

# S'pore hunts stray dogs overrunning RM2.6b park

**SINGAPORE:** Feral dogs have invaded a brand-new US\$790 million (RM2.6 billion) botanical attraction here and attacked a visitor, forcing authorities to step up a hunt for the strays around the sprawling complex.

Park officials said yesterday that a 22-year-old woman was wounded in a dog attack at the 101ha Gardens by the Bay, which opened late last month and had since been visited by more than 200,000 people.

Stray animals are a rare sight in the city state, which is known for its obsession with cleanliness and order, but the gardens are surrounded by construction sites where roving dogs are believed to have taken refuge.

"Public safety is our top priority," a spokesman for the park said, confirming that operations to round up the strays had been stepped up following the dog attack on Monday.

Media reported that three dogs were involved in the incident.

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority confirmed that stray dogs had been spotted by the public in the area before the gardens opened, and that it had caught eight strays so far and put down six of them.

The Gardens by the Bay include two enormous conservatories, artificial waterfalls and 18 man-made "supertrees" up to 50m high.

The problem with the stray dogs surfaced after a controversy over what to do with an explosion of wild boar that have strayed out of a nature reserve, with some calling for a cull and others wanting them to be protected. **AFP**