with him."

Later, Darren decided to take Max out for a run for him to burn some of his energy. However, as soon as the door was open, Max froze with his tail tucked in. "With lots of prompting, he finally went out with me. But after taking a few steps on the road, he stopped. His paws were sticking to the ground like magnets, not willing to move an inch further," Darren recalled.

Feeling stuck in the situation, Darren called Lucy for emotional support. He said, "I could have picked up Max, brought him home and ended this standoff. But that would have been meaningless. Instead, I stayed there with him until he was brave enough to make a few more steps back home. I wanted to build a relationship with him but not by force."

Lucy said, "It was such a difficult day for Darren that he almost gave up. Then one day I was waiting for Darren outside a supermarket. Max was sitting beside me. A kid then came over to pet Max and Max got so frightened he peed uncontrollably. I felt sad for him."

Darren added, "Actually, the SPCA trainer had reminded us not to take Max out for a long walk within the first few days he arrived. The proper way to train him would have been to take him on a short walk first, and let him take just a few steps along the corridor outside home and go home whenever he wanted to. Gradually he would adapt to his new life at his own pace."

"Let a dog be a dog" is Darren and Lucy's motto. They believed that dogs had free will and people needed to respect that. "Certainly, aggressive behaviours need to be corrected. But we always tell Max that he doesn't need to please everybody. He just needs to be brave and enjoy a life that he deserves," the couple said.

Max is now ready for love and demands kisses from Lucy.



Max didn't let Darren touch him before but now belly rubs are part of the family's daily routine.

The Power of Training

To help Max overcome his fear of the world, Darren and Lucy often took him out for a run in the park, had breakfast with him in restaurants with outdoor seating and occasionally went on fancy staycation. And for the first time in life, Max was able to feel a tingling sensation when rain fell gently onto his skin.

After a month, Max finally transformed into a confident, trusting dog, running around freely with Darren and enjoying belly rubs and kisses from Lucy.

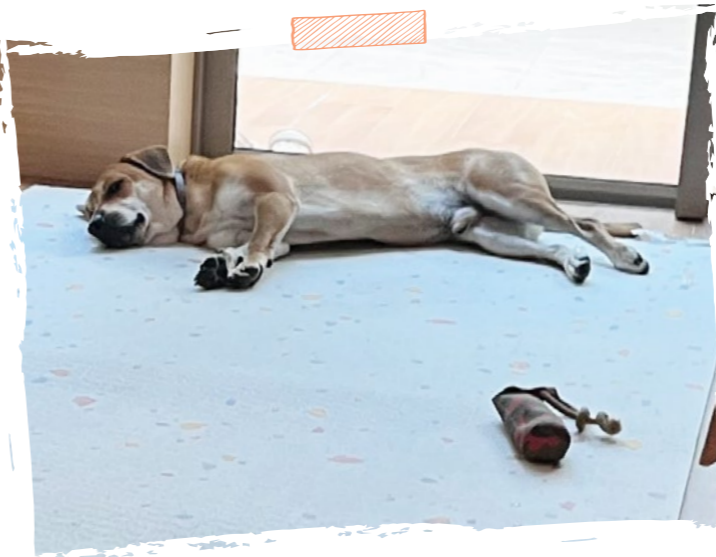
That was not the biggest change though. The most significant breakthrough was that Max no longer feels the need to coil up his body for self-protection during sleep.

Lucy said, "It's probably not worth mentioning. But for Max to finally relax and sleep sideways is a milestone of his growth."

Darren said they were very grateful for what the SPCA trainer had done for Max. "The trainer had taught us many different tricks to help Max overcome his anxiety, such as repeatedly inviting the same friend to our home to stay for 20 to 30 minutes. The aim was to help Max realise that we do meet strangers in life but they won't necessarily harm us. As Max grew closer to our friend, he even let the friend take the leash to walk him for a while."

Nonetheless, occasional barking is still unavoidable.

Darren said, "When Max barks, it's his way of telling us someone he sees as a threat is at the door. We just need to reassure him we will take care of that. Then he will relax and stop barking. After all, barking to alert is what a dog normally does, right?"



Max feels so secure now that he no longer coils up his body for self-protection during sleep.

Persistent training can transform a dog's life only if the owner is willing to cooperate with the trainer.



How to Find Your Perfect Dog

No matter how exhausted Darren and Lucy are after work, they insist on taking Max for a walk or play some games with him as part of the training. Although Max still has a lot to improve, he is already perfect in the eyes of Darren and Lucy.

For those who also want to find a perfect dog, Darren has some advice. "Be honest and ask what kind of life you want, how big your house is and how much time, energy, and money you are willing to spend on your dog. You need a dog that can match your lifestyle, otherwise you will get tired of it. Dogs are not accessories. Don't get a Great Dane just because someone looks cool running with one."

Lucy encourages prospective adopters to spend some time to get to know a seemingly aggressive dog at a centre. Find out the underlying causes of the unwanted behaviours before you decide it's not the dog for you. It might just be a perfect dog in disguise.

"My two golden retrievers would come to me immediately when I called them. I never thought training was essential to help some dogs live their lives to the fullest. But my experience doesn't matter. What matters most is that we can help Max to enjoy his new life as soon as possible. To achieve this, taking the advice of the SPCA trainers is crucial as they are the ones who know the animals the best before they get adopted."

