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**PRESS RELEASE  
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**YOUTHS LEAD THE WAY: SINGAPORE'S INAUGURAL ANIMAL PROTECTORS GRANT WINNERS**

SINGAPORE, 4 September 2008- The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), NTU Animal Lovers Society, NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group and People for Animal Welfare (SMU) today announced the recipients of the inaugural Animal Protectors Grant.

Launched by the three student animal welfare groups and ACRES in May 2008, the Animal Protectors Grant is Singapore's first grant specifically for animal welfare initiatives in Singapore.

The grant was established to empower members of the public to act on their passion and make a difference for animals and the community in Singapore. It seeks to provide seed funding for projects, enabling these projects to become reality. Its also seeks to inspire others to follow the example set by the grant recipients.

"The grant is an excellent opportunity for youth activists to carry out their dream projects and gain some experience in this field. It will boost their morale and of course make a real difference for the animals" said Ms. Satveer Kaur, President, NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group.

Sponsored by the Lee Foundation, a total of eight grants will be distributed to eight groups comprising thirty four individuals, to undertake animal welfare projects. These projects were selected from a total of fourteen project applications received. Grant amounts range from \$915 to \$1,350.

"It is heartening to note that we will have thirty four individuals who will be making a difference for animals in Singapore over the next nine months. It is also very encouraging that thirty three out of the thirty four grant recipients are youths. The spirit of giving is certainly alive in Singapore, and we are confident that our community is moving in the right direction" said Mr. Louis Ng, Founder and Executive Director of ACRES.

The eight groups will be conducting projects that will have a significant impact on the community. The projects include writing and publishing animal storybooks for children, raising awareness and taking action to end the illegal wildlife trade, organising animal welfare-themed carnivals in their schools, sterilising stray cats and dogs, producing a documentary on responsible pet ownership to be included in the Civics & Moral Education curriculum and a study on efficacy of the use of cat cafes in the management of a stray cat population.

"It is wonderful to see groups of young, passionate students putting their heart and so much effort into their projects, which are very comprehensive and well-thought out. There is so much that can be done to help alleviate animal suffering and to raise public consciousness about what is happening around the world, and having a grant to fund these projects is definitely a great stepping stone to informing, inspiring, educating and improving animal welfare. I believe this will encourage other like-minded students to step up to make a difference in future" said Ms. Michelle Loh, President, People for Animal Welfare (SMU).

"Hopefully we can intensify public interest in animal welfare through the grant. It funds fresh initiatives and, in turn, these may evolve into great projects in Singapore's animal welfare scene" said Mr. Chen Ming Wei, President, NTU Animal Lovers Society

The eight groups will present the results of their projects at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Animal Welfare Symposium in May 2009. The Animal Protectors Grant will be disbursed annually.

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## **Notes to editors**

- **ACRES**

ACRES is a local animal welfare charity and Institution of Public Character aimed at fostering respect and compassion for all animals. The charity is driven by its concern for animals and adopts research projects on the use of animals in various fields. Research findings are then used to educate the public to promote active community involvement in the animal welfare movement, as well as strive towards synergistic partnerships with authorities and related parties. ACRES has conducted more than 240 roadshows and/or talks to raise awareness on animal welfare issues in Singapore and to create a more socially responsible community. It currently has more than 14,000 individuals on its supporter database.

- **NTU Animal Lovers Society**

NTUALS is a non-profit organisation run by students from Nanyang Technological University and National Institute of Education. The Society was officially started in July 2007 and has attracted members with various interests such as pet animals and wildlife protection. NTUALS aims to educate members and the NTU population on animal welfare issues, while having fun and interest-based events as well. Members are encouraged to bond through animal-themed social gatherings. The Society will continue to explore possibilities to bring about awareness on the serious and fun sides of animal-related issues.

- **NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group**

NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group was formed in 2006 and is a student-led organisation of the National University of Singapore that strives to improve the welfare of animals. They hope to be a strong voice on animal welfare issues in Singapore. NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group is dedicated to raising awareness on animal exploitation and cruelty issues in the hope of initiating change for the betterment of our fellow earthlings. They address concerns on domestic animals, industrialised animal cruelty and wild animal welfare issues: All animals matter.

- **People for Animal Welfare (SMU)**

PAW was founded in 2005 by a group of passionate Singapore Management University students who want to bring across a simple message – treat animals humanely. They are dedicated to broadcasting responsible pet ownership and prevention of animal suffering. They do this through education by running events, volunteering and collaborations with other animal welfare groups. Their mission is to educate and raise awareness to prevent animal cruelty, to give animals a voice and, most importantly, to spread the love for animals to as many as possible. Their past events include SMU Animal Day 2008, Pet Beach Outing and Pet Trade Lunchtime Talk in 2006. PAW also had the honour to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Singapore Animal Welfare Symposium at SMU on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2008. This nationwide forum targeted animal welfare issues ranging from domestic pet care to wildlife conservation, with a diverse panel from government institutions, private practices and students.