



Looking out: Some of the dogs that Tan keeps in his compound.

Neighbours troubled by canine lover

Segambut resident with more than 15 dogs causes a stir in neighbourhood

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A 65-year-old man in Taman Sri Segambut, Kuala Lumpur, has been keeping more than 15 dogs in his home to the dismay of his neighbours.

Little does Tan Tiam Seng from Jalan Udang Kepai know that his noble action is illegal and a public nuisance.

Tan, who is retired and lives with his wife, believes that he is helping out by picking up the strays.

"I pay for all the expenses, including vaccinating all of them. I don't mind giving them away but nobody wants street dogs," he said.

According to Tan, he had already given away more than 10 dogs over the past two years.

The dogs in his rented home look healthy and well fed, a sign of his devotion for his dogs. Tan has even built a shrine for a few of the dogs that have died.

His neighbours have been complaining to the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng since early last year.

"The dogs' filth fills the drains and leaves a foul smell in the air," Yaacob Arjas, 77, an imam at the nearby mosque, said.

Tan Yin Chooi, 72, added that the dogs were noisy, especially at night.

"I would not want to live next to a home with 20 people and 20 dogs. They keep us awake most nights," Yin Chooi said.

In June 2008, he alerted the DBKL once again to the problem but when the council's officers arrived, they only found four dogs.

According to the letter addressed to Lim by the DBKL, the council had issued Tan with a compound notice and he had promised to vacate the home in two months.

However, in December 2008, the problem



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persisted and Lim once again lodged a report.

"In the letter issued to me, the DBKL Health Department said it had issued more compound notices and would check on the status from time to time but they have failed to do so," Lim said.

Lim visited the home on July 5 to resolve the matter with the owner. He advised Tan to remove all the dogs except one within a week.

"If he fails to do so, I will immediately send a letter to the DBKL asking them to take enforcement action against him," Lim added.

Tan said he would have to move if there were no other options available to him.