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## International symposium on 'Pets, Strays and the City' in October

**KUCHING:** "Pets, Strays and the City" is the theme of the Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' (SSPCA) international symposium here this October.

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

The one-day symposium which will be held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, will have two keynote addresses and four talk sessions and is 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 present 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 sessions, two 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 sessions are on "Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness" and "From Policy and Planning to Policing and Prevention."

The second session starts at 3.30pm.

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

Other events held during the WAG Music Festival include the 10km Animazing Race, WAG Bazaar, Wiggle Waggle Walk, pet blessings and music concert. All these events will be held on October 12 at BCKK.

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