



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN**  
**JUMAAT 1 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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UKK KPKM

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN  
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN KPKM, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/9/2023	SINAR HARIAN	NEGERI	26

# Durian premium Kampung Teluk Ira jadi buruan

Jok bilang didakwa lebih sedap daripada musang king

Oleh ROSILAWATI ROSEDI  
TEMERLOH

**D**idakwa lebih sedap daripada musang king, durian kampung premium baharu dari Temerloh, jok bilang adalah antara buruan penggemar raja buah tersebut di sini.

Rasanya yang lemak manis, pahit dan kuning keemasan serta isi tebal menyebabkan ia berada dalam kelas tersendiri.

Baru-baru ini, jok bilang dinobatkan di tempat kedua kategori durian kampung premium peringkat daerah Temerloh.

Namun untuk menikmati varieti tersebut bukan mudah memandangkan hanya ada sepokok yang ditanam Ishak Sulaiman bapa kepada Abd Manan Ishak,

65, di Kampung Teluk Ira di sini lebih 30 tahun lalu.

"Setiap kali buah gugur, ia sudah ditempah pelanggan dan dijual pada harga RM30 sekilogram.

"Itu pun ramai tak dapat sebab tak banyak berbuah, sekitar 70 hingga 80 biji saja," katanya ketika ditemui di sini.

Ujarnya, ciri utama durian jok bilang ialah berbentuk bujur, duri kasar dan purata berat ialah dua kilogram (kg) sebiji tetapi boleh mencecah tiga kilogram.

Menurutnya, durian itu ditanam bapanya daripada bijinya yang diperoleh daripada Orang Asli.

"Pokok ini mula mengeluarkan hasil sejak 15 tahun lalu dan ramai juga mendakwa rasanya lebih sedap daripada musang king.

"Nama buah ini berasal daripada perkataan Orang Asli iaitu maksudnya terbilang," katanya.

Ujar Abd Manan, dia kini sedang berusaha menambah bilangan pokok durian itu menerusi kaedah cantuman.



Abd Manan menunjukkan durian jok bilang yang pokoknya ditanam bapanya lebih 30 tahun lalu.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/9/2023	HARAKAH	KELANTAN	H13

# Dataran Kada diberi wajah baharu

**KOTA BHARU:** Dataran Kada di Kok Lanas yang pernah menjadi tumpuan ramai sebelum ini akan diberi wajah baharu bagi menghidupkan semula lokasi terbabit.

Adun Kok Lanas, Dato' Mohamad Farid Zawawi berkata, dataran itu boleh dimanfaatkan sebagai tempat penduduk mencari rezeki.

"Insyallah saya akan berhubung dengan Majlis Daerah Ketereh Perbandaran Islam dan jabatan berkaitan untuk menceritakan semula Dataran Kada.

"Ia juga boleh dijadikan sebagai lokasi menarik di Kok Lanas sekali gus dapat menambahkan tempat pelancongan di Kelantan," katanya pada catatan di laman sosialnya.

Dataran Kada diwujudkan ketika Kada di bawah pengurusan Tan



**Adun Kok Lanas Mohamad Farid Zawawi meninjau Dataran Kada yang kini terbiar.**

Sri Annuar Musa, di mana ia menjadi tumpuan penduduk tempatan.

Pelbagai aktiviti dan program menarik sering diadakan di lokasi terbabit. Bagaimanapun selepas Pengerusi Kada bertukar ganti, dataran

tersebut terbiar.

Farid juga berkata, banyak perkara yang boleh dimanfaatkan apabila Dataran Kada dioperasikan semula memandangkan kedudukan di tepi saluran Kada.

1/9/2023

UTUSAN  
MALAYSIADALAM  
NEGERI

1

# Sampai bila nak ulang isu petani, pesawah?

Oleh **SITI ATHIRAH DZULKIFLY**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** “Sampai bila kita nak dihadapkan dengan isu-isu yang berulang-ulang melibatkan petani, pesawah? Kerajaan kena bertegas, hapuskan segera manipulasi kartel, orang tengah yang dikhuatiri telah ‘merosakkan’ keterjaminan makanan negara.”