Instagram icon **Max IG : @maxlife_hk** Paw print icon



THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CUTE LOOKS – THE LIFELONG SUFFERING OF FLAT-FACED BREEDS

With their short legs, bulging eyes, flat and jowly faces, breeds such as Persian and Exotic Shorthair cats, Frenchies, Pugs and Pekingese dogs have captured the hearts of millions with their baby-like appearance in recent decades.

As cute as they are, these brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds are increasingly susceptible to genetic diseases, as they have been victims to illicit breeding and inbreeding practices over the past decades. Nowadays, they are amongst the breeds with the shortest life expectancy.

In the wild, natural selection tends to reward animals that adapt to the environment, and over time species and breeds have evolved accordingly. However, that is not the case with animals that are products of artificial, often illicit and uncontrolled breeding, which has long been driven by human desire for specific appearances in pet animals.



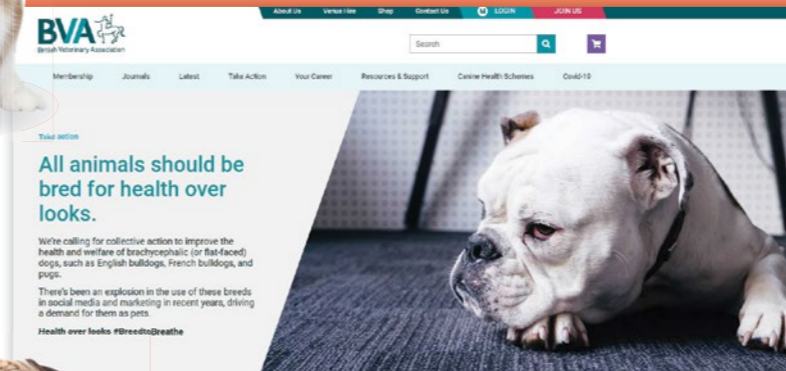
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Breeding selection for extreme brachycephalia has resulted in deformation of the animals' upper airway tracts and various forms of breathing difficulties which are collectively known as Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS).

BOAS can also cause disturbed breathing during sleep (snoring), gastrointestinal disorders (regurgitation and vomiting), predisposition to heatstroke. In the worst-case scenario, it can lead to cyanosis, collapse and even death. Brachycephalic breeds do not only suffer from BOAS but are also at a higher risk of developing corneal ulcers, skin disease, joint issues as well as difficulties in giving birth.

Although clinical signs of BOAS can be eased through surgery, severely affected patients are also known to be at a higher anaesthetic risk. Sadly, the average life expectancy of these breeds is also shorter by a number of years when compared to other breeds of similar body mass.

Owing to the breathing difficulties that flat-faced animals exhibit, many airlines have banned them. As a matter of fact, there have been several cases where flat-faced animals died or became seriously ill during a flight. If you plan to emigrate, you should factor this issue into your travel plans. Sadly, the SPCA has recently seen a surge in abandonment of flat-faced animals, as their owners were unable to take them when relocating.

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) points out on its website that French bulldog overtook the Labrador Retriever as the UK's most popular dog breed in 2018, with an almost 3,000% increase in number over the previous 10 years. BVA is concerned that celebrity influence and social media have had a big role to play in the rising popularity of French bulldog.

In order to raise public awareness of the health issues related to brachycephalic breeds, BVA has been running the #BreedtoBreathe campaign (<https://www.bva.co.uk/take-action/breed-to-breathe-campaign/>) in recent years to encourage veterinary professionals to follow their 10-point practice plan - as stated on its website - to improve the health and welfare of brachycephalic dogs and to promote responsible pet ownership.

The practice plan suggests veterinary professionals to advise pet owners to neuter their dogs suffering from BOAS, so as to prevent litters with extreme conformation that will negatively affect their health. Regular health assessments at the vet can also be conducted for brachycephalic breeds so that timely treatments can be provided for the animals.

Early this year, a Norwegian court made a landmark ruling that banned the reproduction of English bulldogs and cavalier King Charles spaniels. According to the ruling, if reproduction must take place, the dogs must be outcrossed with another healthier breed.

In Hong Kong, as our animal laws are yet to be on par with those in Western countries, the most effective way at present to stop brachycephalic dogs and cats from lifelong suffering is for consumers to properly address and recognise the health and welfare problems faced by these flat-faced animals, and to ultimately stop buying animals that are bred for their looks at the expense of their health.

When Four Become Eight

Anita and her family have always been cat lovers. Having overcome the overwhelming grief of losing their first adopted cat two years ago, the family of four was ready to welcome new cats into their home to invigorate their domestic life.

When they visited the SPCA adoption centre in May, they met four kittens from the same litter. As each of the family members picked up a kitten and held them in their arms, they found themselves instantly falling in love with the four little animals. But there was a problem - they could not make up their mind which kittens to take home. All of them were such lovely precious beings and it would be a shame to leave any of them behind.

Anita had initially planned to adopt no more than two cats from the litter, ideally anxious shy kittens as the family believed outgoing cats stood a better chance of finding a home. But with all four kittens having captured their hearts, the family fretted about what to do. Considering the time and effort required to take care of four pets, they knew it would be unwise to rush into a decision that would affect the kittens' lives.

