



JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR

LAPORAN PEMANTAUAN MEDIA

7 MEI 2026 (KHAMIS)

Pet Owners, Shops Facing The Crunch

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
NST	Nation	6	7 Mei

6 | NEWS / Nation

RIISING COST OF LIVING

PET OWNERS, SHOPS FACING THE CRUNCH

Spending slows as higher import and transport costs push up prices across animal feed and supplies

HUSNINA NABIHAH
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE rising cost of living and logistics expenses are beginning to weigh on pet owners and pet shops.

Shop operators said even though customer numbers remain stable, spending per visit had dropped significantly as consumers adjust to tighter budgets.

Najihah Ahmad, 39, owner of Pantai Dalam Petshop here said customers were still coming in, but buying less.

"Previously, customers would spend around RM60 per visit, but now it is closer to RM40. That is about a 40 per cent drop in purchasing power," she said.

She added that while shops were still selling existing stock at old prices, suppliers had announced increases due to higher import costs.

"So far, local suppliers sourcing brands from overseas have confirmed price hikes, and new price lists have been released.

"Some suppliers dealing in Turkish products have issued memos indicating price increases starting June," she said.

"Once new stock arrives at a higher cost, we will have no choice but to revise prices. Logistics and diesel costs will push prices further," she said, noting her sales had declined between 20 and 30 per cent.

At the Al-Husaini Pet Shop in Hulu Langat, imported pet food brands had also become expensive. The owner's son, Mohamad Al-Husaini, 21, said several overseas products had recorded price increases.

"One American brand rose from about RM118 to RM135 at the end of February, while another brand increased by around RM3," he said.

"Customers have complained, and others decided not to buy after seeing the new prices."

He also noted occasional supply disruptions, with some products delayed due to transport issues, further affecting sales.

Pet owners were also adjusting their spending habits.

Wong Yat Wal, 61, a stall owner in Puchong who owns two dogs, said the price of her imported pet food had increased from less than RM80 to nearly RM100.

"I now have to be very alert for online discounts and promotions," she said.

Cat owner Rizana Mohamad Radwan, 53, a librarian in Shah Alam, said she had started budgeting carefully and opting for mid-range options.

"I compare prices between shops and look for sales before buying. One brand costs RM16, so I switched to a cheaper option at RM13," she said.

Similar sentiments were shared by pet owners on social media.

A Facebook user, @KhalidJusoh, wrote: "I have 46 cats. The rising costs have really affected my finances. I run a small business from home, and it is getting harder to manage expenses."

Another user, @BlackGhostTheOneSingle, said: "I used to spend RM200 for over 10kg and go through 20kg a month for eight cats. Now I only buy 10kg for RM60."

Another user, @Maria Firdz, a rabbit owner, said prices had increased, particularly for alfalfa hay.

Industry players warned that the situation may worsen in the coming months.

Surrenders and abandonment rise, shelters bear the brunt

KUALA LUMPUR: Animal shelters are facing mounting pressure as rising costs are causing more owners to surrender their pets while adoption rates decline sharply.

Operators say financial strain among pet owners is contributing to a surge in requests to rehome animals.

They warn that without intervention or greater public support, more animals will be abandoned as economic pressures persist.

Muhamad Hashim Mohamad Duni, 66, who runs Rumah Amanah shelter in Hulu Langat, said requests to take in cats had risen significantly.

"Previously, I would receive about 10 messages, but in April alone, it increased to around 100 requests on social media," he

told the *New Straits Times*.

"I also noticed more cats being left outside the shelter, especially towards the end of February." Hashim, who had taken in about 400 cats and five dogs since 2020, said he recently accepted 14 cats from a family.

Hashim said the shelter was also trying to limit the number of animals to take in as financial constraints made it difficult to expand operations.

"If we take in more pets, we will need more staff. But who is going to pay for them?"

"Currently, two people are enough. If I add more, I will have to pay more salaries."

He added that irresponsible individuals were dumping cats at his shelter.

Navvinderan Mahenderan, 33, owner of Pawtrian Shelter in Klang, said his facility had been receiving between 20 and 30 calls from February to April from owners seeking to surrender their dogs.

"We have even encountered cases where animals were abandoned or left roaming because owners could no longer cope with their care."

However, limited space and rising operating costs had forced the shelter to turn away some cases. Adoption rates had also dropped significantly.

"Last year, we saw up to eight adoptions per week. This year, there is hardly any."

He said many people were hesitant to commit due to financial concerns.

With 126 dogs and 23 cats currently under the shelter's care, Navvinderan had also delayed expansion plans due to rising material and construction costs.



Pantai Dalam Petshop owner Najihah Ahmad showing the products in her shop, which are mostly imported. NSTP PIX BY HUSNINA NABIHAH



Librarian Rizana Mohamad Radwan has started budgeting carefully and opting for mid-range options for her cat.



Rumah Amanah founder Muhamad Hashim says his shelter is trying to limit the number of animals as financial constraints made it difficult to expand operations.



Pawtrian Shelter owner Navvinderan Mahenderan says he has encountered cases where animals are abandoned because owners can no longer cope with their care.

TERIMA KASIH

DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR