

Great lack of animal protection

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Albano Martins, director of local Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA), complains: "There is no law at all for the protection of animals in Macau." ANIMA, that had its press conference last Saturday, states "it is absolutely necessary that this law is being enacted." Thus, in connection with the much debated euthanasia system for the greyhounds of Macau's Yat Yuen Canidrome Club, Mr. Martins says "it not just the Canidrome, but anybody can kill an animal or abandon it when he is fed up with it and take a new one and there will be no consequences for him."

He says the lack of a law for the protection of animals

is also visible at the many pet shops that Macau has. "Animals are kept in cages much too small for them and only three months old dogs are sold, which is not legal in other parts of the world." He states, the lack of control and protection for animals by the Macau Government not only leads to many people having too many animals at home but also to the illegal bringing of dogs into Macau from Mainland China. This in turn "increases the risks of spreading rabies." But he criticizes, the license for dogs in Macau are too expensive with MOP 500 for one year and MOP 200 for its renewal, so that dog owners are more likely not to have their pets vaccinated. Mr. Martins also reveals his indignation about the fact that "veterinarians are not licensed in Macau." He explains, "It means everybody can claim to be a veterinarian and takes not responsibility at all."

ANIMA stops cooperation with Canidrome

After long debates involving international animal rights groups on the destiny of greyhounds from Macau's Canidrome, ANIMA had met representatives of the Canidrome last month in an effort to find a second life for greyhounds that are exported from Australia. According to the Municipal and Civic Affairs Bureau's animal control division, the Canidrome euthanises about 30 greyhounds each month once they are unable to race. The largest greyhound protection organization in the US 2K USA, cooperated with ANIMA. The Canidrome said to Mr. Martins to have an adoption system within the Canidrome, but no attempt had been made so far to give the dogs for adoption in or outside Macau. As a result of the meetings, the Canidrome had proposed to bring the first greyhound giving up for adoption to ANIMA as a symbolic act of cooperation, but did not keep its promise, saying it had to discuss with the dog owners and would take another three weeks. This caused Mr. Martins to cut the cooperation with the Canidrome and to say to Macau Daily Times that "there will be no further cooperation with the Canidrome in the future." He hopes the Government will take steps in this case.