



JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR

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Cruetly unleashed on dog

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
The Star	Nation	14	18 Jul 2024

Cruelty unleashed on dogs

Beloved husky among 25 in suspected poisoning spree

By R. SEKARAN
rsekaran@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Residents in a posh residential area in Tanjung Bungah are having sleepless nights following the deaths of some 25 dogs, including a Siberian husky, to suspected poisoning.

Tanjung Bungah residents' association deputy chairman Agnes James, 59, said the gruesome discoveries, which started early this year, had shocked the community.

"We still don't have any clues as to who could have carried out such a despicable act," she said, adding that about 25 dogs have been killed to date.

The carcasses of the dogs, she added, were found by feeders in several areas in the last few months.

"We believe the carcasses found near the river were of dogs that had come to drink water.

"Most of the dogs were neutered strays except for a six-year-old husky, which died after grazing grass near a condominium just last week.

"It belonged to a Canadian couple," she added.

Agnes said a police report had been lodged at the Tanjung



An innocent life lost: A family member of Siberian husky, Lilou mourning over its death.

Tokong police station.

Tanjung Bungah assemblyman Zairil Khir Johari said he was aware of the incident and had alerted the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).

"We are having difficulties in handling this matter as there were no closed-circuit television footage available on the alleged poisoning incidents," he said.

State DVS director Dr Saira Banu Rejab said the department

was still pursuing the matter although earlier investigations found no evidence of poisoning.

"We have a team on standby and will act immediately if any carcasses are found again.

"We need the cooperation of the residents to be our eyes and ears. Call us immediately if you see something amiss and we will take action," she said.

Meanwhile, a candlelight vigil to highlight the poisoning of the

dogs will be held at 7pm today at the Mira Residences in Lintang Lembah Permai 17, Tanjung Bungah.

"The vigil is to pay tribute to these helpless creatures whose lives were snuffed out due to the inhumane action of humans," said organiser Linda Yong.

"The event is also a call for action to the authorities to enforce animal welfare laws and prosecute whoever is responsible."

Tangani isu anjing liar, kenaikan harga makanan

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
The Star	Pets	14	18 Jul 2024

How to keep your pet safe and comfortable in extremely hot weather.

THE arrival of blazing hot days marks the return of high temperatures, which is not such good news for our pets.

Dogs, cats and other small companions are far more sensitive to changes in temperature than we humans are.

That's why it's a good idea to take a few precautions to keep them comfortable.

Pets don't fare any better in hot weather than we do. Their body temperature can get just as high, if not higher, than ours. As a result, it can rise sharply after prolonged exposure to the sun. If this happens, you may find your pet panting.

They may also show signs of agitation and stick out their tongue. Dogs and cats use their tongues to regulate body temperature, albeit in different ways. Cats lick to moisten their whole body, while dogs use their breath to dispel heat.

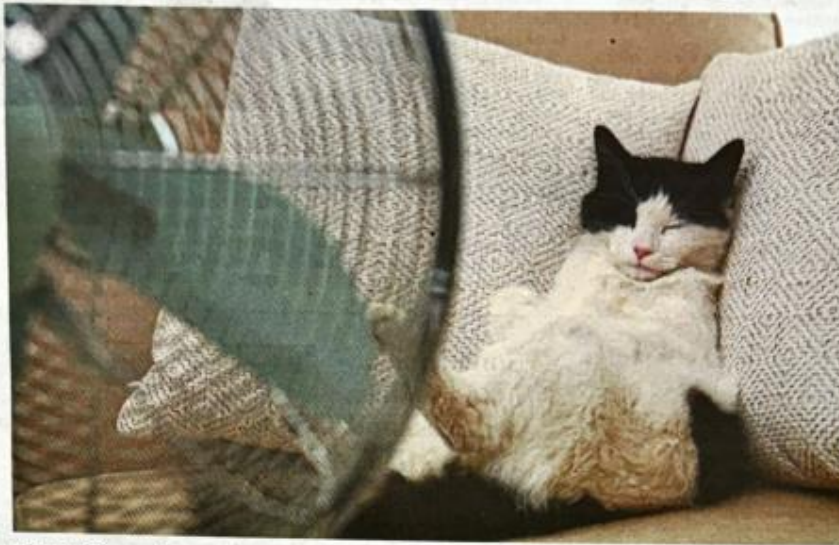
Either way, if you see that your pet is hot, take action.

Put them in a cool, shady spot. And don't hesitate to spray them lightly with cool water. Concentrate on the belly area for dogs and cats, as well as on the paws, as paw pads are very sensitive to high temperatures. Make sure the water is not too cold, however, to avoid thermal shock.

