



## **Woman sentenced to 10-day jail term for animal cruelty**

Issued on 23 February 2016

A Singaporean woman (Chng Leng Khim, 43 years of age) was sentenced today to 10 days' imprisonment for two counts of animal cruelty. She was also fined S\$1,500 for being uncooperative with the investigation, and fined S\$1,600 for two counts of failing to license her pet dogs.

2 On 12 June 2013, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) was informed by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Singapore of a black Poodle straying at Paya Lebar Crescent. Based on the Poodle's microchip, AVA established its owner to be Mdm Chng Leng Khim. When AVA alerted Mdm Chng about her Poodle, she requested for assistance to rehome the Poodle. As the Poodle was emaciated and infested with ticks, AVA investigated for animal cruelty.

3 During our investigations, AVA found that Mdm Chng had two other pet dogs (a Chow Chow and a Bullmastiff), which were neglected, thin, and tick-infested. Our investigations also showed that all three dogs were unlicensed as well. Mdm Chng was uncooperative with our investigations.

4 While investigations were ongoing, the dogs were cared for by AVA. However, as the Bullmastiff developed severe health issues, it had to be humanely put down. AVA worked with the Voices For Animals, an animal welfare group, to

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rehome the Poodle and Chow Chow in February 2014. Subsequently, Mdm Chng was arrested and charged in court.

5 AVA would like to remind the public that animal cruelty is an offence. A pet is a lifelong commitment and potential owners should seriously consider the many responsibilities involved before getting a pet. AVA condemns acts of animal cruelty, including neglect, and will investigate 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.

6 Anyone found guilty of animal cruelty can be fined up to \$15,000 and/or jailed up to 18 months, or both for the first offence. For second and subsequent offences, the maximum penalty is \$30,000 or a jail term of up to 3 years, or both.

7 Safeguarding animal welfare is a shared social responsibility which requires the cooperation of all stakeholders. Members of the public can play their part and contact AVA at 1800-476-1600 to report cases of animal cruelty. All information shared with AVA will be held in the strictest confidence.

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

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**ANNEX**

1		<p>Photo of Chow Chow taken during AVA's investigation</p>
2		<p>Photo of Chow Chow taken shortly before rehoming</p>

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3

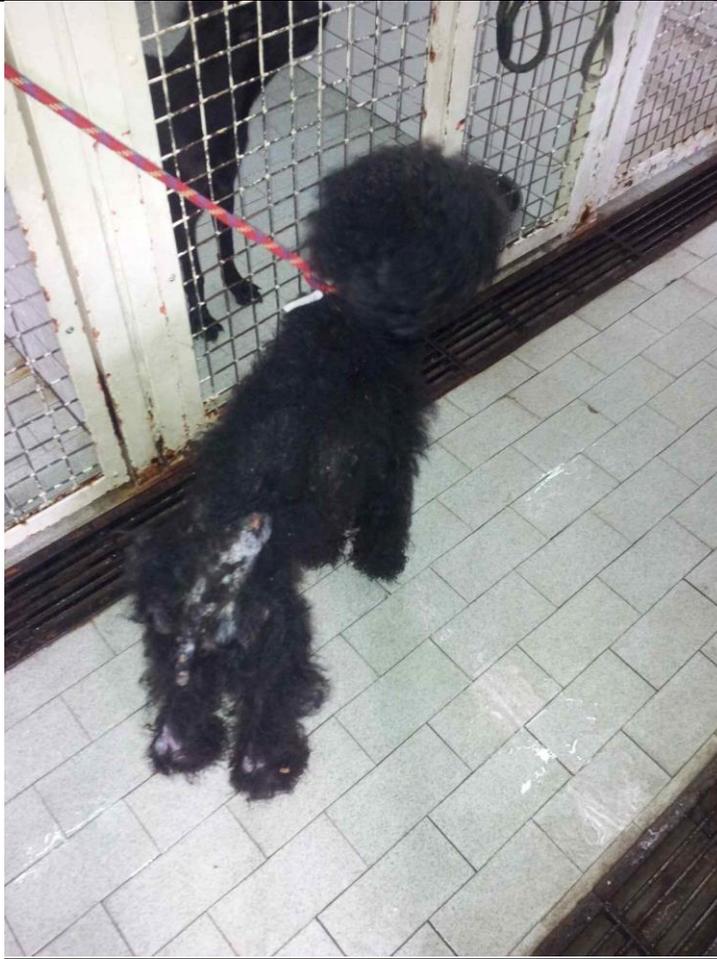


Photo of Poodle taken during AVA's investigation (in June 2013)

4



Photo of Poodle taken shortly before rehoming

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5



Photo of Bullmastiff taken during AVA's investigation

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Page 5 of 5