

Council turns to professional dog-catchers

AFTER an unsuccessful stint at catching dogs, the Ipoh City Council (MBI) has turned to professionals to get the job done.

Mayor Roshidi Hashim said a tender was awarded last month to a company which would be paid RM45 for every stray caught unharmed.

"The council received an increasing number of reports on stray dogs requiring immediate action," he said after chairing the council full-board meeting yesterday.

In October 2010, MBI was lambasted when dogcatchers shot dead a 10-year-old therapy dog and companion

to an elderly woman while it was waiting to be walked.

It halted its dog-shooting exercise and turned to the more conventional dog-catching method of reducing the stray dog population, but the council had been unsuccessful as the canines escaped.

"Since we can't shoot the dogs, we have awarded a tender that will carry out the humane way of dog-catching," said Roshidi.

He said if there were cases of dogs being injured or posed a public threat, the council would take action. "In cases involving public safety, I will take the blame."