

Media Statement – 16 November 2025

The National Parks Board (NParks) is aware of videos circulating that show two dogs being restrained and secured by an animal management contractor.

The contractor was deployed by the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of NParks, to trap and remove free-roaming dogs at Seletar West Farmway 8 for public safety reasons. From May 2025 to November 2025, four dog bite and chasing incidents were reported in the area. These incidents resulted in injuries to members of the public, with injuries ranging from scratches to puncture wounds requiring medical attention. Given the escalating pattern of incidents and potential risks to public safety, intervention became necessary.

AVS had engaged the farm where the dog bite incidents had occurred on multiple occasions to address the situation. The farm has since clarified that the dogs were not owned by the farm and agreed to remove them for safety reasons. The animal management contractor, under the supervision of AVS staff, conducted the trapping operations on 14 November 2025.

Due to the earlier bite incidents and high risk to public safety, the contractor used restraining poles to secure the dogs during the operations. The use of these poles are in line with international practices such as those mentioned in guidelines developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on Stray Dog Population Control. No uncovered wire loops or other potentially harmful devices were used during the trapping process. Throughout the operation, restraint procedures were carried out with due consideration for both animal welfare and personnel safety.

AVS has assessed that the amount of force used during the restraint of the dogs was within acceptable parameters, considering the dogs' history of aggression, hence the urgency to secure these dogs promptly and safely. Trapping was achieved with reasonable force to safely secure the dogs and all equipment deployed supports humane handling practices.

AVS staff were also present onsite throughout the operation.

The three dogs that were trapped are currently in AVS' care. Two victims have confirmed that one of these dogs had bitten them in separate incidents, while the two remaining dogs had chased one of the victims.

AVS will continue to monitor these dogs before assessing their suitability for rehoming under the Trap-Neuter-Rehome/Release-Manage (TNRM) programme. Members of the public who are interested to adopt dogs from the programme can approach our TNRM rehoming partners.

Dog Behaviour and Advisory

Dogs are territorial animals and may bark in response to humans or other animals which are within or are approaching their territories. Members of the public who

encounter free-roaming dogs are advised not to stare at them, and to speak softly and walk away slowly without making any sudden movements. Members of the public who need help can call the Animal Response Centre at 1800-476-1600 or contact us at www.avs.gov.sg/feedback.

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