



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHBAR	:	SUNDAY STAR			
TARIKH	:	29/9/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	12
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Sun bear freed after two decades

Protected animal kept in cruel conditions



Good work: SFC personnel rescuing the sun bear from the farm house in Kampung Rasau.

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MIRI: An adult sun bear locked up for over 20 years in a small steel cage is the latest rescue by an enforcement team from the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), the fourth such incident this year.

The animal, which was kept in a cage the size of a small chicken coop, was rescued at about 9pm on Friday from a farm house in Kg Rasau near Serian, some 50km from Kuching.

In a statement, SFC chief executive officer Zolkipli Mohamad Aton said it ordered the rescue to be carried out after finding that the sun bear was kept in such cruel conditions.

"The owner told us that he has obtained a licence to keep the sun bear after he bought it from someone more than 20 years ago.

SFC revoked the licence as the conditions it was kept in were cruel.

"We want to make it clear that such cruelty towards animals must be stopped.

"Capturing, hunting and selling protected wildlife can see a jail term of at least one year and a fine of RM10,000," he said.

The rescue came about after an informant who saw its picture on Facebook told *The Star*, which then tipped off the SFC.

This is the second time in two days the SFC

has rescued a caged bear in cruel conditions in Sarawak and the third time nationwide.

On Thursday, the SFC rescued a sun bear, which was kept in a small cage for seven years, from a house in Demak Laut residential estate in Kuching.

The animal was later sent to the Matang Wildlife Sanctuary for rehabilitation.

In June this year, residents of Sentries Suites Condominium in Desa Pandan, Kuala Lumpur, were shocked to find a baby sun bear living in one of the units.

The cub was later rescued by officers from the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan).

In August, Johor Perhilitan acted on a tip-off and detained a 52-year-old man for keeping, among others, a sun bear cub with a permit.

Zolkipli called on those with information about wildlife abuses to call its hotlines at 019-885 9996 (Kuching), 019-888 3561 (Sibu), 019-822 3449 (Bintulu) or 019-829 0994 (Miri).

The Sarawak Forest Department is the licensing authority for forest matters in this state. SFC is a separate entity responsible for enforcement.

The latest rescued sun bear, weighing about 85kg, has been sent to the Matang Wildlife Sanctuary.