Keep your pet hydrated

Your little furball may grumble at the thought of being

Watch out for overheating



Pets don't fare any better in hot weather than we do: Their body temperature can get just as high, if not higher, than ours. — AFP

sprayed with water. Instead, you can put a damp cloth on the floor for your pet to lie on if they get hot.

You can also place a bottle of frozen water in their cage or kennel to create a pleasant cooling sensation.

If you're going to be out during the day, don't forget to take

precautions. Draw the curtains or blinds to protect your home from the heat. Don't close the bathroom and toilet doors:

Animals often like to take refuge there, attracted by the coolness of the tiles. Make sure your pet's bowl or water fountain is well filled. Your pet is definitely going to need to

drink throughout the day!

Think about their diet

You can help your pet stay hydrated by modifying their diet. You can make their food more moist by wetting it slightly throughout the day, for example. But be careful, as this

doesn't always work! So, in scorching heat, opt for wet food rather than dry kibble.

You can also give them small bits of water-rich fruit and vegetables, such as melon, watermelon, apple or cucumber.

But don't force your pet to eat. It's not unusual for animals to have a reduced appetite in hot weather, just like us.

Keep a close eye on your pet's weight, and if you notice any significant weight loss, take them to the vet.

Take care on trips outside

Just because it's hot doesn't mean that pets, especially dogs, don't need to go out. You shouldn't neglect walks, but instead choose the right moment. That means taking your pooch out at times of day when it's still cool, ie, in the morning before 9am and in the evening after 7pm.

And don't take them just anywhere. Sand and asphalt can burn your dog's paw pads, so take your pet into the woods if you can. Wherever you go, keep car journeys to a minimum. It can get very hot, very quickly in a car in hot weather, even with the windows open.

Grooming tips

In very hot weather, it can be tempting to trim away your pet's fur to bring them relief. But this is the wrong approach. Fur protects dogs and cats from the sun's rays, and contributes to the dissipation of body heat.

Shaving them, or trimming their fur too short, would therefore be counterproductive. However, it's a good idea to brush your pet thoroughly to remove loose fur and allow air to reach the skin. They'll thank you for it! — AFP Relaxnews

Tangani isu anjing liar, kenaikan harga makanan

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How to stop your cat from scratching furniture



Scratching objects helps a cat to calm down and relieve stress-related bodily tension. — AFP

SINCE coming into our homes, cats have developed their own particular habits. One of them is scratching sofas, chairs and other expensive furniture that catches their eye. But this doesn't have to be the case; Owners can take steps to prevent this behaviour, according to research published in the journal *Frontiers In Veterinary Science*.

For cats, scratching is a natural behaviour that meets several needs. Scratching the surrounding furniture allows them to leave their own olfactory mark on top of the foreign odours they detect through their sense of smell, thus marking their territory. However, this behaviour is not always perceived as such by their owners, who see it as a destructive impulse.

This misunderstanding prompted an international research team to investigate the factors influencing this behaviour in domestic cats. To do so, they questioned over 1,200 feline owners living in France about the daily lives of their pets, as well as the nature and frequency of their scratching. The researchers found a correlation between certain environmental/behav-

Providing safe hiding places, elevated observation spots and ample play opportunities can also help alleviate stress and engage the cat in more constructive activities.

Dr Yasemin Salgirli Demirbas

ioral factors and increased scratching behaviour in cats.

The presence of young children in the home is one of them.

Cats are more inclined to scratch when in daily contact with children, their presence being a source of stress for them.

The same phenomenon can be observed in felines that have been overstimulated during a play session with their human parent. Scratching objects helps them to calm down and relieve stress-related bodily tension.

Nocturnal hyperactivity can-

have an impact on scratching behaviour, too. Cats who are very active after dark often let off steam by scratching the furniture around them.

A cat's personality also has a role to play. Unsurprisingly, aggressive or boisterous felines are more likely to scratch sofas, carpets and other home furnishings.

While some aggravating factors, such as the cat's personality or the presence of young children, are impossible to change, others can be adjusted. For example, a cat tree or scratching post can be placed in areas of the house where cats feel more relaxed and less stressed.

"Providing safe hiding places, elevated observation spots and ample play opportunities can also help alleviate stress and engage the cat in more constructive activities," explains Dr Yasemin Salgirli Demirbas, a veterinary researcher at Ankara University, Türkiye, and first author of the study, in a statement quoted by Phys.org.

It's important to remember that play is very beneficial to a cat's health. It's how they express their natural hunting instincts. Regular play sessions help stimulate the predatory behaviour of indoor cats, and channel their energy.

This can help minimise the risk of your pet attacking your furniture and other expensive furnishings, as well as strengthening the bond between you. — AFP

TERIMA KASIH

DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

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