

# Hefty fee will force more to let pets go

**R**ECENTLY, I enquired about rules on dog ownership at the Kulim Municipal Council in Kedah, where officers in the licensing department appeared unsure of the requirements.

On Jan 16, however, the council announced that it was helping people to obtain dog licences, and I was shocked to find that it had come up with the following conditions:

- 1) All dog owners, except those with Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Bullmastifs, Bull Terriers and Perro De Presa Canario, are required to buy the licence at RM50 per animal (non-neutered) or RM40 (neutered);
- 2) Each dog must be vaccinated yearly at the Veterinary Services Department (at RM50); and,
- 3) A padded muzzle must be used on the dogs at all times.

It is clear that this is either the council's way of making money or an indirect attempt to cull these pets.

Even today, we see many dogs being abandoned by irresponsible owners. Now, with the hefty licence fee, more people are likely to let their animals go.

The Penang Island Municipal Council only charges RM10 per animal, so why is the Kulim Municipal Council charging RM50?

Furthermore, a pamphlet that was distributed states that the rule came into force on Feb 3 last year.

I am not aware of such a rule despite having lived in Kulim for 31 years.

There is also an official checklist attached to the application form and two permission letters.

On the checklist, which carries the council's letterhead, there is a sixth point — written by hand — requiring dog owners to attach a copy of their quit rent payment receipt.

I'm wondering how an official letter can be altered this way.

The council also requires a photo of the owner and his/her dogs. I wonder what's next? Maybe a copy of our passport?

While the Federal Government is doing all it can to ease the people's burden, the state government is creating more problems for us.

**U.D.O.,** Kulim, Kedah