

Help animals to beat the heat

WE have all been feeling the discomfort of the current heat wave and we are grateful for the many reminders and advisories from the relevant authorities on how to stay healthy in this weather.

But there are unfortunate animals out there who are also suffering in this severe heat and I would like to appeal to fellow Malaysians to help them.

I first noticed the plight of these animals when my husband, while waiting for me in a restaurant, saw a cat that looked so weak it was about to tumble over. I asked if the cat was sick and he said no. Then I remembered the heat wave and I thought, "Gosh, the cats, especially the strays, have no one to give them water. The drains are dry so they have no access to water, and thus they are dehydrated."

A few days later, I was at the KTM station in Bandar Tasik Selatan, changing from one platform (RapidKL) to another (KTM) when something caught my attention. As I approached it, I saw a seemingly lifeless cat lying on the ground but the slight movement of its stomach told me it was alive. I rushed to four nearby shops at the station, hoping to buy a plastic container which I would fill up with water to give to the cat. Unfortunately, not one of the shops sold the item I wanted. Finally, I went to the last shop which sold waffles and asked whether I could get a plastic container there. The young girl at the counter told me she didn't have any but she would give me an empty ice cream container.



She didn't charge me for the container but she asked what I wanted it for. I shared with her my concern for the cat and asked if she would give me some water as well.

When I placed the water near the cat, it did not move at all. I then dipped my finger into the water and rubbed this on the lips of the cat. I was so happy when I saw it get up and quickly drink the water.

I saw another weak and motionless cat again near a restaurant where I was having lunch. After finishing my meal, I went to the nearest pet shop to buy a water container. I gently negotiated with the restaurant worker to help me by putting water regularly in the container and to place it near the restaurant for the stray

cats. I visit this restaurant regularly now and I am touched that the busy worker has kept his promise to fill the container with fresh water every day.

I appeal to Malaysians, those who love animals (cats, dogs and others) and those who may not, to please give a little thought, care, kindness and some water for our strays in this present heat wave.

Even if some of you may not like to have animals in or near your homes or gardens, please consider placing containers with water on the roadside for these unfortunate creatures.

**SHERIFFAH NOOR KHAMSEAH
AL-IDID DATUK SYED AHMAD
IDID
Petaling Jaya**