After some careful thought, they unanimously decided to adopt all four kittens and take care of them for the rest of their lives. It wasn't a decision taken lightly. The whole family is committed to fulfilling their responsibilities of looking after their new furry members.



Share Your adoption stories with Us!

Animals that have been adopted from the SPCA all have their own stories. They may have come to us without homes, been cruelly treated, rescued from accidents or abandoned by their owners. No matter the circumstances, whether the animals have been physically or emotionally injured, we carefully take them into our hands and provide them with the necessary treatments and care until they find their forever homes.

With the help of loving families who choose to adopt, these animals are given a second chance in life. The patience and infinite love shown to these adopted animals allow them to experience a happy life. We thank these families for their support!

If you are interested in sharing photos or stories of you and your furry best friend, please email us at happyendings@spca.org.hk

Selected stories and photos will be shared in future issues of Pawprint or on our Facebook page.



The family made great efforts to prepare for the kittens' arrival. They tidied up their home and bought cat bowls and drinking fountains. Most importantly, safety nets were installed on all windows. Wires, knives, scissors and all small sharp tools were also stored away for the safety of the kittens.

The family has also put in place an 'accountability system'. Mommy is responsible for feeding the cats breakfast and cleaning their bowls before heading to work. Son and daughter clear the litter boxes and spend time playing with the kittens. Daddy keeps track of the kittens' health and makes vaccination and vet appointments. He is also the family photographer capturing precious moments of the kittens.

Although the cats are from the same litter, they have their own personalities. Hak Jai, a.k.a Blackie, is the eldest sister. She is easily recognised by her dark coat. Dai Ma is the second eldest brother and is active and energetic. Sai Ma looks like Dai Ma but is quieter and shyer. She loves observing her siblings all the time. Yeah Chu is the youngest. Her name, which means little boar in Cantonese, was inspired by the stripes on her back.

Adopting the four kittens has changed the life of Anita and her family in many ways. The family members no longer stay in their own rooms and mind their own business like they used to. Instead, they like to get together and talk endlessly about the cats in the evening. Happiness can be simple.

The four siblings wait at Anita's door every morning until they get their breakfast.



The four siblings were cared for by foster parent before they met Anita.



Dai Ma

Sai Ma

Putting Animal Safety First – The Dream of an Animal Rescue Inspector Trainee

Everyone has a dream. Some dream of travelling around the globe; some want to change the world. For passionate animal lover Bevis, his biggest dream since childhood was to be an Animal Rescue Inspector for the SPCA. And unlike a lot of people, his dream did come true.

Last September, he joined the SPCA, working in his dream job as an Animal Rescue Inspector Trainee rescuing animals in danger.

"As a child, I always hoped that I would get this job when I grew up," said Bevis. When he was a little kid, going to yum cha with his parents was a regular family outing. Whenever he got bored at the dining table, he would flip through the newspaper to entertain himself. One day he stumbled upon an inspiring article that would change his life.

The article was an interview with an Animal Rescue Inspector from the SPCA. Bevis was so touched by the work of the inspector that he decided he would become one himself when he grew up. "I am still very impressed by the article. Being an animal inspector can bring so much meaning to one's life."

After completing a university degree course in Chinese Language, Bevis did not pursue a career related to what he studied. Instead, he went into animal care. Before joining the SPCA, he had worked in various roles, including a veterinary assistant nurse and an animal caretaker at a local theme park.

Speaking of his new job, Bevis said, "Being an inspector is much more challenging than I had imagined. It demands a lot of physical strength as we often need to go to remote places to rescue animals trapped tightly in narrow catchments and manholes."

But the most arduous part of the job, according to Bevis, is to handle wildlife rescue cases - an area he had little experience in when he first started - and the long-distance driving that comes with such tasks.

Seeing animals get injured, fall sick or even die is part of Bevis' job as an inspector. He is a man with a "strong heart", but still he finds it painful to face such heartbreaking situations.

"In my last rescue operation, a sheep was dumped upside down into a trash bin and got seriously injured. At the moment I rescued it, I saw tears coming out of its eyes. While I drove it back to the SPCA, I felt very sad and anxious. I wanted to take it to the vet as soon as possible."

The reason why Bevis became an animal inspector was straightforward: to help animals in danger using his abilities and skills. "Every time I complete a rescue mission, I feel very gratified. Recently, someone whose animal has been helped by me shared his experience on social media and praised me. I was very happy because people recognise my work and see the meaning of it."

As a newbie in animal rescue, Bevis said he is still "learning by doing" every day, and he has promised himself to keep his passion alive and stay committed to saving animals in need.

Inspector's Daily Routine

Founded in 1937, the SPCA Inspectorate is Asia's oldest Inspectorate, exclusively dedicated to the investigation of animal cruelty and the protection of animal welfare. Our inspectors strive to protect animals and prevent cruelty and unnecessary suffering by proactively initiating rescues, inspections, educational programmes, investigations and subsequent prosecutions.

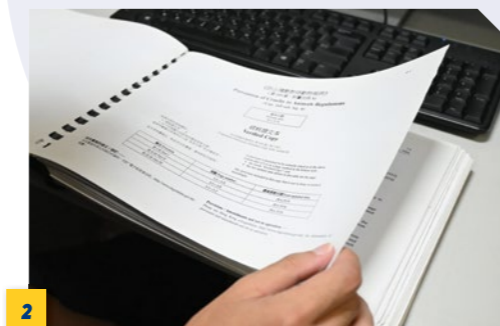
Let's follow Bevis for a day and learn about his work as a new inspector.