Demikian tegas Felo Perunding, Laboratori Kajian Polisi Per-

tanian dan Makanan, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Prof. Datin Dr. Fatimah Mohamed Arshad.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, beliau berkata, golongan petani dan pesawah sering terdedah kepada eksploitasi orang tengah sekali gus menyaksikan mereka tersepit kerana keputusan meletakkan harga kebiasaannya berada di tangan orang tengah.

Katanya, ini berlaku kerana golongan petani dan pesawah lazimnya tidak terdedah atau me-

miliki jaringan maklumat selain ketinggalan dengan kemajuan teknologi dan digital yang diimplementasi dalam pasaran kini.

“Kerajaan harus menangani isu ini kerana seiring zaman, golongan petani dan pesawah juga harus beradaptasi dengan kerangka pasaran berteknologi berbanding konvensional. Petani lazimnya terpencil daripada maklumat pasaran, sama ada kerana lokasi berjauhan atau tiada akses kepada maklumat.

“Disebabkan itu, mereka terdedah kepada eksploitasi orang tengah yang sudah beradaptasi dengan jaringan maklumat meluas. Benar, kerajaan telah menubuhkan agensi badan berkanun untuk menjaga keajikan petani kecil seperti Felcra, Felcra dan RISDA bagi menguruskan pembangunan tanah, pengeluaran serta pemasaran komoditi pekebun kecil.

**Bersambung di muka 2**

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/9/2023	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	2

# Sampai bila nak ulang isu petani, pesawah?

Dari muka 1

“Tetapi, bagaimana pula dengan kewujudan orang-orang yang tidak terkawal? Setelah beberapa dekad, agensi-agensi ini menjadi besar dan memiliki pelbagai subsidiari atau anak syarikat. Namun, peneroka misalnya, masih berstatus pekebun kecil serta menerima pendapatan rendah.

“Malah, turut didapati, ada subsidiari ditubuhkan yang tidak berkaitan dengan kepentingan petani seperti melabur di pasaran saham dan beberapa penyelewengan besar berlaku,” katanya di sini, semalam.

Beliau mengulas isu yang melanda golongan pesawah dan petani yang tidak dapat diselesaikan sehingga kini yang mampu menggugat keberjaminan makanan.

Isu-isu itu termasuk orang tengah selain melibatkan baja dan benih.

Selain itu, Fatimah mencadangkan agar kerajaan membuat peruntukan dana awam yang besar pada setiap tahun kepada agensi-agensi tersebut dalam usaha membantu pekebun kecil yang gagal meningkatkan pendapatan.

Tidak cuma itu, beliau juga melihat pemusatan agihan bahan input seperti baja misalnya, memberikan impak yang membimbangkan.

“Saya lihat, monopoli ini menghalang peserta pasaran baharu seperti usahawan, swasta dan koperasi untuk menceburi bidang ini. Dengan



**Apabila banyak bahan yang diimport, ia bukan soal masalah inflasi diimport semata, tetapi juga akan meningkatkan kos pengeluaran.”**

monopoli, pembangunan input tempatan hampir tiada dan semuanya perlu diimport.

“Apabila gejala ini berlaku, ia menyaksikan negara bergantung penuh kepada input import. Apabila banyak bahan yang diimport, ia bukan soal masalah inflasi diimport semata, tetapi juga akan meningkatkan kos pengeluaran dan mengecilkan margin keuntungan. Ini menjadikan industri tidak kompetitif,” katanya.

Ketua Ekonomi dan Kewangan Sosial Bank Muamalat, Dr. Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid berkata, manipulasi harga termasuk aktiviti haram kartel bahan mentah mungkin dapat dihapuskan jika kerajaan berupaya mencari punca dan mematahkan rantaian perniagaan seperti itu dalam negara.

