



Rescue mission: Volunteer rescuers raiding the flat where the dogs were illegally bred. The illegal breeders were a teenage couple. — The Straits Times / Asia News Network

Volunteers rescue eight dogs from illegal breeders

EIGHT was not a lucky number – not for the pooches found in filthy rooms in two flats. The illegal breeders were a teenage couple.

Volunteer rescuers, following a tip-off, rescued the eight dogs from the two Housing Board flats in Bukit Panjang and Yishun.

The couple, a 16-year-old girl and her teenage boyfriend, were breeding the dogs for sale without a licence.

The rescue effort took a week, with the latest foray taking place only last Friday.

“The place was absolutely filthy. There were urine and faeces on the floor and on the walls,” said volunteer Evelin Ong, who posed as a potential buyer to visit the flat.

The animal activists, following the tip-off, tracked the girl to her Facebook page, where she had posted the sale of dogs and puppies.

Ong, 25, contacted her via Facebook about her one-year-old Jack Russell terrier.

“I was told the dog was tick-infested. I said I wanted to take a look and she told me to go to her flat in Gangsa Road, in the Bukit Panjang area,” Ong said.

When Ong and two other volunteers arrived, they were horrified by the scene at the flat.

“The four dogs were not only skinny and undernourished, but were also suffering from skin ailments,” she said.

The couple admitted that they had not been feeding the dogs regularly. They then managed

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— EVELIN ONG

to persuade the girl to let them take some of the dogs, in case of eviction by the landlord.

The dogs found there were two Jack Russell terriers, a Schnauzer and an English cocker spaniel.

And last Friday, when volunteers turned up at the girl’s family home in Yishun, they rescued four dogs: a Maltese, a two-month-old Schnauzer and two Jack Russell terriers – one of which was pregnant.

Volunteer Jason Ong said the visit was supposed to be conducted together with officers from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (Ava), but the authority decided against it. He said no reasons were given for the no-show.

The Ava confirmed its officers were alerted to an alleged animal abuse case and a request was made for help to conduct a raid.

It is believed that the girl, who dropped out of school, started her dog-breeding business during the middle of last year. — The Straits Times / Asia News Network