



**Press Release - for Immediate Use - 12 June 2004**

## **SPCA Calls for Harsher Penalties for Animal Abuse**

Following the recent two cases brought to Court by Jabatan Haiwan Enforcement Officers (DVS), SPCA is appealing to the Courts and the Law makers and decision makers to take into account the seriousness of these cases and the inadequate penalties at present are being issued.

**The first case, a Breeders in Cheras** was fined RM200 for cruelty to 13 dogs, the charge was expected to be for each individual dog (i.e. 13 X RM200) and the lack of a ban of keeping animals after prosecution for cruelty means that each dog was returned to the owner to continue a life of suffering and production.

**The second case, a Daschund named Tim**, was chained so tightly round his neck that the chain had become embedded into the skin and a six inch wound exposed a bloody mess around his neck. The owner in this case was fined RM200 and had to spend one day in jail. The dog is to be returned to the owner. Tim is still recovering from his injury and several operations to remove the chain from his neck.

According to the Law in Malaysia the maximum fine for cruelty to animals is RM200 and/or 6 months imprisonment. SPCA is appealing both cases at present and will aim to have the 13 dogs and Tim surrendered to SPCA's animal home in Ampang Jaya.

**SPCA is appealing that the Animal Ordinance 1953 is amended to first of all increase the fine to a realistic fee (after all a pedigree puppy costs about RM1000 - 2000 today) and imposes a BAN on KEEPING ANIMALS following prosecution for CRUELTY.**

Please log onto SPCA website to add your name and voice to a petition appealing for amendments to the law protecting animals in Malaysia which will be handed over to the authorities at World Animal Day in October [www.spca.org.my](http://www.spca.org.my)

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