

Pet-hetic upkeeping

Penang shop cited for housing animals in an abhorrent state

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GEORGE TOWN: Local authority officers raided a pet shop here and found some 30 pure-bred dogs and cats crammed in smelly and rusty small cages.

The animals looked dirty and malnourished.

Officers from the Penang Municipal Council (MPPP) were seen covering their noses with handkerchiefs as they entered the premises.

The pet shop was raided following a tip-off from *The Star*.

Among the pure-bred dogs in the cages were chihuahuas, poodles, shih tzus, Yorkshire terriers and pugs.

It was learnt that the dogs were sold at an unusually low price, a Yorkshire terrier going for about RM500 compared to the market price of between RM1,000 and RM2,000.

MPPP councillor Lim Cheng Hoe, also the council's stray dog committee chairman, said the pet shop operator, who was running the place illegally, was slapped with a seven-day notice to move out of the premises.



Deplorable condition: Dogs and cats being kept in the smelly and dirty cages at the pet shop in George Town.

"The operator has to find another suitable place for the dogs and cats.

"The council also issued a RM250 compound fine to the operator for failing to comply with basic hygiene standards," he said after the raid.

Penang Animal Sanctuary Society committee member Norsee Lim said the authorities should introduce proper regulations such as hygiene policies for pet shops.

She also said animals should be kept separately in different cages.

"As for lack of proper nutrition, certain

shops control the diet of the pets to ensure the animals do not outgrow their 'cuteness'," she said.

Penang Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals administrator Lily Leng said the number of dogs placed in a cage depended on the size of the animals.

"As it is necessary to ensure dogs have enough room for movement, the recommended cage size for a puppy is 1.21m by 1.21m.

"Ventilation is also important for the animals," she said.



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