

Animal saviour Yeap dies of leukemia

By HELENA HON

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SABRINA YEAP, founder of Furry Friends Farm (FFF), a no-kill animal sanctuary in Rawang, and the saviour of the dogs of Pulau Ketam, died at Sungai Buloh Hospital yesterday.

Yeap, 49, who devoted her life to saving strays and promoting animal rights, died of leukemia at 2.50pm, after slipping into a coma on Monday night.

"She did not even know she was sick," said a close friend and FFF volunteer who declined to be named. "It was only after a blood test at 3am at the hospital, did she know she had leukemia."

The friend attributed this to her dedication at putting the animals first and herself last.

Yeap had been credited for her initiative at embarking on Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), a programme by

which animals of all kinds are used to provide companionship and healing to the handicapped, the aged and the infirm.

In 2007, she launched the Dr Dog Malaysia programme with Jill Robinson, CEO and founder of the Animals Asia Foundation, Hong Kong.

On June 18, Yeap had the final pleasure of celebrating the four-legged Pulau Ketam hero Kuning's eighth birthday.

Kuning was accorded hero status as it was the dog that guided other dogs from the mangrove island where they had been abandoned to Yeap's rescue boats waiting out at sea. It was an incident that sparked national outrage against the inhumane treatment of strays in 2009.

The last time Yeap appeared in public was on *Bella Unwind* on NTV7 on June 28, when she spoke about cat care while showcasing five cats from FFF that were available for adoption.