

# Scratch keeps caring for strays

Its main aim is to assist and educate pet owners, rescuers, adopters and fosterers

**PETALING JAYA:** It was initially a small group of like-minded individuals who met on Facebook and helped each other to rescue, neuter and re-home stray animals.

As the number of online friends grew, 30-year-old architectural designer Suzana Sulaiman decided it was time to formalise the group.

“Most of the people I met online had rescued their pets off the streets and I began thinking that mobilising them would create a prolific rescue group,” said Suzana who is based in Penang.

Suzana launched a Facebook community page called *Kucing Terbiar & Anjing Jalanan* (KTAJ) in March last year.

Today the group, also known as Stray Cats Rescue and Treatment Community Help (Scratch) on Facebook and officially registered as *Persatuan Membantu Kucing Terbiar dan Anjing Jalanan* Malaysia has evolved into one of the nation’s premier feline rescue and welfare organisations.

Suzana said KTAJ-Scratch was aimed at gathering, assisting and educating pet owners, rescuers, adopters and fosterers.

“Our main goal is to educate people on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets

to counter overpopulation and pet dumping,” said Suzana.

Once the group was formalised, KTAJ-Scratch began carrying out subsidised spaying and neutering exercises.

When the Petknode Online Pet Store boarding centre tragedy struck in September last year, KTAJ-Scratch grew in numbers and strength.

Although Suzana was in Penang, she mobilised volunteers here and the group went to the pet boarding centre in Damansara Damai and rescued dozens of starving and dehydrated cats.

The group also rushed the cats to veterinary clinics and did the necessary to save as many feline lives as possible.

The group’s stance garnered the SPCA Selangor’s top rescue group award last year.

Recently when the Petknode owners Shahrul Azuwan Adanan and Yushairi Khairuddin were charged and convicted at the magistrate’s court here, KTAJ-Scratch members were there as a mark of protest against the duo.



**Feline friends:** Suzana has mobilised a group of online friends under an organisation which has evolved to be one of the nation’s premier feline rescue groups.