#Study and Learn



1

Study the characteristics of different types of animals to get a general idea of the safest ways to rescue animals.



2

Learn about animal laws in Hong Kong.



3

A Senior Inspector passes on his experience and knowledge to Bevis.

#Daily Preparations



1

The SPCA rescue vehicle is said to be an inspector's best partner. Inspectors check the vehicle every week to ensure that it functions properly.



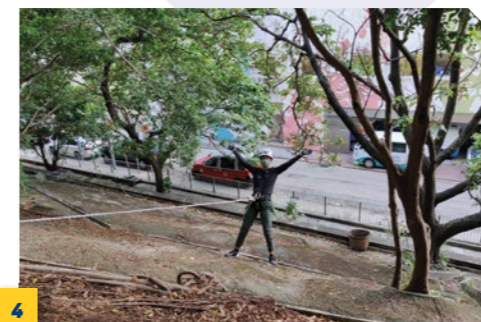
2

Organise the supplies and tools on the van to ensure the team has what it needs to rescue an animal.



3

The animal cage must be cleaned after every rescue operation.



4

New inspectors need to receive different types of rescue training. Regular roping and abseiling practices equip them with the skills to carry out rescue work at high altitude.

Bevis saved a dog that was trapped inside a manhole.



#Memorable Cases



The naughty dog jumped onto a roof and was fortunately rescued by Bevis, uninjured.









Bevis encounters different animals on a daily basis. His experience working as a veterinarian assistant nurse comes in handy.

In his very first windowsill cat rescue mission, a patient and calm Bevis saved a cat sitting precariously on a windowsill outside an apartment. He couldn't breathe a sigh of relief until he put the cat in a cage safely.



OUR WELFARE WORK IN NUMBERS FEB 2022 - MAY 2022

 HOMING FIGURES DOGS 88 CATS 177 OTHERS 116 TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS 381	 SENT TO FOSTER CARE DOGS 43 CATS 186 OTHERS 45 TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS 274
 DESEXING FIGURES TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS 2,514	 INSPECTORATE ANIMALS HANDLED 1,264 HOTLINE CALLS 7,306 RESCUES 364 COMPLAINTS OF CRUELTY INVESTIGATED 362 ANIMAL TRADING INSPECTIONS 237 ADVICE GIVEN 63 WARNINGS GIVEN 11 PROSECUTIONS INSTIGATED 8
 CAT COLONY CARE PROGRAMME NUMBER OF CATS HANDLED 598	
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS RELEASED OR REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES NUMBER OF EXOTIC SPECIES 23 NUMBER OF NATIVE SPECIES 326	

Pawprint is Going Digital! Update Your Personal Details And Stay Tuned!

We are happy to announce that Pawprint is now going digital. We believe that maintaining a healthy living green environment plays a vital role in animal welfare. Going environmental-friendly has always been an important part of the mission and responsibility of the SPCA.

If you wish to continue receiving our latest news via e-Pawprint, please scan the QR code or fill in the following form to update your personal details. Future editions of e-Pawprint in full content will be sent to you electronically.

Scan QR code to update personal details



Information Update

Personal Data

*Name : Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms _____ *Member / Donor No. : _____

Contact Information

*Contact Number : _____ *Email : _____

Mailing Address : _____

Remarks : *Required fields

Please complete and return this form to our Membership Department :

By mail : SPCA (HK), 5 Wan Shing Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong By fax : 2511 5590 By email : membership@spca.org.hk

For enquiries, please call 2232 5548

Changes have been made to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance which relates to the use of our existing members' personal data for direct marketing. This includes our quarterly "Pawprint" news magazine as well as receiving information regarding gifting, charity mail order, events, and other marketing activities. SPCA hopes that you would continue to support our work and that we may continue to use your personal data provided for these direct marketing purposes. If you agree that your contact details may continue to be used as before, there is no need for you to take any further action. However, if you no longer wish for us to use your personal data to receive the SPCA's news magazine and other information, please indicate your wish by email to donor@spca.org.hk or by fax 3019 7445.



New Ultrasound Equipment Soon to Be Put into Service

The SPCA Centennial Centre is expected to open next year in Tsing Yi and will benefit pets and homeless animals in the vicinity. The completion of the new centre will provide more spaces for animals under our care, and we will be able to rehome at least 1,200 more animals each year.

We are very grateful to YTT Charity Fund Limited for donating two ultrasonic machines to the Centennial Centre. The new equipment will improve our diagnostic ability and assist in determining different treatment options for owned pets and homeless animals.

The generous donation of YTT Charity Fund Limited is of great significance and brings hope to animals in need of medical treatment in the future.

Loyal Supporter for Homeless Animals - Hong Kong Jockey Club

Over the years, the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) has worked closely with the SPCA to bring hopes to our homeless animals. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two years, the HKJC has continued to fully support our homeless animals through online and offline public activities, volunteer schemes and by sponsoring equipment of different kinds.

