

Regulating ownership and trade of dangerous animals

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The Public Utilities and Environment Committee at the Shura Council, chaired by Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali, discussed a draft law on regulating the ownership and trade of dangerous animals during its meeting yesterday.

The session was attended by Eng. Asim Abdulatif Abdullah, Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Resources at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, along with several ministry officials.

The committee reviewed the objectives of the draft law, which aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework to regulate the possession, handling, and care of dangerous animals.

Risks

The proposal also seeks to address the current legislative gap, particularly the absence of penalties for individuals who possess such animals without proper licensing or authorization, which may pose risks to lives and property.

The draft law includes provisions to regulate ownership through the creation of a unified database, enhancing oversight mechanisms, and clearly defining the competent authorities responsible for enforcement.

Paws journey

Pet relocation now requires strategic planning amid shifting airline and regulatory landscapes

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For pet owners travelling to India and other destinations, relocation at this time has become a more detailed process, with airline availability, documentation requirements, and evolving travel conditions all playing a role in planning.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Venetia Dsouza, owner of Bahrain Pet Sitter and Aeropaws Consultancy, which supports pet rescue efforts and assists with pet relocations in and out of Bahrain, said that while travel to India is possible, it remains dependent on limited airline options and regulatory requirements in the current scenario.

She explained that the process begins with an Annexure form for Indian import clearance, which must be signed by a licensed veterinarian confirming vaccination, microchipping, and fitness for travel.

Permit

This is followed by obtaining a Saudi import and export permit for travellers transiting through the region, which typically takes around seven days to process, although expedited services may be available for an additional fee.



Pets in soft carriers for in-cabin air travel

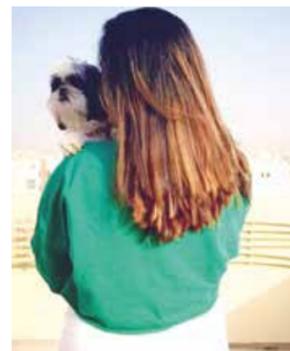
The standard fee, however, is around BD50 for each permit, totalling approximately BD100.

While the permit is valid for 30 days, transit stays are generally limited to around 10 days, making careful scheduling essential.

Transport

Venetia notes, "passengers must directly confirm pet transport availability with airlines, while ensuring compliance with airline-specific requirements before booking tickets and securing visas. The last step would be getting the annexure form and Bahrain export permit signed by the Animal Health Directorate.

"Once approved, the documents are valid for a short win-



Vinita Dsouza with her pet Piggy

erally not subject to customs duties."

"For return travel from India, a rabies antibody blood test is required, with results taking around three weeks and remaining valid for up to one year. Additional forms are also required and are typically handled with guidance from an agent."

Options

While airline options for in-cabin pet relocation to India remain limited at the moment, "cargo transport remains an alternative option, though it is significantly more expensive, with costs ranging between approximately BD700 and BD1,000 per pet depending on the airline, route, and size of the animal," she further added.

"While travel to India is possible, it remains dependent on limited airline options and regulatory requirements in the current scenario."

— VENETIA DSOUZA, OWNER OF BAHRAIN PET SITTER AND AEROPAWS CONSULTANCY

Lawmakers seek to suspend fish ban

Ongoing Iranian attacks hit supply

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Five MPs want Bahrain to suspend its ban on catching safi, shaari and andaq, saying the Iranian attacks have cut imported fish supplies and pushed market prices higher.

The urgent proposal calls for a temporary halt to Decision No. 2 of 2024, which bars the catch

of the three species.

Its sponsors say the move is needed because strain on supply lines across the region has left less imported fish on sale and made local catch more important in keeping food supplies flowing for citizens and residents.

The proposal was put forward by Khalid Buanaq, Hisham Al Awadhi, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Al Maarefi.

Buanaq said the call was driven by economic pressure and the political climate in the region,



which had hit supply lines both directly and indirectly.

That, he said, had led to a drop in imported fish and a clear rise in prices on the local market.

"In these conditions, relying

"The call was driven by economic pressure and the political climate in the region, which had hit supply lines both directly and indirectly."

— MP KHALID BUANAQ

on local fish production has become necessary to keep the market stable and to make basic

food goods available for citizens and residents," he said.

He said the ban had been brought in to regulate fishing and protect marine stocks, but argued that keeping it in force now would add to the lack of fish in the market and drive prices higher.

"Keeping this decision in force in the current conditions could deepen the shortage in the markets and lead to further rises in prices," he said. "That would weigh on consumers, above all with few other choices and import costs already high."

Drone ban amid airspace security concerns

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Ministry of Interior has imposed a complete ban on the use of drones following ongoing airspace security concerns. Captain Abdullah Waheed Al Mannaei said the Kingdom has been facing attacks targeting its airspace since February 28, describing them as violations of international norms and humanitarian principles.

He said the ministry continues to respond through its security and community responsibilities, with a focus on protecting the country, strengthening civil protection and reinforcing public safety measures.

The ban applies to all drones regardless of purpose.



The decision follows incidents in which unauthorised drones were intercepted and brought down after being identified as potential threats.

Officials confirmed that any drone found in violation of the ban will be intercepted and destroyed, and legal action will be taken against those responsible.

The ban came into effect on

"The ministry continues to respond through its security and community responsibilities, with a focus on protecting the country, strengthening civil protection and reinforcing public safety measures."

— CAPTAIN ABDULLAH WAHEED AL MANNAEI

March 29 and will remain in place until further notice.

Residents have been urged to report any drone activity by calling the emergency number 999.

MP calls for fix to labour site fault

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi has called on the Labour Ministry to fix a fault in its online system and make sure unemployment allowance and compensation payments are paid without delay, after the ministry said claimants would not lose what is due to them.

Al Olaiwi said the ministry had written on its Instagram account about five days ago that its e-services had been hit by a technical problem and that work was under way with the bodies involved to put it right.

In that post, the ministry said the problem would not affect



MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi

Any delay beyond the usual schedule would affect people's ability to make a living, since many depend on these payments to cover their daily expenses.

those due to receive unemployment support and compensation.

Compensation

He said the ministry must stick to that assurance, especially as large numbers of jobseekers are waiting for allowance payments, along with others due compensation for unemployment.

Al Olaiwi also called for the repair work to be sped up and for payments to be released to those entitled to them.

He said any hold-up beyond the usual timing would hit people's ability to secure a decent living, chiefly because many of them rely on these payments alone to run their daily lives.

Municipal measures improve public services



Removing an abandoned vehicle from residential areas for public safety

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A series of municipal measures have been introduced to improve services, following observations by the National Audit Office.

In its response, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture said it provides BD13,000 in financial support to eligible families under the Cities and Villages Development Programme, in coordination with municipal councils.

Applications are processed through an electronic system with set guidelines aimed at ensuring transparency.

Safety

Inspection campaigns have also led to the removal of around 480 abandoned vehicles from residential areas to improve safety and public appearance.

In addition, 12 municipal sites have been allocated across the Kingdom to support mobile food businesses, with applications available through digital platforms.

To regulate the sector, coordination has been strengthened with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to track licences issued through the Sijilat system.

Environment

On the environmental side, a dedicated unit has been established to monitor the quality and sustainability of trees and green spaces.

Plans are also in place to expand production at Adhari Nursery in the coming years.

A technical study on licensing car shades outside homes has been completed, with implementation measures currently under way.