

Hawker in hot water

Veterinary dept summons him for questioning over alleged dog abuse

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PETALING JAYA: A hawker at a Section 17 coffeeshop who allegedly poured hot water on a stray dog has been summoned for questioning by the Veterinary Services Department.

Checks confirmed that investigations were under way and that the department had taken custody of the dog.

Photographs of the hawker and a scalded dog began circulating on Facebook last week, outraging

Netizens who demanded that he be brought to justice.

The hawker admitted to committing the act on Feb 7, but claimed that he had done so on impulse to chase away persistent dogs which came to seek scraps.

"My customers have been harassed by stray dogs and the restaurant became unhygienic because of them," he added.

Veterinarian Dr Liong Siew Ling, who treated the dog, said that it was recovering well.

She said the stray dog problem in Section 17 was mainly caused by pet

owners who refused to spay their animals and left the puppies to fend for themselves.

Meanwhile, coffeeshop owner Fan Chin Seng, 50, refuted allegations by Netizens that the hawker had previously poured boiling water on the strays.

"He is a good person but I believe that he was frustrated. The stray dog problem has persisted for a long time in this area," he added.

Fan also expressed disgust that Netizens were urging Facebook users to boycott the shop.

"My shop's reputation is ruined

and there is an obvious decline in business."

Fan and his family hoped that the case would be resolved soon and urged Netizens to stop posting baseless accusations against his shop and the hawker while investigations were ongoing.

The Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Selangor, which is assisting the department, appealed on its website for witnesses to come forward.

Those with information can contact SPCA's hotline at 03-42565312 or e-mail inspectorate@spca.org.my.