

Rescued pitbulls may have to be put down

MORE than 200 pitbulls rescued from a South Korean-run online dog-fighting racket in the Philippines will likely be put down as it is too costly to keep them, rescuers said yesterday.

Twenty-five of the dogs with the worst injuries have already been put down since being rescued in a police raid on Friday, and most of the remaining 215 were likely to go the same way, animal shelter vet Wilford Almoró said.

“Some have unhealed wounds, but most are down to skin and bones and their rib cages are showing,” Almoró said as he assessed the health of the dogs at a shabby kennel that was seized by police.

“They appear to be suffering from dehydration and they are just lying down on the ground where they are tethered.”

He estimated that physical



rehabilitation for all the animals would cost 3.34 million pesos (RM237,914) and they would also need treatment to correct their aggressive behaviour.

“Just imagine the amount of work required for their continuous upkeep. I don’t know if people can raise money for that 24/7,” he added.

Police raided the 2ha farm south of Manila and arrested 12 people, including eight South Koreans accused of running illegal dog fights that were streamed live on

SHABBY CONDITIONS: Chained dogs that were kept for dog fighting at the farm in San Pablo — AFPpic

the Internet to betting audiences.

The animals were turned over to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, a charity that rescues and rehabilitates abused animals.

One had half its tongue ripped out while another had both its ears torn off, while most had scars from previous fights, said Almoró. — AFP