

When Sabrina Yeap passed away this week, the pet community lost a valued friend.

Furry friends' friend



Deeply missed: Sabrina Yeap had a big heart and a soft spot for our furry, four-footed friends.

her hair before posing for the camera. As I said, Sabrina would do anything for her furry friends.

Most of us can tough through difficulties as long as we have our luxuries. Sabrina seemed to exist solely on love. She was so immensely dedicated that she lived off RM10 a day, allowing herself to spend every available sen on her rescues.

Sabrina was selfless, generous and devoted. However, she was also mentally tough. When she heard in May 2008 that Pulau Ketam residents had rounded up all their

unwanted dogs and dumped them on an uninhabited island, she and blogger TV Smith went to check out the situation.

When they saw the pitiful state of the surviving dogs, even Sabrina, who was used to seeing living horror, cried her eyes out. Then she swung into action.

As FFF was always strapped for resources, she couldn't take them all. Undaunted, she and TV Smith got a publicity campaign going. For weeks, rescuers flocked to the area, trying to help the abandoned dogs.

My best memory of Sabrina comes from about six weeks after that day. At that time, FFF had rescued 28 dogs from Pulau Ketam. Four of them were too far gone to survive, leaving Sabrina with two dozen new cases to care for, in addition to the hundred or more dogs and cats already living at the Farm.

Her friends told me they were worried Sabrina was exhausted. Accordingly, a group of us lured her out for a few hours' relaxation. We chose Sid's in Taman Tun as they had supported some of her fundraisers, and we had a riotous supper there.

Typically, Sabrina refused to dwell on the horrors she'd seen. Instead, she was full of plans for rehabilitating her new friends. And she did it too. When I called her six months later, she was ecstatic because one of the dogs, Siau

Peng, had just found a great home. Sabrina immediately asked if Dog Talk could feature Grace, Sakura and Ginger, who were also ready to find their own families.

Did I mention that she was a PR expert?

Despite her many joys and successes, Sabrina was a realist. She candidly admitted that some of her charges were too traumatised to be rehomed. With typical insouciance, she planned for their best possible future – big runs, good food, as much contact as they were comfortable with, and as much love as they'd take.

Sabrina had a heart the size of a planet. However, this week heralded disaster. Sabrina became so ill one morning that she had to be taken to the hospital. Tests revealed she had leukaemia. Unfortunately, it was too late. A few hours later she went into a coma, and died of brain aneurysm.

All the times we met and talked, Sabrina had always asked me to focus on her animals and the issues she wanted to promote. I respected her work and didn't want to pry, so it was only on Wednesday I learned that Sabrina had a rough start in life herself.

A month after Sabrina was born, her parents died in a car crash. Her relatives didn't want to adopt an "unlucky" child, so the babysitter they left her with eventually sent her to a temple orphanage.

Adopt Me!



SHASHA is 9 months old. She is spayed, playful, hyperactive and intelligent. She and her identical twin sister Coco would make very good guard dogs. ShaSha lives in Klang Valley. Interested parties please contact Jennifer at 012-3666 208.

Apparently, Sabrina's happiest childhood hours were spent feeding and caring for the stray cats living in the area.

Knowing this makes it even more poignant that this wonderful woman passed away at the age of only 43. Sabrina Yeap gave her all, and she will be sorely missed by all her friends, furry and human. She was one of a kind.

If you want to support Furry Friends Farm, please contact the group directly either by visiting tinyurl.com/7rkmbuc, furryfriendsfarm.org.my or by calling Myza Nordin at 016-371 7692.