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Animal welfare body wants charity status

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DOHA: The Qatar Animal Welfare Society (QAWS) needs to get charity status to be able to accommodate more donations to help the swelling number of abandoned animals under its care, an official from QAWS told The Peninsula yesterday.

"QAWS filed an application to be a charity three years ago but the procedure takes a long time," the official added.

The organisation's current set-up limits it from accepting donations from companies. "Many companies are willing to support us but we just cannot accept their assistance. We can only allow contributions from private individuals," she said.

"Becoming a charity would also make expansion possible," she added. Presently, the centre is housing the most number of animals since it was established six years ago. There are 42 dogs and puppies, 40 cats and kittens, a donkey, a mule, a bull and numerous ducks, geese, chickens and guinea fowl. The centre is forced to turn away up to 10 animals a day because of the shortage of supplies. The increase in the rent of premises has also added to the burden of the centre. The centre is also spending huge amounts on its veterinary bill, which includes expenses on vaccination, deworming tablets, and basic disease prevention.

QAWS is inviting those willing to help through donations in cash or in kind like cat and dog food, litter, blankets, towels, collars, cleaning products, mops and brooms, etc. The centre also needs volunteers to give animals adequate care, time and attention. The centre can be contacted at 539-6074. □

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