

Most people find animals like dogs, cats and birds adorable and some keep them in their homes as pets. However, there are also people who abuse animals. They enjoy torturing helpless creatures to gain a sense of control over them. Their pleasure is increased since these animals very often cannot do anything to defend themselves.

Reports of animal abuse are increasing. One just has to look in the newspaper to see the increase in the number of cases of animal abuse. What is worse is that for every abuse case reported, there are probably many more that are not. Not long ago, a local newspaper reported several cases of animal abuse. In one particularly cruel case, a group of young children caught a kitten and did horrible things to it. Not only did they tie rubber bands around the kitten but they also stapled its ears closed just for fun. Helpless to defend itself, the kitten had to endure this cruel torture. Apart from this case, there have also been several other cases in which people deliberately killed animals by throwing them out of high windows or poisoning them simply because they could not tolerate the noises the animals made. While most of us are disgusted to see or hear about such inhumane behavior towards animals, animal abuse is still on the rise. These animal abusers fail to consider the needs and feelings of the animals.

In order to reduce and ultimately prevent such cases of animal abuse, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or SPCA was set up. The organization not only aims to prevent cruelty to animals but also cares for unwanted animals that have been badly abused. So far, the SPCA has proven to be a haven for abused animals. The organization also has a number of trained people to nurse injured animals back to health.

Unfortunately, there are people who treat the SPCA as a place where they can 'discard' their unwanted pets after they get tired of them. This has led to the SPCA being short of space and money. The organization now only takes in animals that have been abused even though people still continue to abandon their unwanted pets. Such animals usually make their way to residential areas to forage for food. Much to the annoyance of residents, they make a lot of noise and loiter outside houses or at void decks below their flats.

The SPCA has embarked on some programs to prevent animal abuse. They give talks in schools explaining why animals should not be abused. It is only through educating the public that animal abuse can be prevented.

Answer the following questions using complete sentences

1. Give **two** reasons why some people gain pleasure in abusing animals.
2. In what way are there actually more animal abuse cases than reported ?
3. Based on paragraph 2, give the reason why the children ill-treated the kitten.
4. What do you think made the kitten 'helpless to defend itself' (paragraph 2) ?
5. Quote **two** words in paragraph 2 that have the same meaning as 'bear with'.
6. State **two** aims of the SPCA.
7. What does a 'haven' (paragraph 3) refer to ?
8. In what way do people take advantage of the SPCA ?
9. Why do people find stray animals annoying ?
10. What does the SPCA feel is the best way to prevent animal abuse ?

