

We refer to Mdm Teeny Teh's letter "Why rabbit meat should be banned " (Jan 15, 2011).

Because we all live and share our lives with rabbits, we know what incredible creatures they are: intelligent, curious, willful, funny, affectionate, greedy and even destructive. As rabbit owners, we love how they communicate with us and with other species; we love how they problem solve, we love how they play.

Because rabbits are our companions that so many of us realize not only how special they are, but how fine the line is between who we eat and who we cherish. The distinction between pet/meat is blurred. It is a fact that the same creatures that share our living space and even for some of us, our beds, are slaughtered because they "taste like chicken".

Rabbit lovers like Mdm Teh have due causes for concern over this trend but this extends across the board to all animal lovers. For as long as we tolerate the transformation of animals, from kangeroos, crocodiles, bears, ostriches, guinea pigs to dogs and cats, into commercial meat, no animal, no matter how dear to our hearts they are, will be safe.

Millions of our cherished rabbits are being raised in factory-like conditions, with very little government oversight, for slaughter every year.

Surely an iconic animal that entertained us as the endearing Bugs Bunny, taught our children the meaning of friendship and courage in the face of adversities in Peter Rabbit and Watership Down and mystify us as a legend on the moon, deserve a lot more than to wind up on our dinner tables as feed?

Shouldn't we be celebrating the many great qualities of the Rabbit this Lunar New Year, instead of buying into restaurants' marketing gimmicks aimed at capitalizing during the festive season on a fad?

Just because an animal may taste good, does that mean we should eat it? Meat lovers have to recognize a line has to be drawn somewhere.

While there is no true right or wrong choice, please do make the choice a humane one.

Yours Sincerely,

Daphne Chow-Aw

Vice-President, HRSS

*House Rabbit Society of Singapore (HRSS) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to rabbit welfare and awareness. HRSS aims to reduce the number of unwanted rabbits in Singapore through education.*