CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM
MRS. JANET JAGAN, PATRONESS, GSPCA

As I pen this message of Christmas and New Year greetings to the Staff and Members of the Guyana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA), and to pet lovers throughout Guyana, I am reminded of the responsibilities of care givers in general and Society members in particular to see that the Society functions to fulfill its commitment to animals.

Like myself, I know that all members of the Society believe in the rights of animals to live free, happy and contented lives, without cruelty or any hardships imposed upon them by man.

From my childhood days I have loved animals and have been fortunate to have had beloved pets throughout my life. I can vouch for the great comfort and love which our pets provide, as well as for our responsibility for their health, safety and care.

I can remember with great detail when, almost 80 years ago, my father gave myself and brother a wonderful dog (a Chow) whom I adored and loved and cared for until he was lost. How I grieved! I can also remember clearly my first pet in Guyana in 1943. She was a wonderful little white fluffy dog without a tail. My husband Cheddi and I had great fun with her. She was a loyal companion. My present dog, a sweet tempered Dachshund, was given to me by my grand children, and is growing old with me.

We know that from the earliest periods of our civilization, there has been a relationship of value between animals which have been domesticated by man. Some very early civilizations have revealed, in burial sites, the skeletons of man and his dog, the dog being the closest to man throughout the centuries, both as companion and worker.

I want to urge members and the public to give the Society the recognition and help it needs to successfully fulfill its responsibilities and duties to the animal world.