KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES			
TARIKH	:	13/1/2022 (KHAMIS)	MUKA SURAT	:	3
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			



A tiger wandering on a road in Kampung Besul Lama in Dungun, Terengganu, in 2019. The tiger, nicknamed Awang Besul, was captured but died while being treated for canine distemper virus. FILE PIC

Perhilitan believes tigers are ill with CDV

KOTA BARU: The state Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) believes that several tigers spotted in Pos Bihai, Gua Musang recently may be infected with the canine distemper virus (CDV).

Its director, Mohamad Hafid Rohani, said the department's rangers were tracking down the tigers so they could be sent to the National Wildlife Rescue Centre (NWRC) in Perak.

"Based on our observations and from samples of tiger faeces, we suspect that the tigers might not be well... most probably infected with CDV as the (tiger faeces) samples were positive.

"This might cause the tigers to move within 10km of Pos Bihai."

Hafid said the department, however, could not confirm whether the virus had infected the three tigers being tracked by it, or other tigers.

"We believe the Gua Musang tiger case to be similar to the one in Terengganu (in 2019).

"The virus will cause the animal to be confused and go against its predatory instincts.

"This may be the reason why it does not harm humans and livestock that come into its path, and only takes food from rubbish."

In July 2019, a tiger caused a stir when it strolled among cars and people at Kampung Besul Lama, in Dungun, Terengganu.

The animal was captured and sent to the NWRC to be treated for CDV, but it died a few days later.

Perhilitan had then said the tiger, nicknamed Awang Besul, displayed unusual neurology, such tameness around humans.

Hafid said the department had yet to confirm whether the tiger that mauled an Orang Asli man in Gua Musang recently was among the three tigers sighted in Pos Bihai and Pos Balar.

"Although the tiger that attacked the Orang Asli man was shot dead, we believe there are still a few roaming in the two settlements," he added.

Last week, Anek Along, 59, was mauled to death by a tiger at Kampung Sau near Pos Bihai in Gua Musang.