

# Animal abusers to face stiffer penalty

PET ABUSERS, be warned. You may find yourselves confined to a “kennel” of a different kind — the prison — under a proposed amendment to the Animal Act 1953 (Revised 2006).

This is the penalty, including a higher fine, that will await animal abusers under the proposal, said Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

He said the ministry would consult the relevant parties, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry players and the public to get their input before a final decision is made.

Chua noted that the current act was insufficient to meet the requirement of animal welfare.

“We will include a lot of things which are not included in the current Animal Welfare 1953 Act as times have changed. More requirements and the new lifestyle of the pet owners will also need to be taken into consideration, especially involving animal abuse.

“As for now, we are looking to increase the current penalty



for pet abuse from RM200 to RM50,000 and of course, it must include the jail term meted out by the court,” he said.

The deputy minister was speaking to reporters after officiating the 10th Graduation Ceremony of Canine Obedience Training at the Central Park Bandar Utama yesterday.

The outdoor community project on dog obedience and

agility training programme was organised by the Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation to nurture, develop human-animal bond and socialise pets with their owners.

Chua said the ministry would also be coming up with few initiatives to develop a caring society towards animals, including introducing the Animal Welfare Guidelines for

**IN LINE WITH THE NEW LIFESTYLE: Chua (standing, right) with some of the 150 participants of the Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation Canine Club 10th Graduation Day in Bandar Utama yesterday — BERNAMApic**

pets and livestock owners to assist them with the best practices on handling pets and livestock. — Bernama