

**PRESS RELEASE**  
11 May 2009

**SINGAPORE'S YOUTHS TO SHARE THEIR TRIUMPHS FOR ANIMALS AT NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE SYMPOSIUM**

SINGAPORE, 11 May 2009- More than 200 people are expected to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Animal Welfare Symposium, organised by ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society) and the NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group and discuss issues ranging from pet abandonment to the ongoing Resorts World at Sentosa whale sharks debate and the welfare of animals in captivity at the Singapore Zoo.

**The Symposium will see eight groups of mainly youths taking the spotlight and showing how they have made a difference for animals in the past year.** The groups are recipients of the inaugural Animal Protectors Grant, launched in 2008.

The annual Singapore Animal Welfare Symposium, which made its debut last year, aims to promote animal welfare and provides a platform for members of the public, local animal protection organisations and government agencies to share ideas, build partnerships and work towards effective solutions to animal welfare issues of national concern.

"We are delighted by the tremendous successes and positive impacts on animals' lives achieved by the projects undertaken by all groups who received the Animal Protectors Grants last year, and their enthusiasm to make a difference. We hope that by sharing their achievements at this year's Symposium and proving that dedicated groups of individuals can make a real, tangible difference they will inspire others, especially youths, to go on to become advocates for animals and start their own initiatives" said Amy Corrigan, Director of Education for ACRES.

"We are excited to see the enthusiasm in youths towards animals and this has definitely been an inspiration for our club to take on more challenging projects to effect changes. We want to educate people that leading a cruelty-free lifestyle is indeed possible as long as we make the right choices" said Venkatesh Naidu, Project Director for NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group.

The Symposium will also see the launch of the Animal Protectors Grant 2009, through which groups of individuals are once again invited to apply for funding for projects which will help advance animal welfare in Singapore.

More details can be found at [www.animalwelfare.sg](http://www.animalwelfare.sg)

**Contact:**

Amy Corrigan (Director of Education, ACRES)  
Email: [amy@acres.org.sg](mailto:amy@acres.org.sg) Office: +65 6892 9821 Handphone: +65 8168 4355

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**Notes to editors**

- ACRES is a local charity and Institution of Public Character with a main aim of fostering respect and compassion for all animals. It currently has more than 17,000 individuals on its supporter database.
- NUS Students' Animal Welfare Group is a student-led organisation of the National University of Singapore dedicated to improving the interests and welfare of animals.
- The Singapore Animal Welfare Symposium is sponsored by the Lee Foundation (Main sponsor), Ananda Bhavan Restaurant and Loving Hut and supported by The Body Shop and Pixie Cosmetics. The Animal Protectors Grant 2009 is sponsored by the Lee Foundation.

**PRESS INVITE**

ACRES would like to invite the media to attend the event.

Arrangement details:

**Date** : 16 May 2009 (Saturday)

**Time** : 8.30am – 4.15pm

**Venue** : National University of

Singapore

Lecture Theatre 27

21 Lower Kent Ridge Rd

Singapore 119077.

Please confirm your interest by 15 May 2009. For more information, the media contact details can be found below.