



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## Nice cat, silly cat.

Amongst the many stressors we may face every day, pets can be a soothing balm for it all. Their habits and tics are absurdly comforting, as many pet owners can attest.

That's not hiding the fact that owning a pet is a responsibility in itself. A big one.

Dogs are needy. Cats are reckless. Rabbits are, well... they get scared easily. You can ask pet owners about that as well.

Yet, it comes down to the belief that animals, domesticated or not, have needs. When accepting the role as a pet owner, you're catering to their livelihoods, not just providing them food and shelter. It's this credo that many Singaporeans have abided by, and some of them go beyond as volunteer caretakers of community cats.

So, obviously, our story this week about the displacement of community cats would be distressing to read for some. Putting aside the occasional headline of animal abuse, this ongoing habit by otherwise-unassuming professionals has become a more recent and urgent issue. Let's hope these cats can finally be left to their own devices.

And if you see one of them along your commute today, give them some love. They deserve it.

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*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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## Pest Control Out of Control



A new threat to community cats has been local pest control companies, our writer Kimberly finds.

The volunteer caretakers of community cats around our island have noticed a pattern in the disappearance of these critters. One thing's for sure: as long as this continues to happen, these carers will never stop caring.

**Who's To Blame When Community Cats Are Abducted by Pest Control?**

# A Dog Named Taco



Yes, we've noticed it too: more than one pet you've met in your life is named after food.

"I'd prefer more unique names for pets, but if a basic name suits them best then it is what it is," the owner of a cat named Boba tells us.

**Why Do Singaporeans Name  
Their Pets After Food?**

## No Road Map, No Choice





The life of an actor, we've assumed, is one paved with the limelight.

We're not presenting anything groundbreaking here: being an actor is, obviously, not an easy task. High rewards come with high risk.

For the cast members of forthcoming stage production 'Into the Woods', they share with us the work hazards unique to their craft. Whenever they're lost in the woods, they find their way back on solid ground.

**Getting Lost in the Woods is  
Part of Life**

## **Gone in a Flash**



R.I.P. Flash Coffee, we hardly knew ye.

The self-described "tech-enabled coffee chain" has vanished, leaving behind unpaid employees and a bad aftertaste. And that's not beginning to describe actual quality of their product, which our writer describes as having the "flavour profile of soggy cardboard".

**A Eulogy for Flash Coffee  
That's Just as Miserable  
as Their Coffee**

## Death Toll





What's happening in Gaza right now is truly horrifying.

Talking about it—be it with colleagues, family or friends—can feel like tying yourself into knots. The unwavering feelings you may have about it can get muddled by the real-time coverage you receive over text. What is clear as day is the growing death toll, and whose is growing day by day.

### How To Talk About the Israel-Hamas Conflict

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## Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- The numbers are out: not only did President Tharman Shanmugaratnam lead in votes, but also in campaign expenditure at a whopping S\$738k. (*via AsiaOne*)
- Beloved dessert brand Sara Lee has gone into administration. (*via CNA*)

- According to Time Out, Chinatown is the 14th coolest neighbourhood in the world this year. (via *Time Out*)
  - A global study has counted more than S\$1.4 trillion lost in scams, with Singaporean victims having the most amount of money lost on average. (via *The Straits Times*)
  - Nintendo has announced a blockbuster pop-up store due at Jewel Changi Airport this November, their first-ever in the region. (via *Nintendo*)
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Until the age of 17, our profile spent her life living in a place many wouldn't want to call home: Changi Prison. For her, as the daughter of a prison warden, it was the only life she knew.

### The Girl who Grew Up in Changi Prison

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## We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. Regional pop-up event [KITA Festival](#) begins this weekend with a breathtaking slate of culinary delights.
2. Short film festival [Short Circuit 7](#) takes place this Saturday, with a showcase of Singapore's emerging queer voices in film.
3. The [SoleMates Beer Run](#) cajoles you for a Sunday evening where you can exercise without restraint, however you may take that.
4. It's the return of hip-hop party [.WAV\(Y\)](#), this time at Potato Head Rooftop Bar.
5. For this weekend only, head over to Gardens by the Bay for the annual [Planters Market](#), where you can update your home garden with stunning new flora.

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27a Ann Siang Road, Singapore 069707, 069707, Singapore

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