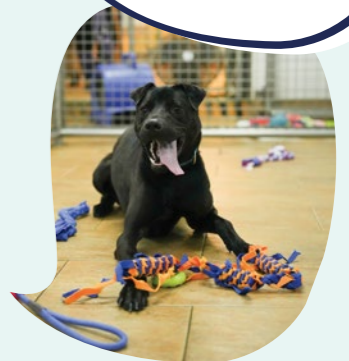
We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the HKJC.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club has donated a lot of canned and dry cat food and sponsored vaccines for stray cats.



During the pandemic, volunteers from the HKJC participated in the "Knitted Cat Beds DIY" online toy-making workshop and made comfortable cat beds for our cats waiting to be adopted.

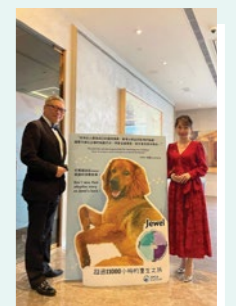
The HKJC has sponsored toys, snacks and equipment for our animal behaviour training programme designed to help our homing animals adapt to their new lives in their forever homes.



Madison Holding's Group Fully Supports Abused Animals

In the past 10 years, the SPCA has provided help to more than 2,000 abused animals on their recovery and home searching journey. As required by the law, a dog or cat rescued from abuse cannot be adopted until the trial of its case ends. The lengthy process involves an enormous amount of financial and medical resources needed by these abused animal survivors waiting to begin their new chapters of lives.

In May, Madison Auctions donated all proceeds from their wine auction to the SPCA. We were honoured to be the recipient of their generous support. The auction was enthusiastically supported by many kind-hearted donors who shared their love for our homing animals. A total of \$204,000 was raised for our abused, abandoned and injured animals, paving the way for their recovery and a new life in a forever home.





Animal-Welfare Policy Video Competition Provides an Alternative Way for Learning

Last October, the Education Department of the SPCA launched the Animal-Welfare Policy Video Competition with the aim of raising secondary and tertiary students' awareness of animal welfare in Hong Kong.

The nine-month long competition provided an alternative learning opportunity to the student participants to better understand animal welfare issues as well as the laws and policies related to pets and wild animals in Hong Kong.

School closure and the early summer holiday amid the fifth wave of Covid-19 caused disruptions to the participants' production schedules. However, they kept their chins up and took the challenge in their stride.

To help the students brainstorm ideas for their videos, we held five online workshops that offered information on animal welfare in Hong Kong, including the difficulties in rescuing wild animals, the principle of animal law, the implementation of public policies as well as filming and video editing techniques.



A total of 28 teams entered the competition with their masterpieces. Some of which suggested practical ways to prevent wildlife accidents such as animals being trapped in water catchments. All the videos demonstrated the participants' creativity and their strong will to overcome the difficulties brought by the pandemic.

An award presentation and closing ceremony was held on 25 June to mark the students' remarkable success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Education Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, our supporting organisations, and Royal Canin, the Diamond sponsor of the event.

Other sponsors included MCL Cinemas, Hyatt Centric Victoria Harbour Hong Kong and Art & Culture Outreach. With their support, 50 teams of secondary and tertiary students participated in the competition.

Moving forward, we hope these young people will continue to stay motivated and speak up for animal welfare in their communities.



Fun Fact

Loving Gaze

Researchers have found that when a dog and its owner gaze into one another's eyes admirably for 30 minutes, the levels of oxytocin increase in both the human and the dog.

Oxytocin, also known as the "happiness hormone" or "hugging hormone", acts as a chemical messenger in a dog's brain and encourages bonding between the dog and its owner. The longer the two look at each other, the higher their oxytocin levels and the stronger the human-canine bond.

However, staring is a different thing, which is often perceived as a threat by dogs. Be careful not to stare at a dog that you are not familiar with, as it will either run away in fear or react aggressively towards you.

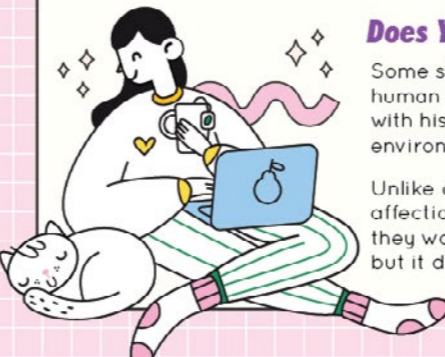
Interestingly, oxytocin levels in dogs are approximately five times higher than those in cats. This might explain why cats are sometimes not as affectionate as dogs towards their owners.



