



KERATAN AKHBAR

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CANINE DISTEMPER

Tiger that entered village in Terengganu dies

KUALA LUMPUR: A tiger that was captured on Friday after it wandered into Kampung Besul Lama in Dungun has died.

The male feline, named Awang Besul, died at the National Wildlife Rescue Centre (NWRC) in Sungkai, Perak, yesterday where it was placed since its capture.

"After intensive efforts to save Awang Besul, sadly on July 23, at 5.30am, the tiger was pronounced dead at the NWRC by a Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) veterinarian," the department said.

It added that a post-mortem would be conducted on the tiger.

Awang Besul was captured by the Terengganu Wildlife and National Parks Department after it wandered into Kampung Besul Lama. It was believed to be suffering from canine distemper.

It said checks revealed that the tiger had injured legs and inflammation in its eyes. It also suffered from dehydration.

Awang Besul was transferred to NWRC, where it was quarantined and given treatment.

"A detailed monitoring of the feline between July 20 and 23 revealed non-aggressive clinical neurological signs.

It was seen tilting in one direction when moving, had seizures and clinical respiratory tract infection, as well as nasal discharge.

"The treatment given was only to address symptoms," the department said.

It said samples of Awang Besul's blood serum, as well as swabs taken from the tiger, had been sent to the Veterinary Research Institute in Ipoh, Perak, on Sunday for tests.

"A virology test result, which was received on July 22, showed that Awang Besul had canine distemper based on the RT-PCR test."

Canine distemper is a disease caused by a virus that commonly attacks domestic cats and dogs, but there have been cases involving wild animals, such as tigers, wolves and foxes.

It will cause the animal to be confused and go against its predatory instincts, as well as show no fear of humans. There is slim chance of recovery from the disease.

"The department has not discounted the possibility that Awang Besul was infected by wild animals near Kampung Besul Lama.

"To ensure the safety of the residents, Perhilitan will continue to monitor the area and has set up traps," the department said.

Meanwhile, the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry urged the public to channel information to the department by calling 1-800-88-5151 if they spot tigers or had information on the animal.