“Sekiranya rantaian perniagaan ini dapat diselenggara dengan melalui punca kuasa yang sesuai, saya percaya segala aktiviti haram seperti kartel, mani-

pulasi harga, perbuatan sorok dan sebagainya dapat dibanteras.

“Sekali gus menyaksikan manfaatnya dapat dinikmati kedua belah pihak iaitu para petani dan golongan pengguna. Namun ini tidak berlaku kerana disebabkan peranan orang tengah.

“Seharusnya kerajaan perlu berusaha untuk memastikan mekanisme pasaran yang cekap baik dari segi pengeluaran dan penentuan harga dapat dilaksanakan,” katanya.

Beliau juga optimis pembangunan sektor pertanian dapat dirangkum dan dilestarikan melalui beberapa faktor pemboleh ubah.

“Isunya disini adalah bagaimana kita nak membangunkan sektor pertanian agar ia bersifat terangkum dan lestari. Pertamanya, negara kita banyak mengimport makanan sedangkan negara kita mempunyai sumber seperti tanah serta iklim yang sesuai untuk aktiviti pertanian.

Pakar Ekonomi, Dr. Nungsa-ri Ahmad Radhi menyifatkan, kebanyakan pemilik tanah sawah lebih cenderung untuk membenarkan pihak lain yang menguruskan tanah mereka.

Justeru katanya, jika sebarang perkara terjadi, pemilik tanah sawah harus berani menanggung risiko.

“Tuan punya sawah ramai jadi tuan tanah sahaja dan beri pada orang lain kerjakan tanah mereka. Tetapi mereka kena tanggung risikolah kalau padi tak menjadi,” katanya.

## Kangsar Farm utamakan kualiti ternakan, daging lembu

# 2030 PERAK SEJAHTERA

**KUALA KANGSAR** - Menyediakan daging berkualiti merupakan aspek penting bagi perusahaan ternakan milik Abdul Azim Hasan Basri, 32, yang mengusahakan perniagaannya di Kampung Keranji, Karai di sini.

Menurutnya, aspek itu penting kerana ia merupakan antara perkara yang boleh membantunya untuk kekal kompetitif dalam pasaran daging ternakan.

Katanya, dia menternak lembu, kerbau dan kambing menerusi jenama Kangsar Farm setelah mengambil alih perniagaan tersebut daripada bapanya pada 2016, dengan antara perkhidmatan disediakan adalah ternakan kor-



**ABDUL AZIM menunjukkan ladang lembu dan kerbau di Kampung Keranji, Kuala Kangsar baru-baru ini.**

ban dan akikah serta daging segar terutamanya pada Ramadan.

"Perusahaan ini dilakukan secara separuh intensif yang mana pada waktu siang terma-

kan dilepaskan dalam kawasan berpagar seluas 1.2 hektar untuk meragut, manakala pada waktu malam ternakan dikurung untuk diberi makanan tambahan serta

demi keselamatan.

"Kami akan memastikan makanan yang diberikan adalah berkualiti dan sihat demi menjaga kualiti daging serta kesihatan ternakan," katanya kepada Kosmo! di sini semalam.

Pada masa sama, Abdul Azim berkata, dia mengehadakan jumlah jualan pada satu-satu masa terutama untuk daging korban supaya dapat memberi fokus kepada aspek kualiti.

Buat masa ini, katanya, kebanyakan pelanggannya terdiri penduduk serempak dan kenalan.

Bahkan, katanya, bagi jualan korban, dia mengutamakan pelanggan tetap supaya kualiti ternakan terjaga.

Menyentuh mengenai bantuan oleh kerajaan negeri Perak menerusi Perbadanan Pembangunan Pertanian Negeri (SADC) Perak, Kangsar Farm menerima bantuan sejumlah RM12,000 untuk pembelian peralatan kan-

dang dan RM36,000 sebagai modal ternakan.

Perak SADC, adalah agensi peneraju utama bagi memacu kestabilan sekuriti makanan yang menjadi agenda utama Perak Sejahtera 2030 yang dicetuskan Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad.

