

## Vet chief: Animals also suffer from heatstroke

**ALOR SETAR:** The current extreme hot weather brought on by the El Nino phenomenon since the beginning of the month has put not just people, but also animals, at risk of suffering from heatstroke.

The heatwave saw temperatures in the state soaring to 39°C on March 20.

Kedah Veterinary Services De-

partment director Dr Kamaliah Ghazali said pets could also suffer from heatstroke if left outside without shade or water for long periods of time and that could be life-threatening.

However, she said so far, there had been no reports of cases of heatstroke in animals.

"Animals suffering from heat

stroke will show symptoms such as breathing and movement difficulties while in the case of dogs, they will repeatedly stick out their tongues," she said

Dr Kamaliah said if pets begin to show such symptoms, their owners must place them in a shaded area and try to reduce body temperature using ice or water.

"Fans and air-conditioners can also be used to reduce body temperature but if the symptoms continue, the animals need to be taken immediately to a veterinary clinic for treatment."

She advised owners to always fill up the water bowls of their pets and not leave them out in the heat, especially in the afternoon. - Bernama