

TODAY, 8 Aug 07

## Small dogs pose danger too

Letter from JEFFREY LAW LEE BENG

I READ with interest the report, "A tighter leash on dog owners" (Aug 7). The regulations imposed by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) are timely, especially with the marked increase of canine pet ownership in recent years.

The leashing of dogs should not be confined to bigger dogs or the more "dangerous" breeds, as smaller ones can also pose a danger to the public. I have seen toddlers being pounced on or chased by small dogs which were not on a leash.

To dog owners, their pets are obedient and harmless but they can be dangerous to others. More importantly, for hygiene and religious reasons, the AVA should also take action against owners who take their dogs to public eating places.

AV16 (FVA)

14 August 2007

The Editor, Voices  
Today

Dear Sir

**BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER**

We refer to the letter "Small dogs pose danger too" by Mr Jeffrey Law Lee Beng (Today, 8 Aug 07).

2 Under the Animals and Birds (Dog Control and Licensing) Rules administered by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), all dogs, regardless of size must be leashed when in a public place. Failure to do so can result in a fine of up to \$200, or revocation of the dog licence, or both.

3 The National Environment Agency (NEA) would like to remind the public that, for public hygiene reasons, it is an offence to take their pets into foodshops and hawker centres, including outdoor refreshment areas.

4 Some operators display " No Pets Allowed " signs prominently on their premises so that patrons are aware of the restriction. Operators are also obliged to remind their patrons that pets are not allowed on their premises. We urge pet owners to be considerate and not take their pets into food shops. However, guide dogs, used by the visually handicapped, are exempted from this ban. The rationale for such an exemption is that being well trained, a guide dog is not likely to compromise public hygiene practices in food shops and hawker centres, so long as it is harnessed and kept at the owner's side at all times. However, operators of food establishments can exercise their discretion on whether to allow guide dogs on their premises.

Yours faithfully,

GOH SHIH YONG  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
for CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

S SATISH APPOO  
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY