



Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister **Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek** feeding a horse at the Federal Territory Veterinary Services Department's **Animal Welfare Day** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Hafiz Sohaimi

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More veterinary hospitals planned

KUALA LUMPUR: The Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Ministry plans to build more veterinary hospitals under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP), said its minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

He said the move was to provide better veterinary facilities and services as such services were lacking. Currently there is only one veterinary hospital available here.

"We plan to build as many as we can. There should at least be an additional three or four hospitals (in Kuala Lumpur).

"It is our commitment to forward this plan to the Economic Planning Unit and Finance Ministry to include this under the 12MP," he said after launching the National Animal Welfare Day at the Federal Territory Veterinary Services Department here yesterday.

Shabery said the growth of veterinary hospitals must be on a par with the construction of general hospitals in providing treatment and services to the public.

However, he said, the public should give the Veterinary Services Department some time to address the shortage of veterinarians and be willing to wait before being attended to.

On another issue, he advised farmers and animal breeders to be prepared in facing floods and high tide phenomenon, and not confine their pets and livestock.

"We have made the necessary preparations.

"For example, when we receive information of livestock being transferred or trapped, we will immediately deliver food supplies so the animals will not starve," he said.

Bernama