

Buckle up – and beware of strays

Dept: More animal sightings along expressway

Fatal hit: A filepic showing a cow dying on the spot after being hit by a car at Persiaran Utara in Putrajaya while crossing the road. The driver was unhurt.



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PETALING JAYA: The usual road safety tips apply along the North-South Expressway – buckle up and obey the speed limit. Then watch out ... for cows?

Signs urging motorists and other road users to be wary of cows have sprouted up at 29 locations along the expressway as recently as three weeks ago, according to highway concessionaire PLUS Malaysia.

"There has been an increasing number of animal sightings along

Most of the strays sighted are cows, water buffalos, tapirs and wild boars. But other animals have also been seen.

– MOHD NIZAM ISMAIL

the expressway and we want to warn people to be wary of cows and other strays, especially at certain locations," corporate communications senior manager Mohd

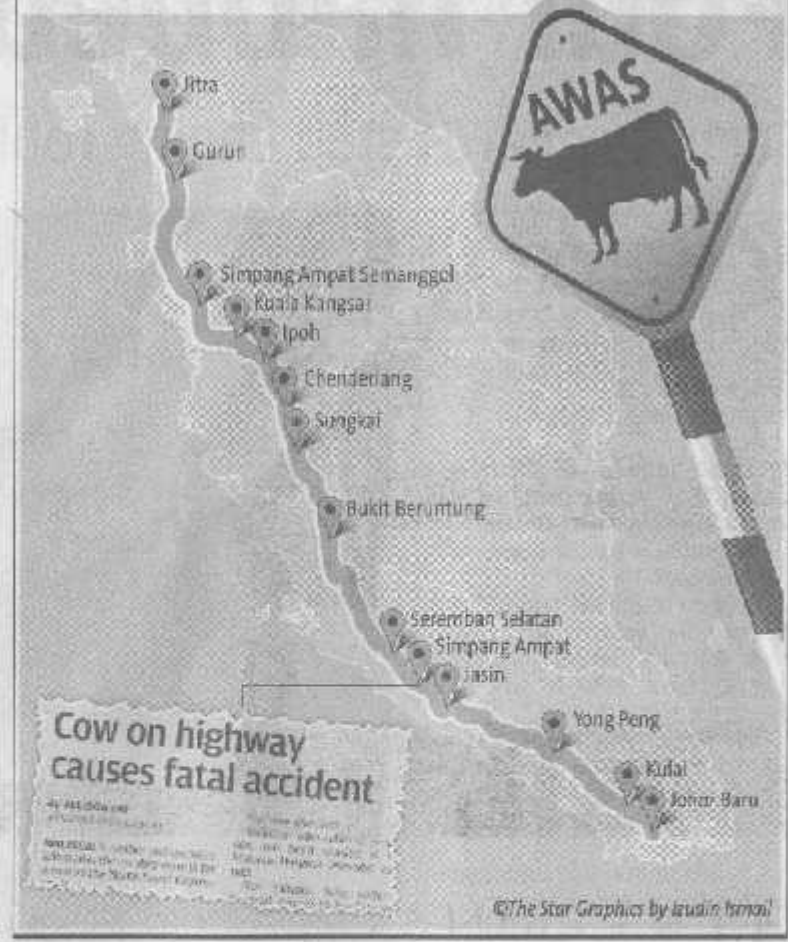
Nizam Ismail said yesterday.

"Most of the strays sighted are cows, water buffalos, tapirs and wild boars. But other animals such as dogs, monkeys and goats have also been seen."

A woman and her son were killed early on Sunday when their car collided with a cow near the Simpang Ampat toll plaza in Malacca.

Ngatinah Kemin, 47, and her 10-year-old son Habib Firdaus were travelling back from the KL International Airport to their home in Simpang Renggam together with her husband and daughter

Where to watch out for strays on the North-South Expressway



when the accident occurred at 1.20am.

The Road Transport Department said that such incidences were rare and that it was not usual for cows to cross a highway.

"In the rural areas, yes, it happens a lot. But this is the first case that I've heard of in my two years in the Transport Ministry," said deputy director-general Datuk Ismail Ahmad.

He explained that a road retained heat at night making it warm and "nice" for cows to lie on.

Ismail hoped cattle farmers

would keep their cows fenced up, especially at night.

In July 2008, three people were killed in two separate accidents on the same 772km-long expressway within days of each other in Rembau and Jitra after crashing into cows.

Pahang Umno secretary Datuk Abdullah Rahmat died when his car hit a cow in Temerloh on the East Coast Highway on Dec 12, 2008.

PLUS urged members of the public to call its hotline 1800 88 0000 whenever they see stray animals on the expressway.

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