

The Mews

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Saving Lives Through Sterilisation

The Human Element

by Jacquelyn S

The Respectful Feeder

Madam Nancy Tan, 56yrs old, Ang Mo Kio

For the past decade, come rain or shine, Nancy feeds the community cats in her estate in the evenings. A volunteer feeder, she has come to know each one intimately. She knows their personality and quirks. She has had her fair share of heartaches when any of her charges go missing or die.

Nancy's husband and son fully support what she does. A love for cats has turned into lifelong dedication and commitment. However, Nancy does not think it is hard work. She says, "This is therapy for me!" She also owns a silky terrier that has the mildest temperament and will play with the community cats.

She is fastidious about the grooming and health of her cats. She mixes wet and dry food for her charges to ensure a healthy diet..

Nancy reiterated the importance of being a disciplined feeder who does not litter and tidy up the feeding area. "After feeding, I will clean the area, then play with them."



Nancy has made much headway in persuading her Residents' Committee (RC) and neighbors to work with her in managing the cat population in her estate. She said that the RC and neighbors are understanding and supportive of her efforts.

She understands the importance of sterilization as an effective, humane method not only to control the burgeoning community cat population, but also to gain the understanding and acceptance from all parties to have these community cats in their midst.

Nancy's words of wisdom for managing difficult people- "Treat people with respect.



The Zesty Feeder

**Madam Mei Leng, 71yr old,
Singapore Botanic Gardens**

Mei Leng and her husband have been feeding strays mostly in the Singapore Botanic Gardens for 4yrs. They managed to sterilise 20 cats in the Gardens at their own expense. They were heartened by a National Parks' (NParks) Director's offer to defray sterilization costs. However, they were happy doing it on their own resources.

The modest lady said, ***"I am very, very happy to do what little we can to make life easier for the strays and have very good support from my husband. Through the Cat Welfare Society, Mt. Pleasant- the vet that we go to give us a discount for sterilisations."***

Does feeding at a non-residential public area come with difficulties? Mei Leng didn't think it was too bad. The couple feed the strays by the side of one of NParks's buildings which houses one of its directors and the staff.

At first there were plenty of objections. It took Mei Leng and her husband some time and lots of explanation to persuade the management that there would not be any mess left behind after feeding the cats. Their patience paid off when the director agreed to their presence and responsible feeding activities.

Mei Leng added, ***"We look forward to feeding strays each day, to have them come running up to us with happy expectant faces and after finishing their dinners come purring round us to say thank you and also for a little love and petting before leaving them."***



The Sisters With A Passion

Jennifer, 28yrs old & Kai Ling, 22yrs old, sisters, TNRM Programme at East Coast Park

In place since CWS's Spay Day (6 October 2006). Jennifer and Kai Ling put their hearts and effort to start and organize the **TNRM (Trap-Sterilise-Return-Manage)** programme at East Coast Park. With little funding, the sisters thought it would be good to start on Spay Day since sterilization is done free for community cats for the day.

Caregivers and volunteers in this East Coast Park **TNRM Programme** received much appreciated help from vets, well-wishers, other caregivers and through their own fund-raising efforts, SPCA, CWS.

How did the sisters find the motivation and energy to start off this programme?

During a class outing, Kai Ling was shocked to see the sheer numbers of cats at East Coast Park. It seemed to her that no one was sterilizing the cats at all.

Worried, she discussed with a few caregivers and they decided to try sterilization to better manage the cat population at East Coast Park and hopefully prevent the cats from getting rounded up by pest control and hopefully the cats will have a better quality of life in the long term.

The caregivers at East Coast, together with Vincent whom they pay to trap the cats, have trapped and sterilized 43 cats since. They see an average of 4 to 5 cats each week.



In Kai Ling words,

It is easy to walk away and just say, "Someone should just sterilize the cats" and we do nothing. We don't live near East Coast Park. Frankly, we have very limited funds and resources to sterilize the cats. So we are taking it one step at a time.

At the end of the day, all of us are looking out for the welfare of the cats and try to save them from being rounded up by pest control and see endless rounds of unwanted litters being born.

I'm also very encouraged when we meet like-minded people who care for the cats and believe in what we do, and when we see more and more tipped-ear cats in the park!

*'Joining' this programme involves 3 aspects: **Raising funds, trapping cats and caring for them during the sterilization period.***

We detail our activities and experiences on <http://kucingcoast.blogspot.com>

CWS Booth at Cat Show @ Malay Village

by Jacin Chan, Head of Events and Volunteers



Cat Welfare Society was invited by Singapore Cat Club to set up booth at Eagle Pack Championship Cat Show at Malay Village on Sunday 7 January 2007.

Fund-raising is always integral to our activities. We raised some S\$300 with the support of the visitors who bought CWS merchandise or through donations.

The Cat Show was located at the lovely hall in the Malay Village made the Cat Show. It was cosy and vibrant. Even though the space is about a quarter of the size of the cat show at Singapore Expo, the cat owners, visitors, judges and organisers could all easily stroll around and interact with one another. We were thrilled to see that some of the cats entered under the household cat category, were formerly community cats adopted through CWS. We are glad that these community cats have found good homes with their current owners.

