

NATION

Fury over dogs left to die

ANIMAL CRUELTY: 2 terriers found tied up in a sack in rubbish bin, 1 dies, 1 barely alive

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IT may be due to money or time constraints, or ignorance, but the cruel action of the owner of two sick terriers has the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Kota Kinabalu all riled up.

The dogs, about two years old with severe skin condition, were found tied up inside a sack in a rubbish bin in a housing area in Penampang and left to die.

Kota Kinabalu SPCA was alerted by a resident who heard animal

cries near his house and upon checking found the dogs dumped in the rubbish bin.

"The resident immediately took the dogs in the sack to the veterinary clinic.

"Both dogs were in very bad shape. Not only were they suffering from a severe skin condition, it is not known how long they had been stuffed into the sack which was tied up tightly.

"The intention is very clear for these two unfortunate dogs — death by suffocation simply because of a treatable skin condition if the owner had the decency to treat them earlier," said Kota Kin-

abalu SPCA in a statement.

One of the dogs died the next day, and chances of survival of the other one were slim, said Kota Kinabalu SPCA.

The association is seeking public assistance in identifying the dogs' owner, as dogs and cats are protected by the Animal Act 1953 in Peninsular Malaysia and similar legislation in Sabah and Sarawak.

"According to Section 44 (1) of the Animals Act 1953, cruelty to animals fetches a fine of RM200 or imprisonment of six months or both.

"Under Section 428 and Section 429 of the Malaysian Penal Code,

cruelty to animals is liable to a fine not exceeding RM500 or imprisonment up to five years or both."

Kota Kinabalu SPCA said the five freedoms that all animals should have at all times were freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort (shelter from heat and rain), freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom to express normal behaviour (without inconveniencing or harming others) and freedom from fear and distress.

Anyone who witnesses any abuse and killing of cats and dogs should make a report to the Kota Kinabalu SPCA at 012-8039298.