



My name is Yom Sharina binti Abd Lahsan. I work as an associate director - Financial Crime and Risk Mitigation for National Australia Bank. I was born in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

I received my primary and secondary education at Main, Convent Ipoh after which I went to International Islamic University of Malaysia to obtain my degree in accounting. I have had almost 6 years of financial audit experience in Big 5 entities, almost 2 years as market Regulator of Malaysia, 9.5 years doing Internal Controls and Operational Risk in HSBC and currently works with SC as Compliance Director.

My love for animals was inoculated very young from my dad who rears pigeons and chicken at home. At his village, we used to roam around with a field of cows and goats as my dad was a cow Shepard when he was young. Living in the city, we always felt empty living without animals as land was scarce to rear cows and goats, so we resorted to having cats as pets at home. 1 cross Persian cat turned into 7 cats and soon we had 8 stray cats. Our stray cats consist of 3 abandoned kittens, 1 blind pregnant cat who then gives birth to 2 normal cats, 1 three-legged cat and 1 cat whose tail has been chopped off cruelly.

In Malaysia, there are so many stray dogs and cats which are left to die in most tragic circumstances and whilst we have a few NGOs who have tried their best to shelter these strays, due to the sheer number of strays there needs to be better mechanism in protecting these animals. I have tried to rescue a few in my own capacity i.e., taking them to shelters, taking them in as pets, contributing to shelter homes. My vision for all strays in Malaysia is to have regulated shelters operators in Malaysia funded by the government and other appropriate bodies, have a proper legislation and enforcement on how strays should be taken care off, encourage people to adopt rather than spending money to get animals from abroad, inculcate the love for animals, create awareness on my community especially the Malays on how not to treat stray dogs, create personal and corporate incentives to help protect strays. Do not buy but adopt and have mercy on strays as they are also God's beautiful creatures.