

# Jail animal abusers

IT WAS appalling that the pet boarding operators who pleaded guilty to the maltreatment of 30 cats under their care were only fined.

The fact that the operators abandoned their responsibility which resulted in the deaths of cats, was apparently overlooked.

The fact that they knew that the cats would die if not fed for several days and several cats did die because of this was overlooked.

It appears that the prosecuting officer did not highlight these salient facts of the case and his failure to rebut the defence's version of the incident is most strange.

The head of the veterinary department's prosecution section must look into the handling of this case and ensure that there is no recurrence of inadequate prosecution.

The department must live up to its role in monitoring the well being and care of the animals, big or small. And this surely includes a proper and serious prosecution of people accused of cruelty to animals.

The sentence meted out must reflect the seriousness of the abuse and this type of case surely warrants a jail term.

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