

Media Statement – 20 November 2025

The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of the National Parks Board, acknowledges the feedback and concerns that the animal welfare groups have raised regarding handling standards and dog management practices. The safety and well-being of both animals and the community remains our priority.

Over the last few days, we have been engaging animal welfare group partners to gather their feedback and concerns, and will continue working closely with them to refine the Trap-Neuter-Rehome/Release-Manage (TNRM) programme. This includes reviewing our joint protocols and improving our communication and coordination.

Seletar West Farmway 8 operation

For the recent operation at Seletar West Farmway 8, the contractor was deployed by AVS to trap and remove free-roaming dogs for public safety reasons. From May 2025 to November 2025, four unprovoked dog bite and chasing incidents were reported in the area, including two within six days in November 2025. These incidents resulted in injuries to members of the public, with injuries ranging from scratches to puncture wounds requiring medical attention. Given the risks to public safety, swift intervention was necessary.

AVS assessed the situation on-site before determining an appropriate method of restraint, taking into consideration personnel and animal safety. The trapping was completed safely and effectively by AVS' animal management contractor under the supervision of AVS staff. Due to the earlier bite incidents and high risk to public safety, the contractor used appropriate restraining equipment to secure the dogs during the operations.

AVS worked with the victims to confirm that the dogs were involved in the incidents. Two victims confirmed that one of these dogs had bitten them in separate incidents, while the two remaining dogs had chased one of the victims. These three dogs are currently in AVS' care, and are observed to be bright, alert and eating well.

We are working with our animal welfare group partners to manage these dogs under the TNRM programme. Members of the public who are interested to adopt dogs under this programme can approach our animal welfare group partners.

The TNRM programme was launched in 2018 to holistically manage the free-roaming dog population, with due consideration for public safety. For urgent public safety situations, AVS will have to act swiftly and decisively while ensuring that operations are carried out safely and effectively.

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