



**PRESS RELEASE FROM SPCA SELANGOR by Christine Chin, Chairman SPCA Selangor**

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via fax and email

**NOT ZERO DOGS BUT ZERO IRRESPONSIBLE OWNERS Towards STRAY  
FREE MALAYSIA**

Following an animated discussion with the representatives from **Animal Welfare Malaysian Kennel Association(MKA), Paws Animal Welfare Society(PAWS), PetsUnite, Bivai Special Dogs, and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals(SPCA)**, a **Joint Memorandum** was submitted to Dato Seri Ong Ka Ting, the Minister of Housing and Local Government , to address the current dog ownership issues that have been debated by many Malaysians in the media and elsewhere.

The value of dogs to society is tremendous. Apart from providing love, devotion, loyalty and companionship, dogs also provide us with security by protecting us, our family and our property and give indispensable help to the disabled. Many governments use them in narcotic tracking, search and rescue operation, bomb detection and in times of war to retrieve wounded soldiers.

It is our duty as advocates of animal welfare to enclose this **Joint Memorandum** in the hope that socially-accepted solutions can be implemented to serve all segments of Malaysian society. Far from merely insisting on our rights to dog-ownership, this joint memorandum takes into account the **penalizing of irresponsible dog ownership** and **promoting responsible dog ownership**.

Over the years, pet-keeping has become a very important part of Malaysian lifestyle. The value of dogs in our society is tremendous. This memorandum seeks to achieve an optimally acceptable state for all owners, non-owners and their beloved pets. It seeks to **PENALISE irresponsible pet owners** and **PROMOTE responsible pet ownership**.

**SPCA** continues to meet regularly with officers from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to hammer out a palatably suitable and effective range of solutions via the amendment of by-laws.

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The **Joint Memorandum** has the following proposals:-

- **ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VICIOUS DOG ATTACKS**

1. Attacking dogs impounded, assessed by DVS and if necessary euthanised.
2. **Stiffer penalties/fines** for the irresponsible owner of the attacking dog.
3. **Ban on dog ownership** for second-time offenders
4. Restricted breeds must pass strict temperament inspection regulations at point of entry. MKA has volunteered to provide this inspection service at no charge. This list of restricted breeds to be regularly reviewed by the DVS.

- **ZERO TOLERANCE FOR IRRESPONSIBLE OWNERS**

Sensible and effective animal legislation to counter serious nuisances caused by noise, fecal pollution and abandonment of pets like :-

1. *the service of abatement notice to the owner signed by at least 3 households living within hearing distance.* If nuisance continues after a fortnight from the date of service, the owner can be apprehended through court or fines imposed by the Municipal
2. Dog-fouling rules like *if a dog defecates anywhere in a public area and the person walking the dog fails to remove its faeces, that person and the owner shall be guilty of an offence.*
3. *Stiff penalty/fine be imposed on the irresponsible owner for the willful and improper abandonment of their pets.*
4. Increase the current Cruelty Fine from RM200 and/or jail time to RM10,000 and/or jail time (Singapore currently imposes S\$10,000; San Francisco currently imposes US\$25,000).

- **COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING FOR ALL DOGS**

MKA which has an on going microchipping programme, can advise & assist.

- **COMPULSORY TRAINING FOR ALL LARGE BREED WORKING DOGS** (over 2 ft. in height at shoulder)

1. **CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC)** Training & Obedience Course are currently conducted by MKA trainers who have a wealth of experience and CGC can also be provided by other Canine training centers following International CGC syllabus.

- **RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP (RPO) COURSE/WORKSHOP**

All dog owners must undergo a **RPO** Course (SPCA can be instrumental) to instill good animal practices that include but not limited to :-

1. Providing adequate food, water, shelter and medical attention when required

Species	Minimum Floor Area Sq.ft.	Minimum Width Ft.	Minimum Height Ft.	Maximum No. of animals
<b>Puppies (8-16 wks)</b>				
Less than 3kg	7 sq.ft	2	1' 7"	4
Over 3kg	7 sq.ft	2	1' 7"	2
<b>Adult Dogs (height)</b>				
Less than 1'4"	16 sq.ft	3	6	1
1'4" to 2'4"	25 sq.ft.	3	6	1
Over 2'4"	36 sq.ft	3	6	1

*Statistics provided by*

*Ministry of Agriculture Malaysia, Department of Veterinary Services – Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Pets*

2. Pet dogs **should not** be caged or chained for more than 4 hours at a stretch. Chain length must be 4 times the length of the dog (for an average-sized of 2.5 ft, the chain length must be 10 ft). Free roaming time to cage/chained ratio should ideally be 3:1 i.e. for every caged/chained hour, the dog should receive 3 hours of free-roaming time.
3. **Spay/neuter** their pets to prevent unwanted litter and over-breeding.
4. Understand that a **pet is for life** and **lifestyle, time and financial considerations** should be taken into account before adopting or purchasing a pet.
5. A basic obedience training requirement that enhances the joy of dog ownership.
6. Be a **good neighbour** and avoid causing problems in your neighbourhood.