"Hasil bantuan itu, saya dapat menguruskan ladang secara sistematik menerusi pembelian peralatan walaupun hanya seorang menjaga kira-kira 40 ekor lembu pada satu-satu masa.

"Modal ternakan pula memudahkan saya buat modal pusingan untuk jual beli ternakan," katanya yang turut berterima kasih dengan bantuan kerajaan negeri tersebut dalam membuka ruang kepada industri ternakan.

Dalam pada itu, Abdul Azim berkata, dia mahu menjual ternakan ayam dan telurnya serta menanam sayur secara hidropnik.

# Concrete action needed

## Orang Asli want their voices heard as livelihoods face threat

By YEE XIANG YUN  
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**JOHOR BARU:** The Orang Asli communities in two villages in Pulau want an elected representative who cares about their welfare beyond the election season.

Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Temun Tok Batin Salim Palon said the community should not be overlooked as they had worked hard for a living and contributed to society.

"It is always the same story – the candidates come to my village to campaign and ask us to vote for them, but after the election season is over, they are nowhere to be seen.

"It does not matter the political party, we want elected representatives who listen to us and make our voices heard," he said when interviewed at the village, located near Sungai Danga.

Salim, 63, said they have been trying to get a new jetty for the village for years as the livelihood of the 80-odd families depends on it.

"A jetty in good condition is vital to the Orang Seletar or Orang Laut (Sea People) community.

"Most of the villagers are fishermen who use the jetty daily to look for shellfish such as lokan and mussels, fish and crabs to sell for a living.

"At present, the village jetty is worn and old, making it unsafe for them as well as the children who often go swimming in the water.

"Even if we do not get a concrete jetty, the present wooden one should at least be replaced with new floats and planks.

"I sound like a broken record, as I have raised the issue many times since before the Johor state election in March last year," he said, adding that the villagers had to fork out their own money to build a multi-purpose hall in the village.

The hall is used for tuition classes conducted by non-governmental organisations for the village



children and monthly health checks conducted by health officials.

Salim claimed that harassment from a nearby fishing village, where "certain quarters" attempted to forbid the Orang Asli community from fishing, is another problem the villagers face.

"I think it is out of jealousy and selfishness, but it is unfair to stop us from fishing because the sea is a shared resource. We are trying to make an honest living; it is not as if we are stealing from others.

"We are sea people. If we do not go out to sea, how are we going to raise our families?"

"Who is going to give us RM3,000 a month to survive?" he said.

Over at Kampung Bakar Batu in Perling, villagers are struggling to make ends meet due to a dwindling catch from the sea.

According to Tok Batin Kais Tee, their survival was affected because of the vast development taking place in Danga Bay nearby.

"We used to fish right in front of the village in the 60s, but now the mangrove trees have been

**Livelihood in jeopardy:** Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Temun folk using the jetty which is in poor condition. (Inset) Kais showing his daily catch from the sea that has been dwindling. — THOMAS YONG/The Star

cleared, so fish and other marine life are not coming to breed.

"Prior to the land reclamation, we enjoyed rich marine life. We could catch crabs, snails, prawns and a wide variety of fish, but they are all gone now," said the 62-year-old.

Villager Yang Tom, 61, also complained that their jetty was in bad shape.

"The villagers, women included, go out to sea to look for seafood and worms, which we sell to visitors. Many people like to stop by our village to buy worms, which they use as fishing bait.

"Since our catch has dwindled, we have had to look for other sources to supplement our income," she added.

Yang hopes that the village can be developed into a tourism attraction with beautiful stalls for the villagers to sell delicacies and handicrafts.

"Our village is also frequently visited by students on field trips, so it will be good to have a proper area to welcome them and at the same time help support the villagers," said the mother of two.

The by-election campaigning period for the Pulau parliamentary seat and Simpang Jeram state seat is ongoing, with polling day set for Sept 9.