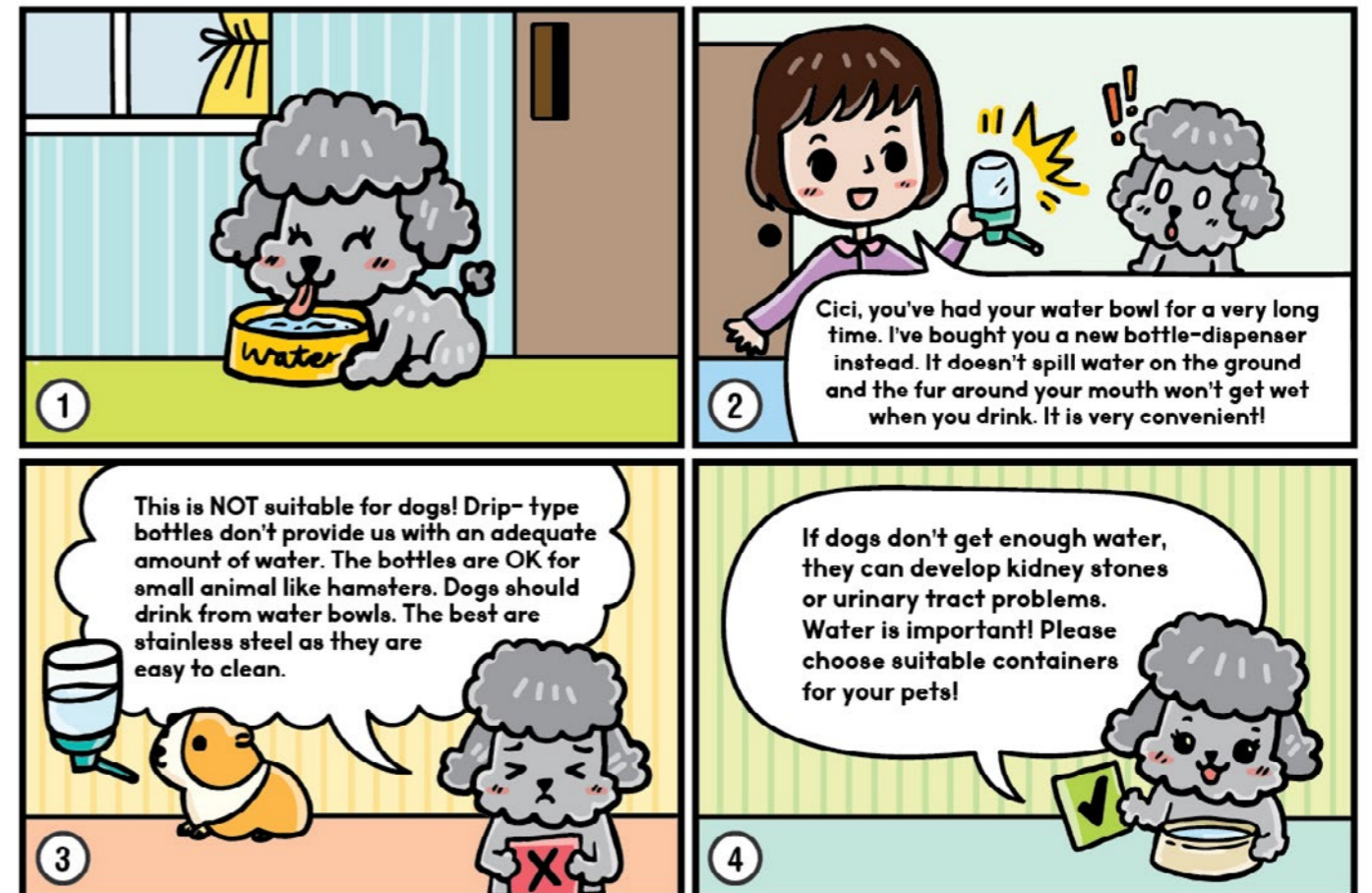
Does Your Cat Actually Dislike You?

Some studies have shown that cats form attachment to their owners somewhat like human babies to their parents. When a cat owner manages to create a trusting bond with his/her cat, the cat will feel relaxed and at ease in what it sees as a comfortable environment, and it may even feel so secure that it ignores its owner!

Unlike dogs, cats do not wag their tails or cling to their owners as much to express affection. Yet observe them carefully and you will find that there are moments when they want to stay close to their owners. Cats are less expressive compared with dogs but it doesn't mean they love humans less.



Make careful choices for your pets



1

2 Cici, you've had your water bowl for a very long time. I've bought you a new bottle-dispenser instead. It doesn't spill water on the ground and the fur around your mouth won't get wet when you drink. It is very convenient!

3 This is NOT suitable for dogs! Drip-type bottles don't provide us with an adequate amount of water. The bottles are OK for small animal like hamsters. Dogs should drink from water bowls. The best are stainless steel as they are easy to clean.

4 If dogs don't get enough water, they can develop kidney stones or urinary tract problems. Water is important! Please choose suitable containers for your pets!

DIY Pet Bed

to Relieve Your Pet's Separation Anxiety

When home alone, some dogs can become disruptive or even destructive. Whereas leaving home for work or grocery shopping is a daily routine for us, for dogs, being separated from their owners is enough for them to become restless. They may bark persistently or even destroy some objects at home to relieve their accumulating anxiety.

If your pets display these behaviours only when you are not at home, they might have separation anxiety. To calm your agitated pets, try make a pet bed out of your used clothes! They bear your body odour which can comfort your pets and relieve their anxiety. Take out your scissors and DIY with us!

Ray
M / PN530722



*Please consult your vet or an animal behavioural trainer should the anxiety of your pets worsens.

Materials:

Owner's long-sleeved T-shirt

Cotton
(the quantity needed depends on the size of the T-shirt)

Needle and thread

Scissors

Important:

Since the making of the pet bed involves the use of needles and scissors, adult guidance is recommended.

