1. Legislative Developments

The Animal Welfare Act 2015 is expected to be enforced in June 2017. The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Malaysia has finalised 4 regulations that will be drafted under the Animal Welfare Act. These regulations include regulation on licensing, for improvement notice and compounding of offenses, regulation for animal welfare officer and the voluntary animal welfare assistant and also regulation for research, testing and teaching. Consultation with government agencies, NGOs and industry had been carried.

In addition, a total of 14 Codes of Practice(COP) are being prepared. Three COP’s have been distributed to all stakeholders. These COPs are for pet shop, breeding and animal boarding activity. The rest are being finalised.

2. Government Initiatives

Seminar to introduce the Code of Practices in Animal Welfare has been carried out for staff, private sector in the animal industry especially those involved in pet shop, animal breeding and boarding centre, NGOs and also local government authority.

The Department has also organized awareness programs and education in animal welfare for students in collaboration with SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Selangor. This program was initiated by the Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry who has given full support in the development of animal welfare in Malaysia.

The National Animal Welfare Day was held in October 2016. The program received good response from the public since it was the first time organised at the national level. The program was coordinated by DVS with the cooperation of government agencies such as police, school, University, fire and rescue department and local government authority, animal industry, veterinary associations and NGO’s. The Animal welfare Day was launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry Malaysia.

Other government initiatives were to conduct awareness and education program in animal welfare. The programs that have been planned in this year’s schedule also includes Colloquium in animal welfare based on Islamic perspective, Animal Welfare Day for 2017, seminar in animal welfare, as well as animal welfare exhibition.

3. Industry Initiatives

The program for ‘pet adoption drive’ was conducted by Eugrow Holding Berhad for the purpose of offering to adopt the rescued pets. The program was conducted in collaboration with the Malaysia Airlines System (MAS).

During the Animal Welfare Day 2016, a total of 600 discount vouchers for veterinary care were provided by veterinary clinics to people who attended the event. Vouchers can be redeemed in any veterinary clinic that provided the discount voucher.

Since the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act, the private sector has also realized the importance of animal welfare and have requested the veterinary authority to give a
lectures in animal welfare management to ensure that they comply to the requirements of animal welfare.

4. Training

DVS has embarked on a nationwide roadshow to introduce the Animal Welfare Act and regulations as well as to impart the understanding of animal welfare among DVS staffs and stakeholder from February to April 2017. The roadshow is part of the training module to train animal welfare officers about their roles, duties and responsibility when the Animal Welfare Act is set to be enforced in June 2017.

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1 April 2017