

MPSJ may ban restricted dog breeds

Council president: Decision to be made once probe into man's death completed

By **TAN KARR WEI**
karrwei@thestar.com.my

THE Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) may stop issuing dog licences for restricted dog breeds following the recent fatal attack by a bull terrier in Subang Jaya which resulted in the death of a 74-year-old man.

MPSJ president Datuk Asmawi Kasbi said: "Under our current regulations, owners of dogs under the restricted breed list must provide a certification from a licensed veterinarian before we issue the licence.

"The dogs must also be sent for yearly checks and immunisation in order to get a

licence renewal," he told a press conference at the MPSJ headquarters yesterday.

The breeds currently listed under the Department of Veterinary Services' (DVS) restricted list for imported dogs are Bull Mastiff, Bull Terrier, Doberman, German Shepard/Alsatian, Perro de Presa Canario (also known as Canary Dog) and Rottweiler.

"We will be having further discussions with the DVS, the public and other stakeholders before we decide on the matter," he said.

Asmawi said the case was still being investigated by the police and the Selangor DVS and investigations were expected to be completed in two weeks.



Strict handling: Mark Anthony training a Rottweiler at the Stephen K-9 Academy in Kuala Lumpur. The Rottweiler is one of the dog breeds on the restricted list. — Bernamapic

Contrary to reports that a compound has been issued, Asmawi said they were still conducting their own investigations and under the MPSJ Licensing of Dogs and Kennel Establishments Bylaw 2007, the owner could be fined a maximum of RM2,000, a maximum of one year's jail or both.

"We advise dog owners to be extra careful when taking their dogs out of their house compound. Under our bylaws, the dogs must be on

a leash," he said.

MPSJ health director Dr Roslan Mohamed Husin said there had been an increase in complaints about dogs since the attack on May 8.

"Complaints about dogs usually constitute about 65% of the total Health Department complaints but it has increased to about 70% this month. Most of the complaints are about stray dogs. We will be increasing our enforcement based on the complaints," he said.