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**Animal rights group presses presidential candidates for views**

*By Tessa Wong*

Animal rights group Acres has pressed the four presidential candidates on their views on animal rights and the issue of keeping dolphins in captivity.

Its executive director, Mr Louis Ng, and campaigns officer, Ms Christine Lee, showed up at Ang Mo Kio MRT station on Thursday lunchtime to query Mr Tan Jee Say at his walkabout.

Acres is currently conducting a campaign to free more than 20 dolphins currently kept in the Philippines, which are destined for an attraction at Resorts World Sentosa.

Acres had sent emails to the candidates on Aug 15 asking for their views and got answers from Dr Tan Cheng Bock and Mr Tan Kin Lian. They asked Dr Tony Tan at a talk last Saturday.

On Thursday Mr Tan Jee Say said: 'Moral issues don't just extend to humans but also to animals... I think it's part of my values for conscience, empathy. I think (dolphins) are lovely creatures, they give us a lot of joy. We should help, promote and protect them.'

He added that he hoped young people would do more volunteer work and take up social causes such as dolphin protection.

Mr Ng said that Dr Tan Cheng Bock has given a supportive answer, while Mr Tan Kin Lian and Dr Tony Tan gave more neutral responses.