Steps:

1 Lay your old T-shirt on the table. Sew along the dotted line as shown in the picture.



2 Fill the bottom of the T-shirt with cotton. Make the cotton soft and fluffy.



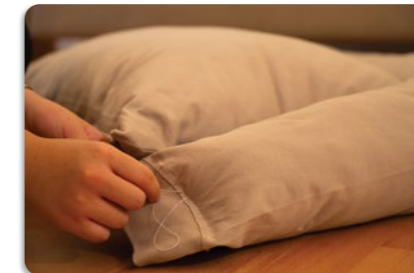
3 Sew up the bottom part of the T-shirt.



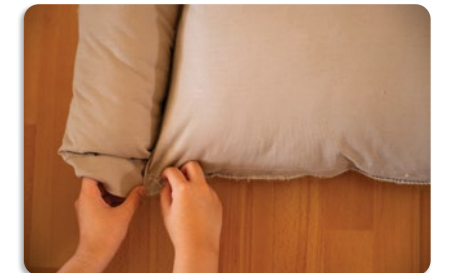
4 Fill the collar and sleeves with cotton.



5 Sew up the collar of the T-shirt.



6 Sew up the bottom part of the sleeves on both sides.



7 Sew the bottom of the sleeve to the bottom part of the T-shirt. Repeat the step for the other side.



8 All done!

You could place your pet's favourite toys on the bed to make it more fun and comfortable.





RAY

Breed: Mongrel
Gender: Male
Age: 6 months
Location: SPCA (HK) Wanchai Headquarters
Adoption No.: 530722
Microchip No.: 605 039 831

Ray's droopy left eye is the result of a surgery that corrected his entropion. But despite his uneven-looking eyes, his vision is normal. An affectionate puppy whose signature fluffy coat makes him look somewhat like an adorable teddy bear, Ray is not shy of giving hugs to welcome people. What's more, he may offer you a toy as a way to invite you to play with him! When he feels ignored, he will lick your hand until he gets your attention. Ray gets along super well with other dogs and often shares his favourite toys with them to show his love. If you want to become a first-time pawrent, Ray is your best choice. Come and visit him at the centre today!



COLA

Breed: Mongrel
Gender: Male
Age: 1 year old
Location: SPCA (HK) Wanchai Headquarters
Adoption No.: 504855
Microchip No.: 605 010 024

Having spent his entire childhood at the centre, Cola has little experience in the outside world. He is fearful of strangers, meaning visitors may need to spend more time building a relationship with him. But once he gets to know you better, Cola will show his true self — playful and energetic! Sometimes, he may even hold onto your leg and refuse to let you go! Apart from playing tug-of-war with people, he also enjoys playing with other dogs. However, Cola still gets slightly nervous going outdoors. Frequent training will therefore be required to improve his quality of life. We recommend a family without children to adopt him. Will you be the one to make Cola's wish come true?



SOLDIER

Breed: Mongrel
Gender: Male
Age: 10 months
Location: SPCA (HK) Wanchai Headquarters
Adoption No.: 523697
Microchip No.: 603 849 273

Soldier is a slim handsome boy. Despite looking all smiley in his room, he is actually a very timid furkid. If he steps out of his comfort zone (his room) or encounters strangers, he will get scared and begin whining until he can go back to his turf. For a big foodie like him, you may try offering him some food as a way to leave a good impression on him. Once he realises that you mean no harm, he will slowly make friends with you. By the way, Soldier is afraid of cars. Therefore, extra care is needed when one takes him out for a walk. This shy boy is currently learning to socialise with other dogs. If you are interested in Soldier, you are welcome to visit him at the centre.



RON

Breed: Mongrel
Gender: Male
Age: 10 months
Location: SPCA (HK) Kowloon Centre
Adoption No.: 523781
Microchip No.: 603 843 339

Ron is a very timid puppy that tends to be afraid of strangers and may bark at them. But there's a trick to get close to him: Just bribe him with food! A puppy that loves eating, Ron will find it hard to resist the temptation. It's worth mentioning that the company of other dogs helps to reduce his anxiety. Therefore, families with dogs but no children are likely to find him perfect for adoption. If you are interested in Ron, you are welcome to visit him at the centre.

To know more about our homing animals, please scan the QR Code:

ATL exemption number : ORG-00002



Exclusive Privileges for All SPCA Members

The SPCA membership grants you the access to our veterinary services, boarding, grooming and other pet-related services at our centres. On top of that, you are also eligible for exclusive discounts on selected merchants as below!



Scan this QR code or visit our website for more on the latest and other current offers.
<https://www.sPCA.org.hk/en/join-us/become-a-member/member-privileges>



Personal Care

When shopping at the John Masters Organics online store, simply enter the promo code "SPCA15" before you check out to enjoy **15% off** on all orders.

For a net spending of HK\$1,000 or above, enter the exclusive promo code "SPCA20" to get a **20% discount** on your order.



Online Shopping

On your first order from HOME+ online shopping platform, simply enter the exclusive promo code "SC50NC" to get **HK\$50 off** upon spending HK\$398.

Mini Storage Service



20% off on Apple Storage rental contracts



Get 3 months free for a 6-month rental plan with the exclusive promo code "OSG22065" at One Storage

Petrol Card Service

Apply "Shell Card" or "Esso Card" from Many Development Limited to get:



a **HK\$3.60 discount** per litre on both Shell FuelSave and V-Power Nitro



a **HK\$4.50 discount** per litre on both Esso Synergy Supreme+ premium petrol and Synergy Extra petrol

Food & Beverage



10% discount at Café Au Lait



10% discount on Flash Coffee

Let's Enjoy Some Outdoor Fun With Your Dogs!

