



Singapore: Rabies Prevention & Surveillance

Dr Anhui Lin

Director/ Community Animal Management
Animal & Veterinary Service, National Parks Board

**ASEAN Rabies Consultation Meeting (Pattaya, 24-26 Feb 2025)
Development of ARES Implementation Plan**

Rabies situation (Year 2023-present)

- Singapore has been rabies free since 1953.
 - No cases of human and animal rabies.
- Rabies is legally notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Act (for human cases) and Animals and Birds Act (for animal cases).
- Remains at risk of disease incursion.



Key interventions and achievements (Year 2023-present)

- Animals
 - Notifiable disease
 - Biosurveillance (dogs, cats, wildlife)
 - Horizon scanning and alerts
 - Import and quarantine policy
 - Radio-frequency smart collars to monitor animals under home quarantine
 - Disease outbreak control and contingency
 - Licensing of pet dogs and cats
 - Over 91,000 pet dogs and 24,000 pet cats licensed

Over 30 cases of pet animal, wildlife smuggling detected in 2023



Fifteen puppies were found hidden in the u
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Key interventions and achievements (Year 2023-present)

• Animals

- Dog population management: Trap-Neuter-Rehome/Release-Manage (TNRM) programme
 - Over 4,300 dogs trapped with ~65% rehomed, sheltered or fostered
 - ~80% of the free-roaming dog population sterilized
 - More than 80% decrease in average volume of feedback on free-roaming dogs per month
 - About 2,500 dogs rehomed under Project ADORE
- Vaccination of high-risk dog population
 - Over 300 dogs vaccinated in coastal fish farms and offshore islands
 - Oral Rabies Vaccine bait acceptance study



Finalised Cat Management Framework

1 Pet cat licensing
and microchipping



2 TNRM programme
for community cats



3 Education and outreach on
responsible pet cat ownership
and community cat caregiving



More information is available at <https://go.gov.sg/cat-framework>



(1) Mandatory licensing and microchipping of pet cats

- Cat licence applicants will need to complete a one-time free online pet ownership course before applying for a pet cat licence from **1 Sep 2024**
- **Free licensing** during the transition period:
 - Sterilised cats: Free one-time licences (lifetime validity)



Cat Management Framework

- Improves traceability of pet cats
- Safeguards public health and animal welfare
- Promotes responsible ownership and caregiving

2-year transition period
1 Sep 2024 – 31 Aug 2026

Cat Ownership Limits

During Transition Period
License during this period to keep all existing pet cats*

After Transition Period

HDB Flats: Up to 2 cats (and 1 dog of an approved breed)	Private Premises: Up to 3 cats or dogs, or a combination of both
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Mandatory Licensing and Microchipping

- 🐾 Free licences with lifetime validity for sterilised cats during transition period
- 🐾 Free licences covering transition period for unsterilised cats**
- 🐾 Complete pet ownership course before licence application

* And ensure that the cats' health and welfare are taken care of
** Licensing fees apply after transition period

