Press March 29,1996

Headline: Crack-down On Dogs In Public Housing Estates

Content:

The following is issued on behalf of the Housing Authority:

Dog-owners in public housing estates will be given only 14 days to dispose of their pets following the simplification of administrative procedure by the Housing Department from next month.

Under the new arrangements, Housing Managers will issue warning letters to offending tenants requiring them to remove their dogs within 14 days.

"Tenants who refuse to co-operate will be served with a notice to quit, "Mr Pun Wood-sun, the Department's Chief Housing Manager, said today (Friday).

"A tenant who removes his dog within 14 days will get a reminder stating that a notice to quit will be issued forthwith on second offence, "he said.

"Tenants who dispute our action may seek a review by the Appeal Panel under the Housing Branch, "he added. Meanwhile, estate staff will step up patrol and caution owners of dogs found in public areas.

Newsletters distributed to tenants will carry an appeal not to keep dogs in the first place and to get rid of those already in their flats.

"We hope these new arrangements will put across a strong message that the Department takes a very serious view on tenants keeping dogs in their flats, "Mr Pun said.

"From April 1994 to December 1995, we dealt with 2,388 dog-keeping cases and nearly all of them were rectified. Only three notices-to-quit had been issued with two flats recovered as a result of the offence, "he said. During the same period, staff from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department visited estates regularly and rounded up 992 stray dogs.

"Tenants who have difficulties disposing of their pets may approach their estate office for assistance, "Mr Pun said. END Friday, March 29,1996