Autumn is the most anticipated season for all dog owners. With the weather getting slightly cooler, it's the best time to take our beloved dogs out for a walk in the park or a jog on the beach! Don't forget to bring along your dog's favourite toys to go on a play date with their canine friends. In this issue of Pawprint, we recommend some must-have items for your next outings!



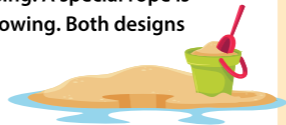
Fetch The Fun

Major Dog's Ring Ruki and Kong's AirDog® Squeaker Donut dog toys come in the shape of a ring, making them easy for dogs to grasp and they are well-suited for tug of war and motivational exercises.



Toys for the Beach

Major Dog's Boomer and Dummy Boje retrieval toys are designed to offer great performance both in and out of water. They are sturdy and robust and not easily broken in your dog's mouth. The toy comes in two shapes for your choosing. A special rope is attached to Dummy Boje for the ease of throwing. Both designs are high floating and unsinkable.



Portable Water Bowl

A must-have item for all outings - a collapsible water bowl that is easy to carry and can serve clean water to your dog anytime, anywhere.



Dog's Favourite Chew Balls

The Rogz grinz fetch ball comes in five eye-catching colours and gives your dogs a funny grin when it holds it in its mouth!

Kong's Airdog® Squeaker Football bounces in all directions, making it extra fun and challenging for your canine buddy!



Bathing your muddy dog after a long day at the beach is definitely tiring, we hear you! How about getting some help from Hair Force One or Hair Force Two at the SPCA and let our grooming professionals shower your dog with love?

What's more? With a single spending of \$1,500 or up at the SPCA retail store, you will get a 30% discount on the pet grooming services at the SPCA!



Valid until 31 October 2022.



ATL exemption number ORG - 00002

General Enquiries 2802 0501
24-hour Animal Rescue Hotline 2711 1000

www.sPCA.org.hk spcahkeng spcahk

Our Centres

Wanchai Headquarters
5 Wan Shing Street, Wan Chai
2802 0501

Kowloon Centre
105 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin
2713 9104

Sai Kung Centre
7 Sha Tsui Path, Sai Kung
2792 1535

Sai Kung Adopt-a-Pet Centre
65 Man Nin Street, Sai Kung
2232 5599

Hang Hau Centre
Flat B, 2/F, Block 5, Hang Hau Village,
Tseung Kwan O
2243 0080

Mui Wo Centre
Shop 14, Mui Wo Centre, Lantau Island
2984 0060

Cheung Chau Centre
CX277 Tung Wan, Cheung Chau
2981 4176

Fairview Park Centre
Junction of Fairview Park Boulevard
and Kam Pok Road, Yuen Long
2482 2770

SPCA Welfare Desexing Centre
Junction of Fairview Park Boulevard
and Kam Pok Road, Yuen Long
2593 5438

Veterinary Services

Hong Kong Centre (Headquarters)
(24 hour animal hospital)

Kowloon Centre
Sai Kung Clinic
Hang Hau Clinic
Mui Wo Clinic
Cheung Chau Clinic
Yuen Long Fairview Park Centre
2802 0501

Adoption Services

Hong Kong Centre (Headquarters)
Kowloon Centre
Sai Kung Adopt-a-Pet Centre
2232 5529

Spaying and Neutering

Animal Welfare Vehicle
Mobile vehicle providing low-cost
desexing to target areas and clients
2232 5513

Spay/Neuter Assistance Programme
2232 5549

Cat Colony Care Programme (CCCP)
2232 5589

Mongrel Desexing Programme (MDP)
2593 5438

Community Dog Programme (CDP)
2232 5511

China Outreach Programme

Providing assistance to animal welfare agencies and veterinary surgeons in China through education and advice china@spca.org.hk

Education

Education talk enquiries and arrangement
2232 5541 / 2232 5526

Animal Rescue and Report of Cruelty

2711 1000

Membership Services

Enquiries on membership status,
benefits and activities
2232 5548

Donations

2232 5536
or scan this QR code

Animal Sponsorship Programme
A monthly donation programme that
supports our adoption animals
2232 5510

Other Services

Lost and Found Animals 2232 5553

Behaviour and Training Courses for Dogs
2232 5567

Pet Boarding 2232 5501

Pet Grooming 2232 5532

Pet Wellness 2802 0501

Volunteering

Volunteer Coordination 2232 5508

Foster Parent Programme 2232 5524

Pawprint is available in English and Chinese. Members wishing to change their language preference for Pawprint should contact the Membership Department at 2232 5548 or membership@spca.org.hk.

Pawprint is published by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) in February, May and August.

SUBSCRIPTION
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Website: www.sPCA.org.hk



SPCA(HK) would like to express our sincere gratitude to MaxiPro (Asia) & Kakato® Premium Pet Food for their generous monthly donation of Kakato® mousse series tinned food in support to the Foster Parent Programme.

The 8th 第八屆愛飾動物日 4.10.2022
ANIFORM DAY 2022



捐致可獲贈限量「Aniform Sports Day」系列潮流聖品
Donate and receive our limited edition 'Aniform Sports Day' trendy items



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