

Project Collar Written Report

Group 7-21

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Cat 7:Service Learning

Section 1: Overview

1. Area of Concern

Based on the SPCA website, there were almost 4000 abandoned or unwanted pets taken in by the SPCA in 2011. Between January and October of 2016, the AVA (Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore) received 260 reports of alleged cases of animal cruelty. The SPCA sees an average of 200 animals being brought in every month. Many owners find it very troublesome to take care of pets and decide to abandon them as part of the Spring Cleaning during the new year. This includes stray animals but mostly consists of surrendered/abandoned pets. However, with this huge influx of animals, euthanasia is a common practice to ensure sufficient space to provide for the animals.

2. Challenges Identified

Our group felt that SPCA was not getting enough attention for people to know the current situation of animal abuse as SPCA had to euthanize many animals to ensure that they would be able to provide enough space for the rest of the animals. From our survey conducted, most people did not know about the issues of animal abuse. We also realised the lack of opportunity for other schools and projects to be able to engage on such a project. We had a very big challenge in finding the time to be able to meet up and plan a fixed time on the outreach, thus making it hard for many talks to happen.

3. Underlying Problem

Given that the current situation regarding pets in Singapore shows that the issue of mistreating animals is still prevalent and that the public, especially small children who might want pets, might not be fully educated on it. How might we raise awareness on the issue starting from early April so that they will be well educated on the topic and thus reduce the number of animal abuse cases in Singapore.

4. Plan of action

Firstly, we created a survey for people to submit their responses on animal abuse and we managed to get 90 responses. The best outreach method that we agreed on was conducting talks in preschools as we felt that people should be educated from young the way they should be treating pets. We also decided that booths and posters would fit our purpose of promoting animal abuse.

- Our group went to Just KIDZ @ AMK to share with students on our project
- Setting up booths in school to raise awareness and hanging posters around the school

- Create social media accounts, one for instagram and one for twitter posting a fact on animal welfare every week
- Newspaper collection as SPCA requires newspaper to lay on the ground.
- A video about animal abuse (That is compulsory)
- Fundraising by selling SPCA merchandise and other things in school

Section 2: Implementation of the Plan

Actions and outcomes to date

- We managed to be able to arrange a time to go to Just KIDZ@ AMK to have a preschool talk on the 28th of June. Students were engaged in activities like colouring and etc.
- Posted Instagram post on facts of animal cruelty to raise awareness on the problem of disowning or mistreating of pets
- Pasted posters in school raising awareness on animal abuse
- Set up a talk at Eton House preschool in HCIIS and made sure they were able to understand the talk by questioning them afterwards. Everyone was able to answer our questions easily which showed that they could understand our talk. We also brought a stuffed animal and demonstrated how to be responsible pet owners.
- Interviewed people on their knowledge of animal abuse (would be shown in the video)

Section 3: Project Outcomes

1. Accomplishments

- We managed to gather 30kg of newspapers to give SPCA for them to lay on the ground.
- Managed to be able to put 20 posters on our instagram account
- Made a video on animal abuse

Reflection of the outcomes

As a group, we have learnt more about the topic animal cruelty and why animals get easily abused by human beings. We were also very heartened to know that our project

has met the requirements of SPCA in being able to promote to the public that from young, students should be educated on animal abuse on how to personally be able to handle a pet if they grow older. This project has challenged our group physically and mentally as we had to put in time and effort in the project. The overall success of our project has proven that our community had benefited from our awareness talks. In hindsight , we felt that more work could be done if we had spend our time more wisely in planning the schools that we could arrange our talks for.

3.Scope of the Project

Community Impact : Members of the Public will know about the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) as well as learning how to be a responsible pet owner. We hope that the public will understand more on animal abuse and be able to curb animal abuse slowly through the little things they do in their daily lives. Our group hopes that other groups will also embark like a project like ours to broaden the animal abuse awareness even further.

School Involvement : Our group went to both Eton house and Just Kidz @AMK to help advertise and make people aware of the situation of animal abuse. Students commented that they had learnt how to take care of animals and how to become a responsible pet owner after growing older. Teachers also commented that the talk was beneficial for the students in their growth and the way they should take care of pets.