



Dog lovers at the biggest canine gathering in Malaysia at UPM yesterday.

1,000 canines at Dogathon

SERDANG: Back with a bark.

The biggest dog gathering in Malaysia returned to take a bite of the action as over 1,000 canines wagged and pawed their way to the Bukit Expo in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), here, yesterday morning.

Dogathon 2015/2016 was back for its 19th instalment as the biggest annual event organised by the VETERNAK and Zoologico Club of UPM.

The event is aimed at raising funds to aid the “Stray Animal Awareness” campaign and assist the PRO-KASIH programme.

According to the dean of the university’s faculty of veterinary medicine, Prof Dr Mohd Hair Bejo, the programme began way back in 1997 as a platform to promote awareness on stray dogs and related issues, including handling of strays.

“Dogathon provides great exposure to society about responsible pet ownership, pet health, stray animal welfare, as well as the veterinary profession.

“This programme can also create awareness among society on how stray animals can be a risk to people if they are not well taken care of.

“Diseases from animals, such as rabies, can easily be transmitted to human.

“So, if we don’t look carefully in terms of the welfare and health of stray animals, then this will pose a risk to people.

“This is called Zoonotic disease,” he told reporters yesterday.

Commenting on the annual PRO-KASIH programme, Mohd Hair said it was a stray animal neutering project aimed at controlling the population of strays in a humane manner.

He said it was conducted by the students of the faculty of veterinary medicine under close supervision of veterinary lecturers.

In 2014, the 18th Dogathon was officially recorded as the “Biggest Dog Gathering in Malaysia” in the Malaysia Book of Records with a total of 1,216 dogs. – Bernama