

'Leash your dogs or no mail'

> Internal ruling allows Pos Malaysia to suspend delivery to uncooperative residents

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PETALING JAYA: Dog owners who do not cage or leash their pets at least 2m away from the post box risk having mail delivery to their homes suspended under a little known rule.

This "rule" has actually been in force since 1976 and is stated under Section 379 A to C in Pos Malaysia's *Buku Peraturan Jabatan Utama*.

However, it was not made public as Pos Malaysia claimed it is an internal ruling for postmen when delivering mail to homes with unruly dogs.

Under the ruling, Pos Malaysia can issue notices to dog owners to cage or leash their pets, and if the owners/residents fail to cooperate within 14 days, all mail delivery to the residence would be suspended, and

residents would have to collect their letters from the post office themselves.

"The ruling was implemented in order to protect our postmen from being attacked by dogs. Since it is an internal ruling as part of the postmen's work guidelines, it was not made known to the public," Pos Malaysia Bhd group chief executive officer Datuk Khalid Abdol Rahman told *theSun* via e-mail last week.

"The rule was only disclosed in specific cases or circumstances such as to inform dog owners to ensure that their dogs are put on a leash securely so that they will not threaten the postman when he is carrying out his duties."

The "rule" came to light after Pos Malaysia Batu Caves delivery branch sent notices to a few residents at Taman Sri Gombak to either "cage or tie their dogs 2m away from the post box", claiming that their dogs have "disrupted" their duties to deliver letters to the respective residences.

One of the residents, Beverlyn Nathan, claimed the notice came after she had lodged a complaint to Pos Malaysia after reprimanding

a postman for shooting rubber bands at her dog as well as her neighbour's dog while delivering letters.

"I made a complaint to the headquarters and received a call from the Batu Caves branch officer, who said that he would release a notice on the rule to ask residents to tie their dogs 2m away from the gate, failing which the letters would not be delivered to my house."

Beverlyn, who has been living there for three years, said it is illogical to tie up a dog inside her compound.

"How can my dog cause any difficulty to the postman while putting letters in the post box which is placed outside the gate?"

Beverlyn said since the complaint, another postman has been delivering the mail to her house.

Khalid denied that the postman had tried to hurt the dog but admitted that notices were sent out to specific residents, including the complainant, on caging or leashing their dogs during a specific time period which is from noon until 2pm.