So doggone fun

VETERINARY AID: Canine care funds raised by UPM students through community programme

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STUDENTS from Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) veterinary medicine faculty recently played host to 1,000 dogs and their owners at Bukit Ekspo in Serdang, Selangor in a programme called Dogathon 2015/2016.

Aimed at raising funds for PLRO-KASIH, a project to neuter abandoned and stray animals, the programme served as a platform to instil awareness among the public on canine care.

"Dogathon could help spread information about pets on aspects such as responsibility in caring for them, their health, methods used in taking care of the animals as well as information on how to be a vet," said veterinary medicine faculty dean Professor Dr Mohd Hair Bejo at the launch of the programme.

"If we are not careful in taking care of their health and welfare, this could pose problems to the public as zoonotic diseases such as rabies could be infectious and affect humans, too," he said.

Meanwhile, programme director Bryan Andrew Lazarus said the event could help expose and prepare UPM students from the faculty to the profession and the field of veterinary medicine.

1. **Bryan Andrew Lazarus** (sixth from left), **Jinny Boy and Prof Dr Mohd Hair Bejo** (seventh and sixth from right, respectively) with the **Dogathon 2015/16** organising committee. 2. A search and rescue demonstration by the **Fire and Rescue Department**. 3. Launch gimmick in line with the **Medieval Times** theme. 4. Students from the **Veterinary Medicine Faculty** giving a patient a quick check.

"This programme gives students the opportunity to manage and handle the programme apart from helping to promote the services of UPM Veterinary Hospital," he added.

Dogathon 2015/16, themed Medieval Times (Knight: Guardian of our Castle, Crown of our Hearts) also appointed You Tube vlogger Jinny Boy as its programme ambassador.

Among the breeds gathered at the event were German shepherd, poodle, golden retriever, Siberian husky, malamute, rottweiler, Great Dane, corgi, pitbull, chow chow, shih tzu, labrador, boxer, pomeranian, Afghan hound, terriers and schnauzer.

The highlight of Dogathon 2015/16 was the Dog Race — a run involving owner and dog. The event also featured a pet-product exhibition as well as talks and discussions by NGOs.