

SPCA: Don't let offenders handle animals

KUALA LUMPUR: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) will be seeking to ban the Petknode Cat Boarding owners from setting up animal related businesses in the future.

The society will be sending an official letter to the Veterinary Services Department to request that Shahrul Azuan Adanan and Yushairy Khairuddin, both 29, be barred from handling animals for at least a few years.

SPCA chairman Christine Chin said the RM200 fine per charge meted was too low and it would not act as a deterrent for other pet abusers. "Putting animals' lives at such a low value indicates that they are not important," she said.

Even though the society was pleased that the two were brought to justice, Chin felt that they should have been sentenced to jail as well.

"There is research showing animal abusers are five times more detrimental to society. They seldom stop

at abusing animals but progress on to abusing humans so this is a major red flag," she said.

Shahrul Azuan and Yushairy, who had pleaded guilty to neglecting pets left in their care during the Hari Raya holidays last year were let off with a RM6,000 fine yesterday. Magistrate Elena Hong Tze Lan had said she was bound by the provisions in the Animal Act 1953 to allow the duo to pay a fine over a jail term.

SPCA patron Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye urged the government to table the amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 1953 quickly in order to address the issues of animal welfare. "The animal act is inadequate at the moment and it is not in the interest of animal welfare, thus the need to table new amendments is urgent."

He said the Veterinary Services Department had held a dialogue session with a number of non-governmental organisations to discuss and propose amendments to the animal welfare bill.