- **DIFFERENTIAL LICENSING FOR NEUTERED & UNNEUTERED PETS**

**Over-breeding is a man-made problem that can successfully be countered.**

1. **Lower license fees for spayed and neutered** dogs and **significantly higher license fees for those who are not**, to encourage pets to be spayed/neutered. This legislation has been proven to work well in many countries to combat the stray problem and over-population of companion animals as this **solves the**

**problem at source, with the least financial, social and moral cost to the government.**

2. **DBKL-SPCA-KLINIK KEMBIRI**, a dedicated spay/neuter clinic, jointly established by DBKL and SPCA in April 2003 provides highly-subsidised low cost spay/neuter services at an affordable RM60-RM90 for the economically-challenged segment of the public. The over-whelming success in terms of numbers spayed/neutered is testament to this much-needed service that Municipal Councils can adopt. **Spay/neuter is the single most effective method in reducing strays and thus preventing over-population of dogs and cats.**
- **HUMANE CAPTURE OF STRAYS, PROPER SHELTER/POUND MANAGEMENT & HUMANE EUTHANASIA**
    1. Dog catchers should be **licensed and properly trained** by veterinary authorities in **humane and effective** methods of capture that do not cause unnecessary suffering, pain or distress.
    2. Municipal pounds must be manned by a **permanent staff of properly-trained personnel** and a **permanent veterinarian** that oversees the shelter, the condition of animals brought in and administers humane euthanasia.
    3. There must be **7-10 large kennels** (please refer to table above for size considerations) to house animals brought in, 1 for each day's collection and the rest for **mums and pups, ill and injured dogs** that should be housed separately from the rest.
    4. Sufficient food, water and space must be available and kennels cleaned daily and disinfected regularly.

Department of Veterinary Services and SPCA will be able to assist in developing these guidelines.

- **DOG PARK**

Municipals should provide adequate open spaces where dog owners can exercise these dogs. MKA is willing to maintain one area in SELANGOR and KL.

- **LICENSING OF BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS**

**Unchecked and unlicensed commercial breeding establishments** not only produces sub-standard and unhealthy pedigrees but it also adds to the Municipal's list of headaches. Down the line, these pedigrees mate outside their pedigree and

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produce mixed or cross-breeds that are abandoned where they become strays or ferals and pose serious hygiene and social problems.

**Inspection before granting licenses to commercial breeders** ensures a higher standard of care these animals so deserve. Licensing and elevated license fees serve to weed out unscrupulous back-yard breeders and puppy mills.

**License conditions may include:**

- a. bitches are not mated if less than 18 months old
- b. bitches do not give birth to more than 4 litters in their lifetime
- c. bitches be given a 1 year rest before the next litter
- d. bitches be kept in humane and hygienic conditions and accurate records of mating and litters be maintained
- e. veterinary records including vaccinations etc must kept current and updated
- f. premises be made available for inspection by local authority or veterinarian.

● **SERVICE DOGS FOR THE DISABLED**

1. **Disabled persons who require service dogs** should be allowed full access to all public places. Rules and regulations apply to large working breed dogs.
2. License fees for service dogs should be **waived**.

● **INCREASE POSITIVE MEDIA EXPOSURE & EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All participants to this Memorandum fully appreciate the feelings of non dog owners/lovers and seek the successful and happy integration of dog owners/lovers to society by promoting the implementation of socially-acceptable solutions that encompass **APPROPRIATE DETERRENCE** and **PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP**.

**Governments role :-**

- i) Standardise licensing fees procedures for all states.
- ii) Standardise humane dog-catching and humane pound guidelines with the input of DVS and SPCA
- iii) Ensure that no unfair laws are enacted that target only one sector of society.

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## **Notes to Editors:**

**\* For more information please contact Christine Chin at the SPCA Selangor office on 03 4256 5312 or 03 4253 5179.**

- The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Selangor is an NGO which serves Selangor and the Federal Territory.
- SPCA Selangor was established in 1958 with the aim of protecting animals and birds and alleviating suffering.
- The SPCA is an NGO and therefore receives no government funding, relying entirely on donations from the public and local businesses to pay for its work.
- The SPCA's Animal Home at Ampang Jaya rehomes unwanted animals and has kennel space for 200 dogs and 150 cats. Animals are brought to the home by their owners who no longer want them, by our inspector rescuing animals from cruelty, or by concerned members of the public who rescue animals from their community.
- The SPCA would like to work in partnership with the people of Malaysia to ensure that they take responsibility to neuter their pets, give them adequate food, space, exercise, care and medical attention, and to be considerate neighbours.
- Further information for journalists can be found at [www.sPCA.org.my](http://www.sPCA.org.my)