The seats were left vacant following the demise of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Daruk Seri Salahuddin Ayub at age 61. He was Pulau MP and Simpang Jeram assemblyman.

There are 166,653 registered voters in Pulau, of which 73,619 (44.18%) are Malays, 67,434 (40.46%) are Chinese, 20,508 (12.31%) are Indians, and 5,092 (3.06%) are from other communities.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/9/2023	THE STAR	LIFESTYLE	MUKA DEPAN



# No child's play

They're small, cute, furry – and you'd think an ideal pet for a child. But as three Malaysian bunny rescuers point out, rabbits are surprisingly difficult and expensive pets to keep. 2&3

What Merdeka means to children  
4

Tribute to a shining star  
7

Dramatic slice of reality  
8

Jennifer Kwan and her pet rabbit  
— YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



1/9/2023

THE  
STAR

PETS

2

# A surprisingly exotic pet



Kwan and her pet rabbit. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

By ELLEN WHYTE

RABBITS are adorable. They have soft fur, big ears, round bodies and super cute fluffy little tails. They're the picture-perfect pet. However, just after the Year of the Rabbit started, shelters were swamped with unwanted bunnies. Surprisingly, bunnies are a constant surrender at shelters, even in other years. Curious about the phenomenon, we talked to three Malaysian bunny experts about the challenge of keeping these cute furries.

## Dental problems

Serene Yiwah, owner of HappyThreePets, a home-based rabbit boarding in Johor Baru, is a veteran shelter volunteer who has always adopted rescues. She lives with six cats and three dogs, and in the last two years, three rabbits have joined the crew.

"I found Udon on the roadside on Mother's Day in 2021," Serene says. "He was clearly a pet who'd been dumped. A few months later, on National Day, someone posted rabbit emergency alerts on Facebook. A poor little bunny had no fur and a genetic issue. That was Soba. A few months after that, a rescuer friend picked up what she thought was a tiny kitten in front of her house. But when she looked closer, she realised it was a baby rabbit. She had no experience so she brought it to me. That's how we got Pasta."

Yiwah had a pet rabbit 12 years ago, but with the three rescues, she got back up to speed on the species. "Rabbits look small, cute and furry, the ideal easy pet for kids," she says. "But rabbits are actually quite difficult to manage. They are typically inbred, so they have lots of genetically inherited health conditions, of which dental problems are the most challenging." Rabbit teeth grow continuously. In the wild, animals nibble all day long, which helps keep teeth healthy. But with inbreeding and soft pellets, pet rabbits can suffer from dental problems.

"You can manage ordinary growth with a lot of quality hay, but many rabbits also need dental trimming," Yiwah points out. "That involves an operation with anaesthetic and that means lots of bills every few months."

But surprisingly, that's not the main reason rabbits don't make good pets. "Rabbits look sweet, but 90% of them don't like cuddles," Yiwah laughs. "Very few rabbits enjoy being handled. Also, if you don't spay or neuter them, they can be aggressive."



Wong and her pet rabbits Galileo and SunnyBoy. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

Rabbits kick and bite, especially if they come from breeders who don't bother to socialise them.

"A rabbit in a cage gets sick because the metal wires inflame their feet," Yiwah points out. "They need playpens and space to run around."

"Also, rabbits poop all the time! Really. Around the clock. Constantly. It's amazing how much can come out of a bunny. Expect to spend a lot of time cleaning." Sadly, this message isn't clear to the public.

"People who don't know animals didn't know you have to neuter them," Yiwah observes sadly. "They cage them and when the rabbit becomes sick and turns feral, kicking or biting the kids, people become angry. They don't realise they caused this to happen."

Although bunnies are a challenge, and many end up dead or killed, there are some happy stories.

## Territorial creatures

Two years ago, Jennifer Kwan, a facility specialist in Kuala Lumpur, went out to look for a pet rabbit for her niece.

"I didn't know anything about rabbits, I'm a dog person, so I

went to a pet shop," Kwan explains. But when she got there, she was taken aback.

