



JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA

LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

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DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

**SEKSYEN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA**

Penternak mengeluh sukar dapat pekerja asing

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ALOR SETAR: Penternak merayu prosedur pengambilan pekerja asing di ladang ayam dipermudah bagi menjamin bekalan bahan itu terutama menjelang musim perayaan tidak lama lagi.

Presiden Bismi Empire Sdn. Bhd. (Ayam Bismi), Jaffri Ahmad, 57, berkata, pihaknya khuatir bekalan ayam terjejas memandangkan permohonan pengambilan buruh warga asing ditolak ekoran pelbagai masalah teknikal.

"Permohonan Ayam Bismi untuk buruh asing ditolak kerana masalah teknikal. Syarikat kena buat iklan baharu untuk ambil pekerja tempatan sedangkan kita ketahui tentang kesukaran untuk mendapatkan orang tempatan bekerja di sektor yang kotor dan berat.

"Sekarang banyak syarikat ternakan ayam terdesak memerlukan pekerja dan prosedur baharu ini dikhuatiri menjejaskan kemasukan ayam sekali gus bekalan ayam kelak," katanya di sini semalam.

Tambahnya, sebagai syarikat yang mampu menternak



SEKTOR perladangan ayam memerlukan ramai buruh asing untuk melakukan kerja-kerja yang berat. - UTUSAN/JAMLIAH ABDULLAH

sehingga dua juta setiap bulan, Ayam Bismi memerlukan sehingga 150 pekerja di ladang.

"Kini Ayam Bismi hanya mempunyai 90 pekerja dan memerlukan lagi 60 pekerja atau bekalan ayam terus terjejas," katanya.

Jelasnya, pihaknya memerlukan

jumlah pekerja yang ramai untuk melakukan pelbagai tugas seperti memastikan reban bersih dan bebas daripada sebarang serangan haiwan liar termasuk pemakanan.

Tambahnya, pekerja juga perlu mengangkat dedak berat-ratus kilogram dan mengaut najis ayam.

Jelasnya, kebanyakan kerja tersebut hanya sanggup dilakukan oleh buruh-buruh asing yang datang semata-mata komitmennya untuk mencari wang.

"Ada pekerja tempatan yang bekerja sebagai penyelia dan pengurus ladang sahaja," katanya.

Zon kekal pengeluaran ayam jamin bekalan tak terjejas

Kuala Lumpur: Cadangan mewujudkan zon kekal pengeluaran ayam dilihat sebagai langkah baik bagi memastikan sekuriti rantai bekalan makanan itu terjamin setiap masa tanpa dipengaruhi mana-mana situasi.

Penasihat Persekutuan Persatuan-Persatuan Penternak Malaysia (FLFAM), Datuk Jeffrey Ng, berkata langkah itu akan menyaksikan keseluruhan proses pengeluaran ayam diselaraskan di bawah satu bumbung, sekali gus dapat membekalkan ternakan mengikut keperluan dan permintaan rakyat negara ini.

Katanya, isu harga ayam menjadi topik hangat kerana pengeluaran kurang dengan satu daripada puncanya disebabkan harga makanan ternakan berkenaan seperti jagung dan gandum naik berkali ganda sehingga kerajaan terpaksa mengimport dari luar.

"Jadi, dengan membangunkan zon kekal ini, asalkan ia dapat menjamin bekalan mencukupi dan harganya tidak membebankan rakyat, itu memang menjadi hasrat kami.

"Paling penting kita perlu cari jalan yang adil bagaimana pas-

Empat syor atasi isu harga, bekalan ayam



tikan semua orang dalam rantai industri ini dapat jana pendapatan tanpa disekat.

"Bagi saya, setiap pihak ada peranan penting dalam proses pengeluaran ayam. Lebih elok jika

ada mana-mana kelemahan, kita bantu perbetulkan dan perbaiki supaya keadaan menjadi lebih baik," katanya.

Mengulas cadangan Pensyarah Jabatan Perniagaan Tani dan Ekonomi Biosumber, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Prof Datuk Dr M Nasir Shamsudin supaya Malaysia mewujudkan zon kekal pengeluaran ayam, Jeffrey berkata, kerajaan juga perlu memberi perhatian kepada semua makanan supaya bekalan terjamin setiap masa.

"Kita perlu wartakan tempat untuk menghasilkan makanan

secara kekal bukan hanya ayam.

"Jika tiada tindakan dari sebarang, kita bimbang suatu hari nanti, rakyat tidak cukup makan dan terpaksa bergantung kepada import, sekali gus harganya akan membebankan kita," katanya.

Pada sidang media baru-baru ini, Dr M Nasir mengemukakan langkah penyelesaian bagi mengatasi isu ayam di Malaysia dengan kewujudan zon kekal pengeluaran ayam bermula dari proses penternakan, penyembelihan dan pemprosesan di bawah satu bumbung sebelum diedarkan kepada pengguna.



Koh hopes the new law will offer leeway for rescuers to keep more animals at home.



Lim says shelters need additional time to adjust to the new requirements.



Sharil says the guideline should be enforced on those starting out, not existing operators like him.

Improve enforcement and the p-woof is in the pudding

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"I believe its success relies critically on enforcement efficacy. Most parties that take the initiative to apply for the licence will likely be confident of qualifying."

"It is those who do not meet the requirements, such as backyard breeders who operate largely unseen, who need to be checked on."

"According to the licensing requirements, independent home-based rescuers are allowed to keep the same number of animals as pet owners which is 20 cats, and for most homes, two dogs."

"On PetFinder.my, 20,000 stray animals are currently seeking adoption, with over 80% from independent rescuers keeping the animals at home."

