



*JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA*

## **LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA**

**11 Mac 2018**

1. Handle with care; The Star
2. Dogs and cats top list in animal cruelty cases; The Star

OLEH:

**SEKSYEN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT DAN ANTARABANGSA  
BAHAGIAN PERANCANGAN  
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA**

MEDIA CETAK		MEDIA ELEKTRONIK	
<input type="checkbox"/> BERITA HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> THE MALAY MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> BERITA HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> THE MALAY MAIL
<input type="checkbox"/> UTUSAN MALAYSIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE STAR	<input type="checkbox"/> UTUSAN MALAYSIA	<input type="checkbox"/> THE STAR
<input type="checkbox"/> SINAR HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> KOSMO	<input type="checkbox"/> SINAR HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> KOSMO
<input type="checkbox"/> HARIAN METRO	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STRAIT TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> HARIAN METRO	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STRAIT TIME
<input type="checkbox"/> THE SUN	<input type="checkbox"/> SUNDAY STAR	<input type="checkbox"/> THE SUN	
<b>RUANGAN : Focus</b>	<b>M/SURAT:</b>	<input type="text" value="21"/>	<b>RUANGAN :</b>
PERKARA			
<input type="checkbox"/> DASAR JABATAN	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT EKSPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> SISTEM KUALITI	<input type="checkbox"/> PELBAGAI
<input type="checkbox"/> KESIHATAN AWAM	<input type="checkbox"/> KAWALAN PENYAKIT	<input type="checkbox"/> PENGUATKUASAAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KEBAJIKAN HAIWAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TEKNOLOGI VETERINAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ADUAN	
TARIKH			
11 Mac 2018			

# Handle with care

To strengthen animal welfare, the Government will come up with guidelines on the proper treatment of animals used in school lessons and universities by this year. But animal activists want the dissection of animals like frogs and mice to be reduced or stopped completely.

**Stories by YUEN MEIKENG**  
meikeng@thestar.com.my

SOME may feel squeamish with them. But frogs and mice have an important role in education, particularly in science and biology classes.

By this year, guidelines on how to properly handle and treat animals used in lessons at schools and universities will be finalised by the Veterinary Services Department (DVS).

The aim of this move is to ensure animals used in teaching are handled as humanely as possible.

"The guideline is still in its early stages of being drafted. So, the details are yet to be confirmed. "But we will finalise it within this year to be endorsed by the Education Ministry," DVS director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam tells the *Sunday Star*.

Once the Education Ministry agrees to the guidelines, circulars can be sent to schools and universities which use animals in teaching. Dr Quaza Nizamuddin says they will serve as a reference point on how to properly treat and keep the animals while ensuring all aspects of animal welfare are adhered to.

While anyone found to be mistreating animals can be charged under the new Animal Welfare Act, he hopes the guidelines will prevent such cases of cruelty.

He says the DVS is also engaging with the ministry to include an animal welfare module in the country's education system to inculcate love and compassion for animals among children and youths.

"We are looking into introducing this module at all levels, from pre-school to tertiary education.

"For example, children in pre-school can be taught using a pictorial guide on how to treat dogs and

**We are trying to create a generation of people who know and respect animal welfare.**

Veterinary Services Department director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam

higher learning. Examples of small animals to be covered under the guideline are mice, rabbits, frogs, cats and dogs, it adds.

Supporting the guideline, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Chong Sin Woon says it is a good step to promote more awareness.

"The new guidelines will also make it easier for schools and teachers to understand the proper methods to handle animals used in lessons," he said.

Chong adds that there is a need to have a balanced education, where students are also taught to appreciate animal life.

Animal welfare groups hope the guidelines will uphold animal rights, with some calling for the live dissection of animals to be stopped.

Animal rights activist and lawyer Wong De Lynn says any guidelines to reduce harm to animals and promote better animal welfare will be good.

"This is not just for animals, but it will help create a more responsible and compassionate society," she says.

But Wong urges the Government to reduce or completely do away with animal dissections in school.

"Live animal dissection undermines respect for life and desensitises young people to the pain and suffering of living beings.

"It is counter-intuitive to teach potential doctors and veterinarians that they have to take lives in order to heal and save lives," she says.

Wong proposes that the guide-

**Animal cruelty cases**

No. of complaints		Cases settled in court	
2013	256	2013	13
2014	266	2014	7
2015	334	2015	7
2016	463	2016	9
2017	516	2017	4

  

No. of DVS operations		Fines imposed (RM)	
2013	4,542	2013	1,795
2014	6,183	2014	2,260
2015	6,248	2015	10,100
2016	5,787	2016	17,900
2017	5,818	2017	15,000

Cases investigated: 2013: 29, 2014: 24, 2015: 19, 2016: 15, 2017: 27

Source: Veterinary Services Department (DVS)

lines by the DVS can include alternatives to dissections including computer simulations, interactive software and preserved dissection models.

"Or simply, there can be a reduction in animals dissected. For example, dissecting one animal per classroom instead of one per student, will be a cost-effective, logical and more compassionate option," she says.

Wong adds that there is no evidence that students who directly carry out live animal dissection perform better academically or have greater potential as biologists, doctors or vets.

Lost Animal Souls Shelter founder and president Vignes Chelliah is also against the dissection of animals, calling it a cruel act.

"It should be outlawed.