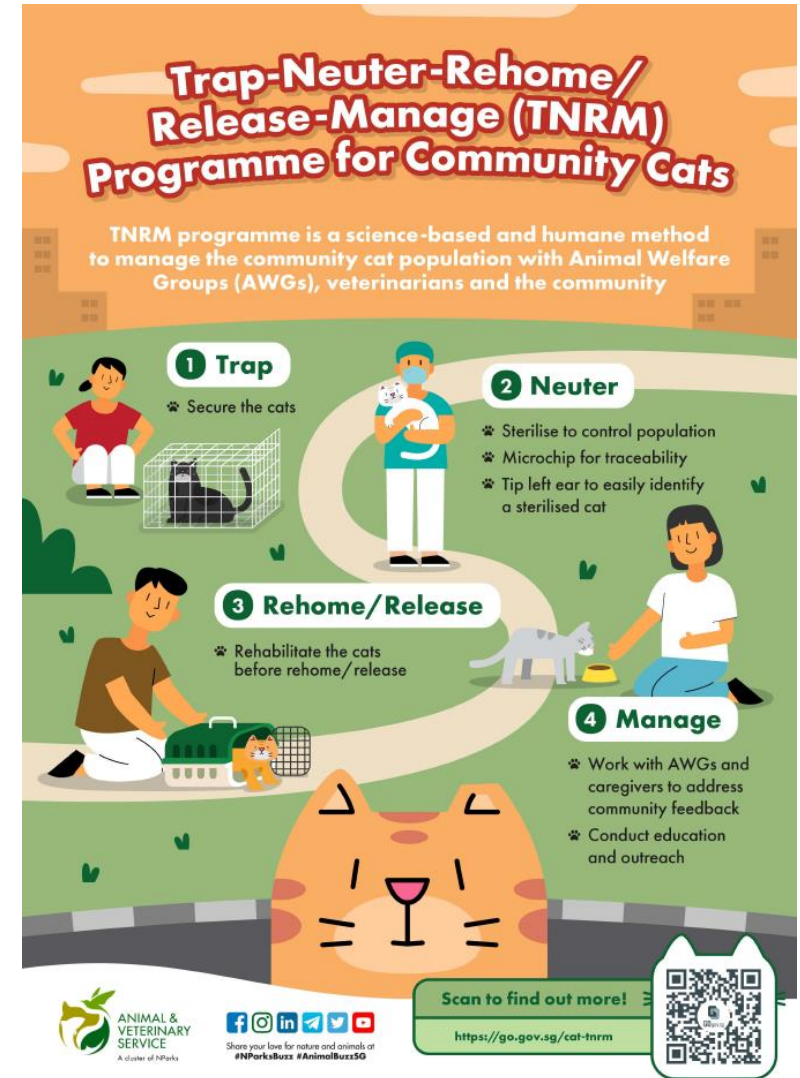
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Scan to find out more!
<https://go.gov.sg/cat-framework>

(2) Trap-Neuter-Rehome/ Release-Manage (TNRM) programme

- Starts 1 Sep 2024
 - Builds on the current Stray Cat Sterilisation Programme (SCSP) launched in 2011
- Enhanced funding for sterilisation and microchipping of community cats, and added support for trapping and pre/post-sterilisation boarding
- Sterilised cats will be rehomed where possible, and the remaining cats will be released back into the community



(3) Education and outreach

Caring for Your Com-mew-nity

Take care of your local community cats with these simple steps:



- Observe new community cats**
- Check if they're sterilised (left ear tip)**
- Food**
 - Provide only cat food
 - Place in container and clear within 2 hours
- Water**
 - Provide fresh water daily
 - Ensure container is clean
- Healthcare**
 - Bring to the vet if unwell or injured

Scan to find out more!
<https://go.gov.sg/cat-tnrm>

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COMMUNITY CAT CAREGIVING GUIDELINES

Community cats, which are free-roaming cats found within our neighbourhoods, are typically cared for by community cat caregivers. Responsible cat caregiving aims to achieve the following principles:

- Promote animal health and welfare, through the provision of food, water and medical attention**
- Management of the community cat population through sterilisation**
- Reduce disamenities to the public and promote co-existence with community cats**

