



# **JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR**

**LAPORAN PEMANTAUAN MEDIA**

**20 Februari 2026 (JUMAAT)**

# Public warned against buying smuggled pork over disease risks, says Rundi

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
The Borneo Post	Atas Talian	-	20 Feb

## Public warned against buying smuggled pork over disease risks, says Rundi

### Summary

The public is warned against buying smuggled pork due to disease risks like Foot-and-Mouth Disease and African Swine Fever, which could devastate Sarawak's swine sector. Smuggled pork, originating from countries banned due to disease status, is cheaper due to avoided import fees. Consumers are advised to support local pork producers for fresh, safe, and high-quality products.

February 20, 2026, Friday at 9:48 AM



File photo shows different cuts of pork.

KUCHING (Feb 20): The public has been urged not to purchase smuggled pork, as it poses serious disease risks that could devastate Sarawak's livestock industry.

Sarawak Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom said smuggled pork may carry diseases of major economic importance such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and African Swine Fever (ASF), which could severely impact the state's swine sector.

He explained that pork is smuggled into Sarawak due to strong demand and lower prices, as syndicates avoid paying the 10 sen per kilogramme import permit fee.

The smuggled products are believed to originate from countries such as China, Vietnam and Thailand, which are currently banned due to their disease status, including not being free from FMD and ASF, he told The Borneo Post.

Dr Rundi was commenting on a recent operation conducted by the General Operations Force (GOF) in collaboration with the Sarawak Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) involving smuggled pork products.

He also clarified that it is not true that only pork from Germany and Denmark is allowed into Sarawak.

He pointed out that pork imports are permitted from Denmark, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands, as these countries are recognised as FMD-free without vaccination and free from ASF, although import volumes remain low due to higher prices.

"Smuggled pork may spread diseases of economic importance and could devastate the livestock industry in Sarawak.

Therefore, we advise the public not to buy such products," he said.

He stressed that consumers should support the local industry by purchasing locally produced pork, which is fresh, safe and of high quality.

The joint operation by GOF and DVS last week led to the seizure of more than 15,000 kilogrammes of frozen pork products here.

Sarawak GOF commander SAC Lim Bak Phai said the raid was carried out based on intelligence gathered by the authorities, and during the operation a 32-year-old local man was detained for further investigation.

A total of 15,756kg of frozen pork products were confiscated, with the overall value of the seizure estimated at RM5.25 million.

The case has since been handed over to DVS Sarawak for further action under Section 9 (1) of the Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999.

[Dr Stephen Rundi Utom livestock pork smuggling](#)

# Bekalan stabil, permintaan bahan mentah meningkat pada awal Ramadan

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
Berita RTM	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

## Bekalan stabil, permintaan bahan mentah meningkat pada awal Ramadan

19/02/2026 | 4:53 pmNasional



Peniaga ayam, Saudi Abdullah ketika ditemui di Pasar Besar Alor Setar/RTM

**ALOR SETAR, 19 Februari** – Bekalan bahan mentah di Pasar Besar Alor Setar setakat ini masih mencukupi walaupun permintaan dijangka terus meningkat pada minggu pertama Ramadan.

### RINGKASAN BERITA AI

Tinjauan RTM mendapati permintaan terhadap ayam, daging lembu, ikan segar dan sayur-sayuran meningkat berbanding hari biasa.

Peniaga memaklumkan bekalan kekal stabil, manakala harga bergantung kepada permintaan semasa serta bekalan harian.

Kebanyakan barangan dijual pada kadar pasaran semasa.

Bagaimanapun, ayam segar dan daging lembu menunjukkan sedikit peningkatan berikutan permintaan tinggi, manakala harga sayur-sayuran dan ikan bergantung kepada bekalan yang diterima setiap hari.

Seorang peniaga ayam, Saudi Abdullah berkata, sambutan pelanggan kali ini lebih menggalakkan berbanding tahun lalu.

“Alhamdulillah, sambutan amat memberangsangkan, tambahan pula bersempena cuti Tahun Baharu Cina.

“Untuk Ramadan kali ini, bekalan masih mencukupi dan pembekal sudah kembali beroperasi seperti biasa.” katanya.

Dalam pada itu, seorang lagi peniaga, Ida Ismail mengakui berlaku perubahan harga menjelang Ramadan.

“Harga memang ada peningkatan seminggu sebelum puasa, kadang-kadang berubah dua hingga tiga hari sekali.

“Kalau boleh, harap harga ayam dapat diturunkan sedikit kerana agak tinggi, kasihan kepada keluarga yang mempunyai ramai anak,” katanya.

Sementara itu, pembeli yang ditemui turut berkongsi pandangan mengenai harga dan pilihan barangan.

“Saya beli ikan dan sedikit sayur untuk berbuka puasa nanti. Harga di sini agak murah dan berpatutan,” kata Suhaiza Ahmad.

Bagi Zurina Saidin pula, pembelian dibuat secara sederhana mengikut keperluan harian.

“Saya beli ikan, ayam dan udang. Harga biasa dan masih berpatutan. Untuk masak kari dan lauk harian,” katanya.