"There were a bunch of bunnies sitting in an aquarium. I felt so sorry for them because they didn't look happy or comfortable. Then I spotted one who was set aside by itself."

When Kwan asked the staff why the rabbit was on its own, they told her it was dying.

"They didn't care, they just said I should buy one of the others," Kwan said darkly. "When I told them I'd take the sick one, they shrugged, gave me a discount and told me when it died, it would be my problem. I said fine."

She called the little bunny Mia — and hit Google. This put her in touch with Beh and Yo, two highly respected ethical bunny specialists. They looked at Mia and explained to Kwan that the bunny had mites. Thankfully, it wasn't a major issue.

"I gave her a little medicine," Kwan remembers. "Then I sat with her and petted her."

Two weeks later, Mia was fine.

"She never had a serious issue, she just needed care." Kwan is still angry when she recalls this, adding, "The pet shop is only interested in profit. They sell to kids and don't



Yiwah's pet, Udon. A rabbit in a cage gets sick because the metal wires inflame their feet. They need playpens and space to run around," she says. — SERENE YIWAH

care about the animals. I rang them and told them off but they're not making any changes. It was a bad experience and so I'm actually against pet shops now."

Seeing Mia was happy with Kwan, her friends gave her Hana, a second bunny.

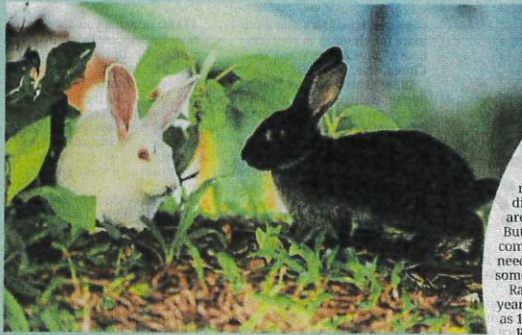
"At first, everything was fine. Mia and Hana were both small so they got along well. But when they hit six months, their hormones kicked in and they became territorial. They fought, pulling each other's hair out and battling everywhere."

Kwan separated them, hit Google again and learned this is a common issue. Also, the only fix is to spay them. As the girls were small, Kwan had to wait until they were eight months old.

Thankfully, the vet did a great job. However, it took time to rebound the two girls.

"The Internet says to wait 15 days," Kwan says. "But when I tried it, Mia battered Hana. Then, when I separated them, Mia bit me."

Kwan had to wait a month before the two rabbits' hormone levels dropped. Then, she put them in a clean and neutral space and supervised their playtime. It was a bit of a hit and miss, but after three months, they sweetened up.



Rabbits may seem soft and cuddly but they can be territorial and aggressive. — 123rf.com



Mia and Hana in their 'castle'.

"You should see them now," Kwan laughs. "They're a lovely couple, best friends!"

The two rabbits live happily together, playing all over the house. "Cages aren't good because rabbits are used to living in wide open spaces," Kwan points out. "They need space to live and be happy. Thankfully, you can litter train them, just like cats."

Kwan loves her two bunnies but the experience has solidified a principle for her. "People think that a small animal is easy to take care of compared to a cat or dog, but that's not true," she observes.

"Rabbits require a lot of time, knowledge and patience, as much as a cat or dog. So if you're an animal lover, and you have time, it's OK, but if you want an easy pet, rabbits are not for you."

#### Not up for cuddles

Wong Pui Yen, a software developer from Kajang, Selangor, was out shopping when she spotted a rabbit sitting in a tank.

"He looked miserable, sitting there with a giant lightbulb over him," she remembers. "The sign on the glass said he was 50% off. The salesman said he was too small, already seven months old, and unsellable. He told me he would be turned to burger patty if I didn't buy him."

Wong hesitated because she knew rabbits aren't easy pets. When she was a student, she tried to rescue two tiny rabbits. It didn't go well and so she was cautious. But the bunny's sad plight worried her, so she took a chance and bought SunnyBoy.