A big thank you to our supporters as well as the group of volunteers on duty:- **Wong Kuan Yee, Windy Yar, Seow Wei Yan, Colin Hu.** Tirelessly, the volunteers helped to man the booth and reached to the public on the role of CWS in the community. Without you, our events would not have been as exciting or fulfilling!

We are also grateful to Singapore Cat Club for giving us the opportunity to reach out to the public and increase their awareness regarding the welfare of community cats.



A big THANK YOU to Wiz Werx Pte Ltd

(Creative agency dealing in Interactive, Technology and Print.) for doing the layout for The Mews 2006!

Here's a quick peek into their Managing Director, Mr Muhammad Alkhatib, 31yrs old.

1) It is sweet to see a man who loves his cats so much. How did you come about liking cats and then taking the step to have them as pets?

I've always loved animals and cats, particularly. When I was around 12, I converted my parent's house into a mini zoo, much to their dismay. At the height of the zoo, I had 2 cats, 12 hamsters, 2 parakeets, 2 rabbits, 147 white mice, 2 terrapins and a tank of fish.

I started with one lovely Calico female, Gemima. Then I got another female Calico, named her Mimi Sophia, to keep Gem company.

2) As a member of the public, what are your thoughts on people who feed stray cats in the community?

I'm quite indifferent really. I think it's sweet, in the short term.

But if you really love cats and the cat species in general there's got to be some longevity in your Samaritan deeds. Feeding cats is fine and proper, but I can see how that seemingly small and kind act, can lead to breeding grounds for strays and abandoned cats, which in turn leads to them being a nuisance in the neighbourhood; which then leads to people complaining and along comes AVA, together with suggestions of culling.

3) Are your cats sterilized? If yes, what are your thoughts on sterilization? If no, what are your thoughts on not sterilizing?

Gem is. Mimi isn't sterilized, well not yet anyway, because I just got her for a couple of weeks.

I think sterilization is just the responsible thing to do, even though my cats don't leave my house at all and there is no chance for them to mate with the male cats in my neighborhood.

Importantly, sterilization reduces the cats' feral instincts and reduces the risk of ovarian cancer. The cost for sterilization is negligible and I think it should be a non-issue; every cat owner should do it.

4) Could you share with us your secrets to having such healthy cats?

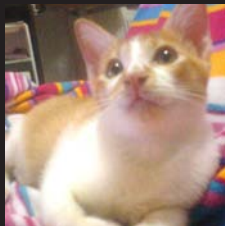
Good food, good exercise, lots of love, television and a healthy bout of conversation.



All fosters have been contacted and cats are available as of today!!! All descriptions have been updated. Please direct all enquiries on these lovelies to adoptions@catwelfare.org



TERRY. Do you wish to share your life with a feline Terry Fox? Affectionate Terry has fully recovered from an amputation and is ready to go to a good loving home, would you be the kind soul to accept Terry as well as his handicap? He is about 8-months old, vaccinated, de-wormed and is sterilised.



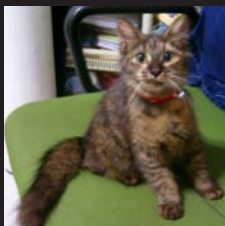
KIRO. About 4-5 mths old, Kiro is very intelligent, sociable and affectionate. He gets along with all other cats and dogs. He brings lots of joy to the family with his mischievous ways. He uses the litter box and will be vaccinated soon.



CASSIE. Cassie is calm and soft-spoken. She's got a classic black and white coat and a kink-free tail. She loves lap-sitting and wags my tail when she's happy. Looking a little forlorn here because she was previously abandoned, the one-year old would love to have a family who will keep her safe.



COLA (left) and JD (right). Cola (black) and JD (ginger) are brothers at around 15 weeks of age. They are playful and very gentle, although a little shy with strangers at first. They would love a safe, quiet and loving home together.



ZENITH. Looking like a Persian-cross female kitten, Zenith is the weirdest and most loving. She simply adores human company! Her hind legs are weak but getting stronger everyday. She purrs ALOT when she's being cuddled, kissed and stroked. All in all, she's a blessing.

ABOUT US

Cat Welfare Society (CWS) is a charity whose mission is to save the lives of our street cats through sterilisation. Our main functions include:

- Sterilisation
Helping the hundreds of caregivers in Singapore who sterilise the cats they feed by giving them a voice, emotionally supporting them in order that they may continue with their work, helping them with the authorities (town councils, police etc) and providing them with highly-subsidised sterilisation slots at selected vet clinics.

- Education
Informing the public on how sterilisation can benefit their cat, themselves and the community.

- Adoption
Finding good homes for those cats and kittens that are unable to survive on their own in our urban environment.

- Mediation
Resolving complaints about cats. CWS will investigate all complaints as long as the complainant is willing to provide his contact details.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Cat Welfare Society spends mainly on the sterilisation of street cats, medical care for rescue cases and on expenses incurred in fostering cats (eg. vaccinations, medical care, sterilisation etc). Our main sources of income are from donations, membership subscriptions and merchandise sales. If you wish to make a donation or apply as a member, you can go to any of the AXS stations in Singapore and click on "Community". Or you can download a GIRO form or membership form from our website and mail it to us. To make an Internet Bank Transfer, please email us for details.

As CWS has only one employee, we are always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with us, please check out our website for the available volunteer activities or email us for the list.

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