



Get the cows off our highways The STAR 8/8/12

I REFER to your report "Cow on highway causes fatal accident" (*The Star*, Aug 6).

I would like to relate a similar experience along the Leburaya AMJ (Alor Gajah-Melaka-Johor).

Courtesy of the Malacca and Johor state governments, this toll-free expressway has provided the people a convenient way to travel, and as an alternative route to save time.

However, regular users of this road will tell that it is common to see dead cows lying by the roadside, and broken glass and disintegrated car parts such as bumpers on the road.

If those dead cows were by the roadside, just imagine what could have happened to those vehicles that had hit those animals? And what happened to those precious human lives?

Last month, my cousin and his pregnant wife drove home at night using the PLUS highway, before turning into Jasin to get to the AMJ.

All of a sudden, a white cow rushed out from the bushes. My cousin was quick to avoid it but luck was not with him when he failed to notice the second cow which was black!

He hit the second cow but fortunately both husband and wife escaped unhurt. The cow was killed instantly and the car badly damaged. The poor couple waited by the roadside for my help at 2am.

Despite warning signs about the cows at certain stretches of AMJ, the owners of the animals have a duty to ensure that their animals are always under their surveillance and not pose a threat to any road user.

Road accidents of this nature can be avoided.

The local district council has a role to play and should give sufficient warning to the cattle owners and to impose severe fines for those letting their cows to wander along and on the highway.

Teach them a lesson and warn the others to take full responsibility of their animals. We cannot afford to sacrifice more precious human lives due to silly human mistakes.

A first world facility must be accorded with a first-class mentality.

CHUA TECK BOON
Muar