



## Two men sentenced for animal cruelty

8 February 2018: In two separate cases in court today, two men were sentenced and issued a 12-month disqualification order (DO) each for animal cruelty. The DOs disqualify them from owning any animals upon release. In addition to the DOs, 40-year-old Chong Choom Kiat was sentenced to 12 months' mandatory treatment order for one count of animal cruelty, and 23-year-old Kok Zhin Oi Gerald was sentenced to 12 weeks imprisonment for seven counts of animal cruelty.

2 AVA investigates all feedback on alleged cruelty. We will take enforcement action against anyone who has committed an act of animal cruelty and will press for deterrent sentences, if warranted. Individuals who commit animal cruelty are liable to a maximum fine of \$15,000 and/or 18 months jail term for first convictions.

3 Safeguarding animal welfare is a shared responsibility that requires the cooperation of all stakeholders, including the public. While AVA continues to ensure that the necessary enforcement action is taken and to raise awareness on animal welfare, members of the public can play their part by being vigilant. The public should promptly report cases of animal welfare issues to AVA via our 24-hour hotline, 1800-476-1600, or via our website. Providing photographic and/or video-graphic evidence will help us in our investigations. All information shared with AVA will be held in the strictest confidence.

### **Case 1 : Chong Choom Kiat**

In October 2016, AVA was alerted to a case of a pet dog allegedly killed by its owner, Chong Choom Kiat, in Hougang. AVA officers commenced investigation and

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retrieved the dog's carcass from the rubbish chute for post-mortem examination. Our post mortem findings showed that the dog suffered multiple sharp penetrating injuries as well as blunt force-type injuries, which supported AVA's investigation findings. Our investigation also revealed that Chong had thrown the dog down the rubbish chute. In addition, Chong did not licence his pet dog, which is mandatory.

**Case 2 : Kok Zhin Oi Gerald**

In December 2016, AVA was alerted to a case in which a man had allegedly slammed a pet dog against a wall, resulting in its death. Investigation revealed that Kok Zhin Oi Gerald had abused the dog on seven different occasions between July 2016 and December 2016. The last abuse in December 2016 resulted in the dog's death.



Caption: The pet toy poodle in case 2 (AVA photo)

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