Hanim Zakaria pula sudah merancang menu lebih awal dan berbelanja berdasarkan harga semasa.

“Petang ini nak buat cucur udang, jadi saya beli bahan untuk sambal udang dan tomyam. Setakat ini harga masih okay, sebab itu saya sanggup datang beli di sini walaupun tinggal di Kuala Kedah,” katanya.

Rata-rata pengunjung yang ditemui berharap harga bahan mentah kekal stabil sepanjang Ramadan selain pemantauan berterusan pihak berkuasa bagi memastikan ketelusan serta kawalan harga.

# Mall axes petting zoo after alpaca enclosure sparks uproar

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
News Straits Times	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

## Mall axes petting zoo after alpaca enclosure sparks uproar

### Summary

Ampang Point Shopping Centre ended a mall-hosted petting zoo event following social media backlash over animal welfare concerns, particularly for an alpaca in a cramped enclosure. The mall stated it takes animal welfare seriously and will review its assessment procedures for similar events.



A mall-hosted petting zoo has come to an abrupt end following a social media backlash over the treatment of its animals, particularly an alpaca seen confined in a cramped enclosure. Pic from Ampang Point Shopping Centre FB

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A mall-hosted petting zoo has come to an abrupt end following a social media backlash over the treatment of its animals, particularly an alpaca seen confined in a cramped enclosure.

In a statement addressing the incident, Ampang Point Shopping Centre said it acknowledged the feedback shared by members of the public and takes animal welfare seriously.

While noting that the event was operated by a licensed third-party organiser, the mall said it respected the strong sentiments expressed by the community. It added that on-site inspections were conducted by the Department of Veterinary Services last month and again this month, and the organiser was found to be compliant with existing regulations.

"The animals are managed by trained and experienced handlers appointed by the organiser, and they are fed and rested according to scheduled care requirements.

"For clarity, the alpaca is only present during weekend sessions and is not kept at the mall on a continuous basis.

"As for the venue, we require organisers involving animals to meet relevant regulatory and welfare standards before approval is granted.

"We acknowledge the concerns raised and have taken note of the feedback received. In light of this, the petting zoo event concluded effective today (yesterday)," it said.

The mall said it will review its assessment procedures for similar events in the future.

"We appreciate the feedback shared and remain committed to managing events at Ampang Point responsibly."

Previously, a concerned netizen posted on [Threads](#) about an alpaca allegedly confined in a small pen at the mall's petting zoo, triggering widespread concern on social media.

# Mall shuts petting zoo after alpaca welfare uproar

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
The Sun	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

## Mall shuts petting zoo after alpaca welfare uproar

### Summary

Ampang Point Shopping Centre has closed a petting zoo after public outcry over the welfare of an alpaca kept in a small enclosure. The controversy began when a Threads user shared a video of the alpaca, sparking concerns about its confinement and stress. Despite the mall's claims of regulatory compliance, the incident has reignited calls for a ban on animals in mall-based events.

Ampang Point pulls plug on petting zoo after viral alpaca welfare concerns spark public outrage in Malaysia

Thursday, 19 Feb 2026, 6:04 pm



Screenshot Threads/natashahamzah

**PETALING JAYA:** A petting zoo at Ampang Point Shopping Centre has been shut down following an outpouring of public concern over the welfare of its animals — in particular, an alpaca filmed confined in what many described as a small, inadequate enclosure inside the mall.

The controversy was ignited by Threads user @\_qistinasarah, who shared a post expressing distress after spotting an alpaca in a cramped pen, surrounded by crowds of mall-goers and children. She described watching helplessly as the animal, visibly unable to move freely, was subjected to the noise and excitement of the busy mall environment, with some children screaming nearby while the organiser allegedly laughed and encouraged the commotion.

*M'sian woman calls out petting zoo event in KL mall over alpaca welfare*

"I feel so bad because it cannot run away or even react in any other way," she wrote. "I have lodged a report, but please boycott this kind of event in malls. Even if they are cute or fluffy, just know that they are stressed too."

She also claimed the petting zoo had been operating at the mall for approximately two months, and raised alarm over reports that the alpaca was being kept in its pen even after the mall closed for the night. Another concerned visitor alleged the same after asking mall security directly, claiming the animal had been left there after closing hours for around two months.

The post spread rapidly, drawing widespread condemnation and prompting multiple members of the public to file independent reports with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).

Ampang Point issued an official statement on 17 February, defending the event's compliance record while acknowledging the strength of public feeling. The mall confirmed that on-site inspections had been conducted by DVS in both January and February 2026, and that the third-party organiser — who holds a valid licence — was found to be compliant with existing regulations on both occasions.

The mall also pushed back on the narrative of continuous confinement, stating that the alpaca was present only during weekend sessions and was not kept at the mall around the clock. However, this claim was directly contradicted by the original poster, who noted she had encountered the animal during a weekday visit on Monday, February 16.

