



*JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA*

# **LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA**

**1 Januari 2018**

1. Trainer apologises to animal lovers for distress ; Malay Mail
2. Sabah mulls Breeding endangered wild cattle ; The Star

OLEH:

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BAHAGIAN PERANCANGAN  
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA**

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# Trainer apologises to animal lovers for distress

By May Robertson  
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**KUALA LUMPUR** — Dog trainer Samy Velu Chandrasgaran has apologised for the alleged dog abuse at his Malaysia Dog Training (MDT) centre.

Samy Velu, who came under fire after two videos by former trainees who allegedly used abusive dog training methods emerged on the Malaysia Independent Animal Rescue Facebook page on Thursday, said he was sorry for the distress the videos had caused animal lovers.

"I want to apologise to animal and dog lovers for what transpired. Although I was not involved, it still happened on my premise," he told *Malay Mail* yesterday.

"I do not know how such acts could have taken place at the centre, but I believe it was the doing of those who harbour resentment towards me."

Samy Velu, who was among the top eighth finalists of *Cesar's Rescue: Asia*, also said two of those who appeared in the videos — K. Suseylan and his wife M. Maithili — were trainees at the centre and were never hired as trainers.

"They came in to learn about dog training but were deemed unfit, so I offered Suseylan a managerial position, and Maithili a junior administrator's position at the centre," he said.

"Giving them positions that kept them in my premise was a mistake."

In the first video, a woman appears to be hitting a dog during obedience training, and in the second video, a man lifts a dog by the scruff of its neck twice in what looks like an attempt to pry away a bone the dog was biting.

Samy Velu said he did not think the videos portrayed animal abuse, rather two "confused individuals who were unfit for dog training".

"I cannot say it was physical abuse.



Samy Velu and senior trainer Sulochini Unni Narayanan with some of the canines at the Malaysia Dog Training centre.  
— Picture by Miera Zulyana

The holding of the dog's scruff is done sometimes to simulate what a mother dog would do to its pup but it depends on the situation," he said.

"The woman was wrong to have slapped the dog. This is never the way and I do not condone such behaviour."

Samy Velu said he planned to take legal action against Suseylan and Maithili after investigations by the Department of Veterinary Services.

On Saturday, Suseylan, Maithili and another trainee, K.S. Selvaganesh, alleged that Samy Velu was present when the video recording took place.

They lodged police reports in response to one lodged by Samy Velu regarding the allegedly abusive methods recorded in the videos.

In his report, Samy Velu accused the trio of training behind his back and recording the videos, adding that all three had left their jobs.

However, the trio said it was Samy Velu's method of training. They apologised in separate Facebook videos and claimed that whatever happened was under the instruction of their employer.

On Saturday, the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia said it will investigate the matter.

It said that under the Animal Welfare Act 2015, an animal training provider or operator will be liable to a fine not less than RM20,000 and not more than RM100,000, or imprisonment of not more than three years, or both, if found guilty of abuse.

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## Sabah mulls breeding endangered wild cattle

By MUGUNTAN VANAR  
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**KOTA KINABALU:** A state government's plan to breed the critically endangered Bornean banteng or wild cattle in oil palm plantations is feasible in reversing its possible extinction, said a conservationist.

Danau Girang Field Centre director Dr Benoit Goossens, who has been promoting an action plan, said it was a good idea to put a few banteng in the plantations for breeding purposes.

"If it is to put a few banteng in the oil palm plantations to breed them, why not? An estate may be willing to collaborate and provide space.

"There will be a need for shade and some forest," he said.

However, he said serious thought about the food and safety of the banteng should be looked into to ensure that the animals were safe.

"I believe all these issues could be discussed," he said, adding that the banteng was critically endangered and could face the fate of Sumatran Rhinos, which had been declared extinct in the wild in Sabah with only two in captivity left.

With only about 400 banteng left



**A good moo-ve:**  
There are only about 400 banteng left in the wild.

in the wild, Dr Goossens said such a move would increase its population, which was in danger of facing habitat loss and being poached for meat.

Last week, Sabah Wildlife Department director Augustien Tuuga had said it was looking for a partnership with oil palm plantations to breed banteng through captive breeding and the application of advanced reproductive technology,

and reintroduce these animals in the future.

Captive breeding, said Dr Goossens, was currently not necessary for other wildlife like the Bornean pygmy elephant, the proboscis monkey, the sun bear and the clouded leopard, adding that the situation was also not critical for the orang utan.

"However, a centre for the cap-

tive breeding of pangolins may be necessary.

"Banteng is fine because it's a cattle and it's easy to breed and feed," he said.

"We must focus on protecting the forest, stopping deforestation, restoring the forest, keeping connectivity and stopping poaching and trade, and we should be fine for most species," added Dr Goossens.

