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SSPCA to host inaugural international symposium

KUCHING: 'Pets, Strays and the City' is the theme for the international symposium that the Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is holding here on Oct 1.

Held for the first time, this symposium is organised in conjunction with World Animal Day which is celebrated every Oct 4 and the World Animal Groove (WAG) Music Festival.

According to a press release, the one-day symposium which will be held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, will have two keynote addresses and four talk sessions and expected to attract some 200 delegates.

The keynote speakers are Sandy Macalister, the executive director of SPCA Hong Kong and Robert Teo, board member of Singapore National Parks Board.

Macalister will presenting a topic on 'The Experience of China and Hong Kong in Developing and Implementing Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) Programs in Cities' while Teo's topic is entitled 'The Singapore Hornbill Project'.

For the talk, two sessions will

be held simultaneously and delegates have to choose between "Pets, Strays and the City" and "Wildlife and the City" for the first session which will be held from 11am onwards.

The other two discussion sessions are on 'Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness' and 'From Policy and Planning to Policing and Prevention'. The second session starts from 3.30pm.

Among the speakers for the talk are World Society for the Protection of Animals, Thailand executive director Natasha Lee; SPCA Selangor chairman Christine Chin, Forest Research Institute Malaysia head of Zoology Mohd Shafiz Azman, and National Parks Board, Singapore representative Cheryl Chia.

Other events held during the WAG Music Festival include the 10-km Animazing Race, WAG Bazaar, Wiggle Waggle Walk, pet blessings and music concert.

All these events will be held on Oct 12 at BCKK.

Inquiries on the symposium can be forwarded to Brenda at brendapng@yahoo.com or call her at 019-8863118.