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Dec 17, 2004

Horrific find in dog farm in Pasir Ris

3 maggot-infested Shih Tzus feed on carcass of canine

By Tanya Fong

EIGHTY per cent of their fur gone, their skin and private parts crawling with maggots, they whimpered and scavenged on the carcass of their companion.



ALIVE: One of the surviving Shih Tzus found at Mr Ee's farm in one of the rented premises at Pasir Ris Farmway 2 (below). -- METTACATS

This was the horrific condition in which three Shih Tzus were found, barely alive, at a canine breeder's farm in Pasir Ris Farmway 2. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is investigating.

The breeder, however, said the four dogs, already in bad shape, had been found in a drain by a customer, who had given them to him to be looked after.

The dogs were discovered by volunteers for Metta Cats, a non-profit group that helps to house and feed abandoned cats. Its cattery is next to the breeder's farm.

Said one of the volunteers, a student, who asked not to be named: 'We were there on Dec 5. We heard the dogs whimpering, and saw them scavenging on the dead dog.'



PHOTO -- LAU FOOK KONG

The story is described on Metta Cats' website: 'The place was filled with faeces and urine... there was only one pathetic bowl of greenish water, covered with algae.'

The dog breeder, Mr Desmond Ee, 26, who runs a pet shop in Upper Bukit Timah Road, told The Straits Times in Mandarin: 'A customer found the four dogs abandoned in a drain. They were inside a cage, and were already wet and had very little hair. The customer told me to look after them for him... I didn't abuse them.'

Mr Ee added that he had entrusted the care of the dogs to a foreign worker as he was too busy.

Mr Bobby Tan Kok Peng, 25, a chef, said he found the dogs in a

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drain at Lorong Halus. 'I asked Desmond to take care of them for me... because I live in a Housing Board flat and have no space.'

Volunteers contacted Mr Ee and rescued the dogs on Dec 5. They took the dogs to veterinarian Frederic Chua, who reported the matter to the AVA.

One of the dogs died after three days despite attempts to save it. The surviving two are recovering at the Metta Cats' cattery.

Mr K. Madhavan, head of AVA's Centre for Animal Welfare and Control, said: 'We will not hesitate to take action against the owner... if there was an act of cruelty.'

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