Despite maintaining that the event met regulatory requirements, the mall announced that it would not let the matter rest there. "We acknowledge the concerns raised and have taken note of the feedback received. In light of this, the petting zoo event concluded effective today," it said, confirming the event's immediate closure. The mall also pledged to review how similar events are assessed and approved in future.

This is not the first time an alpaca at a Malaysian commercial venue has sparked a national conversation about animal welfare. A café in Melaka previously drew condemnation and regulatory action after it was found to be housing an alpaca alongside more than 22 other animals as a business attraction, ultimately resulting in a closure order and a fine of RM10,000.

## Mall shuts petting zoo after alpaca welfare uproar

<b>MEDIA</b>	<b>RUANGAN</b>	<b>MUKA SURAT</b>	<b>TARIKH</b>
The Sun	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

The Ampang Point incident has reignited calls from animal welfare advocates and members of the public for a broader review — and potentially a ban — on the use of animals in mall-based events and commercial petting zoos. Many netizens argued that no amount of regulatory compliance could adequately address the inherent stress that animals experience when placed in loud, crowded, unfamiliar environments for extended periods.

“If anyone wants to see an alpaca, go to proper zoos or conservation centres,” one commenter wrote. “Do not bring them here.”

As the conversation continues, the question facing mall operators, event organisers, and regulators alike is no longer simply whether the animals are technically being cared for — but whether putting them in this situation in the first place is ever truly acceptable.

# Mall Ends Petting Zoo Event After Alpaca In Small Pen Sparks Concern

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
Says News	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

## Summary

Ampang Point Shopping Centre has ended a petting zoo event after a video of an alpaca in a small pen sparked concern on social media. The mall stated the event was organized by a licensed operator and compliant with regulations, but will review how similar events are assessed in the future.

May Vin Ang

## Mall Ends Petting Zoo Event After Alpaca In Small Pen Sparks Concern

"Can we start banning this kind of event in malls?" asked a netizen.



Cover image via [@\\_qistinasarah](#) (Threads) & [@natashahamzah](#) (Threads)

### Ampang Point Shopping Centre has announced the immediate cessation of a petting zoo event at its premises after a video showing an alpaca allegedly kept in a small pen sparked concern on social media

In a [statement](#) on 17 February, the mall said the event was organised by a licensed third-party operator and had undergone inspections by the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in January and February, during which the organiser was found to be compliant with regulations.

The statement added that the alpaca was present only during weekend sessions and that all animals were managed by trained handlers according to scheduled care requirements.

"We understand that many people feel strongly about animal welfare, and we respect that. The wellbeing of animals involved in events at our premises matters to us too," it said.

"As the venue, we require organisers involving animals to meet relevant regulatory and welfare standards before approval is granted. We will also take this opportunity to review how similar events are assessed moving forward," the mall added.



#### Official Statement Regarding the Petting Zoo Event at Ampang Point

Ampang Point is aware of the concerns shared online about the recent petting zoo event held at our mall.

We understand that many people feel strongly about animal welfare, and we respect that. The wellbeing of animals involved in events at our premises matters to us.

The event is operated by a licensed third-party organiser. Inspections were carried out on-site by the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in January and February, and the organiser was found to be compliant with regulations. The animals are managed by trained and experienced handlers appointed by the organiser, and they are fed and rested according to their scheduled care requirements.

For clarity, the alpaca is only present during weekend sessions and is not kept at the mall on a continuous basis.

As the venue, we require organisers involving animals to meet relevant regulatory and welfare standards before approval is granted.

We acknowledge the concerns that have been shared and have taken note of the feedback received. In light of this, the petting zoo event will conclude effective today.

We will also take this opportunity to review how similar events are assessed moving forward.

We appreciate the feedback shared and remain committed to managing events at Ampang Point responsibly.

Image via Ampang Point Shopping Centre

### The controversy arose after a Threads user posted a video showing the alpaca in a pen that appeared too small for the animal

Threads user [\\_qistinasarah](#) said she was saddened to see the alpaca "unable to run away or react" while surrounded by mall-goers and screaming children.

"Can we start banning this kind of event in malls?" she asked.

The user alleged that the alpaca was part of a petting zoo that had been operating at the mall for about two months, and claimed the animal was kept in the same pen after operating hours.

"Please lah guys, haven't we learned from the [alpaca café incident](#) from before? Where is our compassion? I have lodged a report, but please boycott these kinds of events in malls. Even if they are cute or fluffy, know that they are stressed too," she wrote.

## Mall Ends Petting Zoo Event After Alpaca In Small Pen Sparks Concern

MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT	TARIKH
Says News	Atas Talian	-	19 Feb

Other social media users shared similar concerns, with several saying they have also reported the matter to DVS.

### **Despite the mall's statement, some social media users have continued to call for greater accountability from the event organisers**

Some netizens have continued to urge that similar events involving animals should not be held in shopping malls in the future.

The original poster also questioned the mall's clarification, noting that she saw the alpaca during a visit on Monday, 16 February.

SAYS has reached out to Ampang Point Shopping Centre and DVS for further comment on the matter, but has yet to receive a response.

**TERIMA KASIH**

DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR