

Cost of compassion

FOR as little as RM10, members of the public can adopt a pet from City Hall's pound.

Mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail said the RM10 is for the licensing fee, which the people should apply for if they wish to adopt a stray animal from the centre.

However, he said that those who wish to adopt animals, such as puppies, should state their intentions.

"Proper homes should be provided for animals taken from our centre. We also want to avoid abuse, where animals are taken out from the pound by people who want to make an extra buck by selling them," he said.

"When we receive complaints from the public about stray animals wandering about their areas, our personnel will be deployed to do their job."

He said on average City Hall spent around RM100 per dog brought to the centre and the cost included catching and feeding them.

"Animals that are not claimed by their owners after seven days are euthanised because of space constraints. As such the RM150 also includes the cost of burial," Ahmad Fuad said.

He said 298 stray dogs had been brought to the pound following public complaints.

Ahmad Fuad made these comments following questions on whether action would be taken against City Hall workers who had allegedly abused animals, as shown by TV3's 360 programme two weeks ago.

He maintained that the footage taken was that of a dying dog, and not one that was being strangled.