

**Government Urged To Set Up Hotline To Report Mistreatment Of Animals**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- The government has been urged to create a special hotline to enable the public to lodge complaints on the abuse and mistreatment of animals.

Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (BN-Pengerang) said the government's move to introduce the Animal Welfare Bill 2015 to enable the establishment of an Animal Welfare Board was a positive step, but would require a comprehensive implementation plan.

"I propose that a hotline system be created, so that members of the local community can have easy access to the agencies involved," she said when debating the bill in Dewan Rakyat here, today.

Earlier, Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob when tabling the bill for the second reading said, Malaysia sought to strengthen the management structure of animal welfare by developing laws which include regulations with uniform standards.

The Animal Welfare Bill 2015, aimed at promoting the wellbeing and responsible ownership of animals, was tabled for the first reading on April 9.

The bill would enable the establishment of the Animal Welfare Board to monitor the work of associations or bodies established for the purpose of preventing trauma, pain or suffering of animals, and for the protection of animals at rescue homes and animal shelters.

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