



## PRESS RELEASE

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### LARGEST EVER GATHERING OF INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION ACTIVISTS IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, 16 January 2010 - ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society) is delighted to announce the start of the Asia for Animals Conference (AFA) Singapore 2010. Hosted by ACRES, more than 390 delegates from 26 countries, representing 207 organisations, are gathering in Singapore for the 5-day conference.

**This conference is the largest ever gathering of international animal protection activists in Asia.**

AFA Singapore 2010 - "Achieving long-term positive change" - will focus on developing and implementing concrete long-term solutions for ongoing animal protection and cruelty problems.

"We are confident that this conference will be a useful platform for the sharing of ideas and solutions, moving us closer towards our shared vision of a world where the exploitation of all animals is a thing of the past. We are proud that Singapore is hosting this very important event." said Mr. Louis Ng, Founder and Executive Director of ACRES.

Over the next four days, presentations and workshops will cover a range of issues, including running effective education outreach programmes, improving the welfare of animals in captivity, providing optimal veterinary care, achieving long-term changes for farm animals, effective stray animals management, wiping out the wildlife trade, running a sustainable rescue centre, campaigning for change, working with government agencies, advertising - spreading the message creatively, writing to win support for animals and working with volunteers.

"The AFA Conference will offer an excellent platform to share the success stories and challenges overcome by the participating delegates working for the noble cause of Animal Welfare", said Maj. Gen. Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India.

Delegates include government officials, professors, educators and representatives from animal protection NGOs.

"We can only truly be in the first half of the First World, join the ranks of the civilised countries, not just by cranking up our economy, churning ever brighter students, but by caring for those who cannot speak and are 100% dependent on us for the quality of their lives - animals." said Mr. Seah Kian Peng, Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC and Guest of Honour for the opening ceremony.

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#### Notes to editors

- ACRES is a local animal welfare charity and Institution of Public Character aimed at fostering respect and compassion for all animals. It currently has more than 18,000 individuals on its supporter database.
- The conference is sponsored by Animal Guardians (Main sponsor), Animal People, Animals Asia Foundation, Best Friends Animal Society, Furama Riverfront Hotel, Humane Society International, International Animal Rescue, Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Hong Kong and WSPA.
- AFA Singapore 2010 will welcome delegates from American Samoa, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan ROC, Thailand, USA, UK and Vietnam.

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Animal Concerns Research & Education Society