

## Dogs still a menace in Batu Ferringhi

**A YOUNG** girl was recently attacked by a dog and was only saved from serious injury or worse by the swift action of her father.

This reminded me of an exchange of emails with the Penang Island Municipal Council in 2008, the last time I was on holiday in Batu Ferringhi. At the time, I complained about packs of semi-wild dogs roaming the area, many of which had been fitted with a collar or a piece of material tied around their necks to give the impression they were not semi-wild. I was assured by an official for the municipal secretary that "steps would be taken to remedy the problem".

Subsequently, he sent me figures showing that 11 dogs had been destroyed in seven months - clearly only scratching at the problem.

Four years later, I cannot see any change. Dogs still roam menacingly, fouling the footpaths, beaches and other public areas in

Batu Ferringhi. A couple of weeks ago a friend, a 75-year-old visitor, was walking on the beach here when he was attacked by a pack of six dogs. He stood his ground trying to frighten them off, but it was only when a couple of local men came to his aid that the dogs ran off. He was fortunate; a less courageous person or a child may not have been. I cannot believe for one moment that this was an isolated incident.

I don't see any point in writing to the council as I am sure all I will get again will be words. Surely it can see that the continuing dog menace, combined with the general lack of cleanliness, air of abandonment etc. of the area will only detract visitors, to the detriment of the local population.

**Julian Ward**  
via email