

MEC: Anyone can set up stables and ignorance caused pony's death

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PETALING JAYA: It is easy for people with little expertise to set up stables. This is dangerous as ignorance can kill.

The death of a pony that was forcibly mounted and attacked by a stallion at a private stable in Kajang was due to blatant ignorance, according to the Malaysian Equine Council.

MEC executive secretary Datuk Malek Jeremiah said it was easy for people without the necessary knowledge and qualifications to set up stables.

"This is a serious issue and we will have to collaborate with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)," he said.

"At present there is no proper legislation governing the setting up of such facilities."

Malek said he hoped the impending Animal Welfare Act would be able to counter this issue.

He said the council's main challenge was teaching people the proper way to care and manage horses. He added that people should understand that horses were delicate animals

and were not like goats and cows which could be fed and left to fend for themselves.

On the death of the pony named Siti on Jan 21, Malek said a stallion kept in the vicinity of mares was dangerous. "Unless one knows how to manage the horse, it could also endanger humans," he warned.

Malek said stallions were "peculiar" and should only be handled by a single individual.

"Stallions will only show respect to that one person," he said.

Malek said if a mare were to be in heat at the same premises, nothing could stop the stallion from its pursuit.

This was because horses are herd animals and the dominant ones, such as stallions, will exert their control over other horses in the same premises.

Meanwhile, Siti's owner Mohamad Nor Arshad has received the post-mortem report from the Universiti Putra Malaysia's veterinary hospital, stating that his pony had died of traumatic injuries.

Mohamad Nor said he was waiting to hear from the department and the council before deciding on his next step.