

Dept urged to adopt suggestions on dog ownership

SUBANG JAYA: The Subang Jaya assemblyman is calling on the Veterinary Services Department (VSD) to adopt four of her recommendations on dog licensing and ownership to be used as guidelines for local councils in Selangor.

Hannah Yeoh said the recommendations include interviews and checks to assess if dog owners are aware of canine care, the breed they own, its training and general temperament.

“If the applicant does not know much on these subjects they should be made to attend a talk on responsible dog ownership conducted by a professional body.”

“Microchips should also be made a criterion for the registration process to identify the dogs so that owners of strays and dogs involved in attacks can’t claim the animals don’t belong to them,” she said at a press conference here recently on responsible dog ownership with Malaysian Kennel Association (MKA) president Larry Yuen.

It was also proposed that only those aged 18 and above should be allowed to walk medium sized and big dogs. She hopes that authority would meet MKA to come up with an updated dog licensing and ownership guidelines for the state.

Yeoh had come up with the proposals after meeting with Yuen recently. They had also met Subang Jaya Municipal Council director Dr Roslan Mohamed Hussin recently.

While Dr Roslan was agreeable to the proposals, he said that instructions had to come from the VSD in the form of guidelines for MPSJ to adopt the criteria.

Yeoh said adopting such measures were better than banning restricted breeds altogether.

The Subang Jaya council is currently mulling to ban some dog species after a crossbred bull terrier attacked and killed a 74-year-old man in SS19 here during his morning walk.

A ban would mean owners would have to give up the breeds, namely, the Rottweiler, Doberman, German Shepherd including Alsatian, Belgian Shepherd and East European Shepherd, Bull Mastiff, Bull Terrier and the Canary Dog.

These dogs which are also currently used by the security companies as guard animals would subsequently have to be put down.

“We want to tackle responsible ownership. I am convinced the ban will not solve the problem of dog attacks,” she said, referring to an attack by strays that killed a cowherd in Kluang recently. She said that dogs of any size can bite if it is not well treated or trained.

At the briefing in her office in SS14, Yuen said he presented many studies to Dr Roslan on how targeted bans on breeds did not work.

“A ban would be based on the flawed assumption that only certain breeds bite. It will also penalise re-



Dog owners must be aware of canine care, the breed they own, its training and general temperament.
File pic

sponsible pet owners.

“Countries such as Spain, Netherlands and many US countries repealed such bans 10 to 15 years following legislation.

Authorities worldwide are now looking at responsible pet ownership as the way forward instead of banning breeds to prevent bites and

attacks,” he added.

Yuen also said that 80 per cent of attacks occur outside homes when owners are absent or the dog is not on a leash.

“Strays, abandoned and abused dogs also bite because they are neglected while there are also shy biters which are antisocial,” he said,

adding puppies had to be taught to interact with people and other animals from the moment they are separated from their mothers or after they are weaned.

He said that owners had to educate themselves on what to expect of breeds in terms of behaviour and aggression. **By Veena Babulal**