MALAY MAIL
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A Penang Island City Council worker tries to catch a dog in Air Itam as part of a statewide culling of strays. — Picture by Bernama

# Organisation to provide 40,000 doses of vaccine

**GEORGE TOWN** — The Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS), a registered charity organisation based in the United Kingdom, will provide 40,000 doses of rabies vaccine to Penang to tackle the current outbreak.

Its chief executive, Luke Gamble, said the vaccine had to go through various processes but should arrive in Malaysia within the next two months.

He said this flagship programme would be conducted by a team from WVS and the vaccine would be fully sponsored.

"We plan to vaccinate about 70 per cent of Penang's dog population over the next six months with assistance from our team members," he told reporters aftera meeting with Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng here yesterday.

Gamble said the vaccine would need to go through the Department of Veterinary Services in Malaysia before it was allowed to be used on the street.

He said the target was to vaccinate 70 per cent of the dog population in the state.

The senior chief assistant director of the biosecurity and phyto sanitary management division at the Department of Veterinary Services, Dr Rozanah Asmah Abd Samad, said that according to standard operating procedure, all new vaccines had to be evaluated by the department before they were allowed to be used.

"Because of the current emergency scenario, we may need a month to evaluate the vaccine provided by WVS before we can approve it," she said.

However, Dr Rozanah Asmah said, about 750 doses of vaccine provided by the federal government would arrive in Penang on Friday.

"The Penang government has also ordered another 5,000 stocks of vaccines but we have yet to determine its arrival date," she said.

According to data from the department, 90 cases of dog bites have been reported since in Penang since Sept 16, and 883 stray dogs had been caught or put to sleep.

It also reported that 12 dogs had been put under quarantine, and 443 dogs had been vaccinated. — Bernama