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### CMC calls for checking stray animal menace

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DOHA: The Central Municipal Council (CMC) has called for a national plan to address the menace of stray animals.

The Council, in its meeting on Monday, approved the recommendations of its general services committee, which was assigned to study the issue.

The committee drew attention to the health and safety risks posed by stray cats and dogs and proposed to revise the existing law concerning stray animals. The CMC must also be involved in the revision process, said

the committee.

Sheikha Al Jefairi, the sole woman member of the CMC, who represents the Old Airport area, said the Council had taken up the issue following complaints from the public regarding the nuisance created by

stray animals.

She said a few months ago a student from an elementary school in the Old Airport area was attacked and seriously injured by a stray dog. In another incident two stray dogs attacked a group of goats in a farm in Al Khuraib area, causing the death of some goats.

Al Jefairi said the Council had held correspondence with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning regarding this issue. It had also hosted a discussion with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Interior and

the Ministry of Environment.

Dr Qassim Al Kahtani from the Animal Resources Department at the Ministry of Environment had said that a new law was expected to be issued concerning stray animals. The department, which has been dealing with the issue since 2007 had prepared a draft plan which was ratified by the Cabinet a year ago.

One of the proposals in the plan is to allocate an exclusive area for stray animals collected from various parts of the country.

He said international organisations for animal care had contacted the ministry requesting it to handle the issue without harming the animals.

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