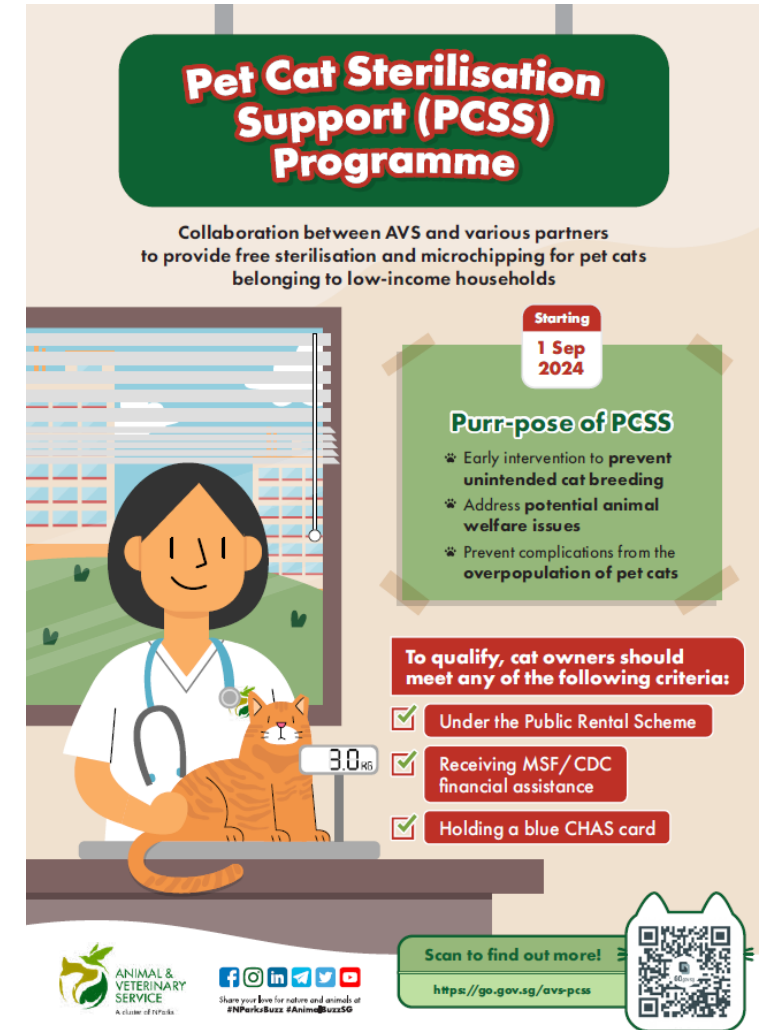
Here are the recommended practices for responsible cat caregiving:

- Provision of Food & Water**
 - Provide high-quality, animal-based food and fresh water
 - Coordinate a regular feeding schedule with other cat caregivers
- Sterilisation & Microchipping**
 - Sterilisation prevents uncontrolled breeding and reduces risk of diseases and undesirable behaviours
 - Partner with Animal Welfare Groups (AWGs) for the Trap-Neuter-Rehome/Release-Manage (TNRM) programme to sterilise and microchip community cats to manage community cat population

- Roadshows, community events, school education programmes
- **Community cat caregiving guidelines** drafted with AWGs, community cat caregivers, agencies, and Town Councils

Pet Cat Sterilisation Support (PCSS) programme

- Launched on 1 Sep 2024
- **Free sterilisation and microchipping for pet cats belonging to lower-income households**
 - Early intervention to stem the unintended breeding
 - Address downstream animal welfare issues and disamenities arising from the overpopulation of pet cats



Pet Cat Sterilisation Support (PCSS) Programme

Collaboration between AVS and various partners to provide free sterilisation and microchipping for pet cats belonging to low-income households

Starting 1 Sep 2024

Purr-pose of PCSS

- ✦ Early intervention to prevent unintended cat breeding
- ✦ Address potential animal welfare issues
- ✦ Prevent complications from the overpopulation of pet cats

To qualify, cat owners should meet any of the following criteria:

- ✓ Under the Public Rental Scheme
- ✓ Receiving MSF/CDC financial assistance
- ✓ Holding a blue CHAS card

Scan to find out more!
<https://go.gov.sg/avs-pcss>

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Main challenges and recommended solution

- Working towards common goals with animal welfare groups and community caregivers
 - Education, raising awareness of our science-based approach, and building trust



Way Forward

- Priority actions
 - Continued import control, vaccination and biosurveillance
- Key activities planned in 2025 - 2026
 - Oral Rabies Vaccine bait distribution pilot trial



THANK YOU

Animal & Veterinary Service

Dr Anhui Lin

Lin_Anhui@nparks.gov.sg



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