"We learn about the human respiratory system through textbooks. We don't need to dissect a live human being for this. Similarly, why should we dissect a live animal?" she questions.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Selangor chairman Christine Chin welcomes the guidelines if they are able to raise the standards of treating ani-

mals used in education.

If the animals are not properly kept, it will be akin to cruelty.

However, she too feels that there are better ways for students to learn than to dissect a live animal.

"There are ways to circumvent it, such as by using video presentations," says Chin.

She feels it is important for students and the public to be educated with humane methods in treating animals.

The DVS, on its part, has indicated that it will look into the possibility of banning animal dissection in school lessons.

National Union of the Teaching Profession secretary-general Harry Tan believes it will be ideal for the authorities to consult the union about the new guidelines.

"We need to study the reasons for this move before we can comment," he says.

MEDIA CETAK		MEDIA ELEKTRONIK	
<input type="checkbox"/> BERITA HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> THE MALAY MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> BERITA HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> THE MALAY MAIL
<input type="checkbox"/> UTUSAN MALAYSIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE STAR	<input type="checkbox"/> UTUSAN MALAYSIA	<input type="checkbox"/> THE STAR
<input type="checkbox"/> SINAR HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> KOSMO	<input type="checkbox"/> SINAR HARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> KOSMO
<input type="checkbox"/> HARIAN METRO	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STRAIT TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> HARIAN METRO	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STRAIT TIME
<input type="checkbox"/> THE SUN	<input type="checkbox"/> SUNDAY STAR	<input type="checkbox"/> THE SUN	
<b>RUANGAN : Focus</b>	<b>M/SURAT:</b> <input type="text" value="21"/>	<b>RUANGAN :</b>	
PERKARA			
<input type="checkbox"/> DASAR JABATAN	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT EKSPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> SISTEM KUALITI	<input type="checkbox"/> PELBAGAI
<input type="checkbox"/> KESIHATAN AWAM	<input type="checkbox"/> KAWALAN PENYAKIT	<input type="checkbox"/> PENGUATKUASAAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KEBAJIKAN HAIWAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TEKNOLOGI VETERINAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ADUAN	
TARIKH			
11 Mac 2018			

## Dogs and cats top list in animal cruelty cases

ONE is man's best friend, while the other one supposedly has nine lives.

They are companion animals, but dogs and cats make up about 90% of animal cruelty cases reported to the Veterinary Services Department (DVS).

Animal abuse cases have been steadily rising over the past five years.

Last year, 510 animal cruelty complaints were received by the department – a 10% increase from 463 in 2016.

Department director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam attributes the increase in complaints to the stronger awareness among the public to report such crimes.

"It is now easier for the public to reach us due to the availability of avenues to make reports.

"We have set up a WhatsApp number, making it quicker and easier," he says.

And as for dogs and cats bearing the brunt of man's ugly side, Dr

Quaza Nizamuddin said the big percentage is likely because these animals live in close proximity to humans.

"Most cases involve small animals, like pets. Others involve livestock and farm animals.

"The department and animal NGOs are constantly promoting responsible ownership among the public," he says.

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin also credits the various animal rights NGOs who serve as an extra pair of eyes that look out for abuse cases to report.

The DVS itself has also been monitoring the treatment of animals, with 5,618 operations conducted last year.

The Animal Welfare Act was enforced in July last year, bringing with it heavier penalties for animal abusers.

Under the law, those who abuse animals will face a fine of between RM20,000 and RM100,000, a maximum jail term of three years, or both.

This is a significant change compared to penalties found in its predecessor, the Animals Act, which punishes animal abusers with a maximum fine of RM50,000, one year in jail, or both.

At present, there is a six-month "cooling period" for the general public to get educated about animal welfare before cases can be prosecuted under the new Act.

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin says rules and regulations for the new law are still pending, but should there be sufficient evidence, cases can be charged under the Animal Welfare Act.

"Trying to prove cruelty is not as easy as it sounds. We have to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

"We are trying to improve evidence gathering. But at the same time, we need full cooperation from the public.

"Those who wish to lodge complaints should be as specific as possible. Otherwise, we will have problems building a case," he says, adding that the identity of com-

plainants will be confidential while video or photographic evidence will strongly aid a case.

He relates that there are times when complainants refuse to divulge too many details because the abuser is their neighbour and may suspect they reported the case.

Above all though, Dr Quaza Nizamuddin wants the public to be more responsible pet owners.

"There are proactive measures in place. But it's not all about taking action against offenders. We want to promote a better mindset and attitude towards animals," he says.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Selangor chairman Christine Chin suggests that the DVS work with local councils to highlight responsible ownership to the public under the new Act.

"This is one of the most pressing issues to be addressed, in view of the high number of cruelty cases involving pets," she says.

Chin speaks of how some dog owners in Malaysia tie up their pets for the entire day – an action that can make the dogs aggressive and mentally unstable.

"In Germany, dog owners are not allowed to leash their dog for over four hours. The same should be applied here," she says.

Pointing out that the problem of stray dogs and cats is also caused by humans, she hopes the new Act should swiftly address the duties of pet owners and cruelty offences, which includes abandoning pets.

"Once the public knows they can be punished for being uncaring towards their pets, they will buck up," says Chin, who is also a member of the consultative committee that assists the Animal Welfare Board.

Apart from pets, she laments that livestock animals are also subject to animal cruelty.

"We hope the DVS will also set up guidelines for farms as well to further beef up animal welfare," Chin proposes.