"We are concerned that the new regulation may lead to two possible consequences: that rescuers (especially for dogs) will be deterred from saving animals for fear of prosecution, or licensed shelters will be overwhelmed with too many animals," he said.

Koh hoped the emphasis of the enforcement would be to address the issue of animals living in deplorable conditions.

He suggested that independent rescuers be allowed to maintain more animals as long as the animals were kept in safe, acceptable conditions and they did not inconvenience the neighbours and were verified by an animal welfare organisation.

PetFinder.my is an animal welfare website focused on controlling the population of stray animals by way of education and adoption.

PAWS Animal Welfare Society shelter manager Edward Lim said the new regulation was good to ensure better handling of animal enclosures to avoid overcrowding. However, he said shelters typically arranged their setup to meet their needs, therefore they would need additional time to adjust to the new requirements.

"DVS briefed us on what is required and our current location won't be able to fully comply. However, we have been planning for a new building and as it is still

at the planning stage, it will be able to adhere to the new standards," he said.

Lim said as with any new regulation, there were bound to be glitches.

"I hope the focus will be on ensuring a better environment and welfare for the animals; and businesses are guided and given enough time to comply with the standards," he said.

Along Pet House owner Salha Mohamad said the new regulation would protect her business and instil confidence in customers.

Salha, who sells cat supplies and offers boarding and grooming services, said that with specific guidelines on the standards that needed to be met, her staff could defend themselves against any accusations of malpractice.

"For instance when a pet owner, who had sent his cat for boarding, later claimed that it had an infection during its stay here although it might have already had that condition earlier, we would be able to defend ourselves knowing that we had adhered to the DVS guide-

Animal activities that must be licensed under Animal Welfare (Fees of Licensing) Regulations 2021



lines," she noted.

Owner of pet boarding and grooming services, GE Pets, Carlos Hurtes said DVS staff visited his business about once in two years to check on its operations.

"Apart from checking the enclosures, they also checked our hygiene practices and how we disposed of waste products."

"I have been in this business for 20 years and I do not think there is anything new, but anyway it is good to have proper regulations in place for all operators to adhere to," he said.

However, Gombak Horse Racing Club owner Sharil Daniel Rahmat said it was unfair to enforce the new regulation on operators like him, who had been in business for a long time.

"I have 16 horses and am giving

them the best care possible for all of the 11 years that I have been offering horse-riding services."

"If the government is truly concerned about the welfare of my horses, it should have helped me feed them in the last two years as I was running on my reserves to feed them."

"My appeal for cash aid from the government was not entertained," he added.

Sharil said the guidelines should instead be enforced on those starting out.

"People like me have invested a lot in the current set-up and will not be able to make changes to suit the new requirements," he said.

He also said that DVS must get its priorities right by looking at the welfare of animals that were not getting proper care, such as strays.

Fee hike sans benefits making dog owners hot under the collar

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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PETS are special to their owners who would go to great lengths to ensure they are well protected.

They say that despite paying for the annual licence, there is almost no beneficial service provided by the councils.

Recently the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) increased the dog licence fee from RM10 to RM30.

After the fee increase, dog owners are asking MBPJ to provide a subsidised veterinary clinic and a dog park. Currently, dogs are not allowed at MBPJ public parks.

Long-time Petaling Jaya resident M. Maniam said the hike was unnecessary because dog owners did not enjoy any services from the city council.

He said it was time for the city council to consider some amenities for dog owners.

"We need a council-owned park for people to take their dogs to," he said.

He suggested for the city council to impose strict rules such as allowing only licensed dogs at the dedicated park.

"The city council could also open a subsidised animal clinic. Private veterinary clinics are expensive and most of them are not open on weekends," he said.

Maniam said he once found an



Dog owners propose that MBPJ provide a dog park that is segregated for big dogs and smaller ones. - Filepic

injured dog in his garden and took it to a private veterinarian who quoted him RM1,000 for treatment.

"I found a cheaper alternative. With cheaper veterinary government clinics, more animals could also be spayed and neutered," he said.

Another dog owner, May Huang said a council-owned dog park must be supervised.

"I would like to be divided so that the small dogs be in one area and the bigger ones in another

area. We need fenced parks."

"MBPJ could hire someone to oversee the activities and to advise owners to pick up after their dogs," she said, adding that there were successfully-run private dog parks in the city.

May, who has two dogs, also suggested for Petaling Jaya to have an animal hospital.

K. Sivam said the city council did not have a dog pound and instead relied on non-profit animal shelter PAWS Animal Welfare Society.

"The RM30 licence fee is reasonable. However it would be good for the city council to consider amenities for dog owners too."

Independent animal rescuer Kamini Rajendran said that in some countries, most dogs were neutered hence the stray population was under control.

This would be possible here, she said, if there were subsidised veterinary clinics.

She highlighted that in Malaysia, pet rescuers relied on donations

from their peers or other animal lovers if they wanted to treat stray animals, too.

"Treating injured, sick animals, especially dogs, is expensive. Bills can run into thousands just like medical bills for people."

"There are cases where sick animals are abandoned by irresponsible owners partly because the medical fees are too expensive," she added.

Kamini has four dogs, three of which were rescued, and four rescued cats.

She said a council-operated dog park could offer owners of all ages to socialise while walking their pets.

Such parks would also enable people to walk their dogs in a safe space instead of exercising them on roads, she added.

An MBPJ spokesperson said the increase in dog licence fee was approved under the local by-law in 2007.

However, MBPJ only implemented the increase in stages from RM10 to RM30 in 2018.

The local by-law allowed maximum of two dogs per landed space of 1,000sqm. This must also be on the ground floor of the premises.

A maximum of four dogs can be kept on a land that is over 1,000sqm.

No animals are allowed to be kept or sheltered on any floors above the ground floor.