



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	10/3/2021	MUKA SURAT	:	8
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>			

## Eatery owner warned over exotic wildlife display

MELAKA: An eatery owner from Taman Merdeka in Batu Berendam here has been issued with a warning not to display exotic wildlife after a Facebook post showed customers being allowed to touch and handle the animals at the restaurant.

The owner was asked by the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) to ensure that the animals were not brought out for petting sessions.

Melaka Perhilitan director Mohd Firdaus Mahmud said he had visited the eatery to check the condition of the animals and the licensing.

"The owner of the eatery has permits to own the animals and the enclosures are in good condition.

"We only issued a warning to the owner not to display certain animals at the premises," he said when interviewed yesterday.

Firdaus said issuance of permits for species like the flying squirrel, which the owner had kept in his premises, came under the purview of Perhilitan's headquarters.

"On our part, we could only advise the owner not to display the animals as he had permission to own them," he said.

Meanwhile, Melaka agriculture, agro-based, entrepreneur development and cooperative committee chairman Datuk Norhizam Hassan Baktee said he would discourage the owner from allowing patrons to pet the animals as a gimmick to promote the business.

"These are wild animals that shouldn't be on display," he added.

Among the animals kept at the eatery are racoons, prairie dogs, meerkats, hamsters, rabbits, sugar gliders, hedgehogs, chinchillas and lizards.