"Diet is googlable, and I found I could buy proper food easily enough," she remembers. "But rabbit behaviour is an entirely different issue. I learned very quickly

that while I wanted to cuddle SunnyBoy, he found that stressful."

Wong hit the books and studied up on rabbits. "It's wrong to inflict your needs on others," she observes, "and from my studies, there are rabbits who are cuddle bugs and those who are not. SunnyBoy was definitely not!"

Not giving up, Wong gave him all the food he liked, the best hay and let him run about her apartment. When he was more relaxed, SunnyBoy began to engage. "I soon learned that if I sat still, he would come to me" Wong smiles. "He would sit next to me and let me stroke him. Slowly, he learned to trust me."

"It's rewarding when a rabbit starts to love you. SunnyBoy began sitting with me, and then licking me. We got to be really close. In fact, once when I was ill, he came over to check on me and didn't wake me for his meal, but just kept quiet and waited. He knew I was unwell, and he was especially sweet to me."

However, SunnyBoy's neglect in the pet shop soon caught up with him. A few months after moving in, he came down with skin issues. Then there were problems with his teeth.

"We found a great vet who was able to sedate him and trim his teeth," Wong shares. "But it took quite a few visits and quite a lot of treatment."

After his teeth were finally fixed, SunnyBoy became quite ill. Small animals don't do well with operations, and part of his treatment had impacted on his liver.

## What bunnies cost

RABBITS are not beginner pets. They require a lot of time, are difficult to manage, and are expensive to maintain. But if you want a bunny, or come across a bunny that needs a rescue, here are some tips.

Rabbits live around 10 years. Some can live as long as 12 or 13 years.

Rabbits need to be neutered at about 10 months or they turn aggressive. Cost of neutering or

spaying runs between RM200 to RM400

Rabbits are vegetarian but there are a surprising number of things they can't eat. They need a diet that is 70% hay plus specially produced pellets.

Budget about RM200 a month for hay and pellets.

A rabbit playpen is around RM100 to RM200.

If your bunny has inherited issues with teeth, dental trimming is around RM200 per session. Budget a further RM600 per year.

Note: Not all vets take bunnies. You may need to ask your vet for a referral.



Many rabbits need dental trimming as their teeth grow continuously. — 123rf.com



SunnyBoy and his rescuer, Wong. — WONG PUI YEN



Soba has come a long way since Yiwah first adopted her. Back then, the rabbit had a genetic issue and no fur. — SERENE YIWAH

"At one point, the vet told me SunnyBoy might not make it," Wong shares. "We had him on painkillers and consulted experts, including some dog vets."

Luckily, SunnyBoy pulled through. "We travelled together," Wong giggles. "He's been all over Malaysia, from Ipoh and Penang to Johor. His favourite place is Genting as it's cool."

With it being the Year of the Rabbit, many bunnies were dumped after Chinese New Year. One little one ended up at PAWS animal shelter.

The bunny was small and had a giant gash over his eye. At first, they thought he was a puppy. Then they took a second look and realised what he was. They took him straight to the vet and luckily they managed to fix him up.

When Wong heard about him, she decided she was ready for a second

bunny. So she adopted him as a friend for SunnyBoy.

"I named him Galileo Galilei so he'd be smart, and it worked!" Wong laughs. "Bonding with rabbits takes a long time, but it took us just a month so I felt very gifted."

All joking aside, she points out that SunnyBoy and Galileo Galilei were neutered, which helped too.

"Again, not all rabbits are the same," she observes. "Thankfully, these two didn't fight at all. Introductions were smooth, and after a few weeks they were eating together. Today, they are totally bonded."

SunnyBoy and Galileo Galilei spend their days running around her flat, having a good time. They play, eat and sleep together. Although it makes her very happy, Wong believes that rabbits are misrepresented.

"Rabbits aren't good pets for kids. It requires a lot of knowledge and financial support to sustain a healthy bunny," she points out. "Plus, bunnies are social. They need each other. A rabbit will love you, but he needs a bunny to bond with. It's their nature."