

AV16 (FVA) Vol 29

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The Forum Editor
The Straits Times

Dear Sir

RENEWAL OF DOG LICENCE

We refer to the letters ' Check expiry date of dog licence' (ST, 16 Jan 08) by Ms Adriana Chua and 'Doggone it, what a difference a day makes' (ST, 18 Jan 08) by Mr David Poh.

2 The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) officers routinely check on cases of dog owners who have failed to renew their dog licences. Keeping a dog without a valid licence is an offence. The maximum fine upon conviction can be a fine up to \$5000.

3 Dog licences are valid for a year. Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their dog licences are renewed annually. AVA sends renewal notices to dog licensees prior to the expiry of the dog licences to remind them to renew their licences on time. As there are more than 50,000 licensed dogs in Singapore, it is not cost-effective for repeated reminders to be sent.

4 Our records show that the renewal notice was sent to Ms Chua on 21 May 07, prior to the expiry of her licence on 7 Jun 07. We regret that Ms Chua did not receive the renewal notice. However, as this is the first time that Ms Chua has failed to renew her dog licence, we are prepared to compound the offence and offer a composition sum of \$100.

5 Arising from revisions to the Dog Licensing Rules which came into effect on 1 Sep 07, a dog licence which was not renewed by the due date would have been deemed to expire. Owners with expired dog licences will have to apply for a new licence. In line with the revised regulations, all newly licensed dogs have to be microchipped. Dog owners were informed of these changes by mail in early Aug 07. As Mr David Poh's case fell into this category, he was compounded \$20 as he applied for the new licence shortly after the expiry of his dog's licence.

5 We would like to thank the writers for their feedback.

Yours faithfully

GOH SHIH YONG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY