

# Keeping Pulau Ubin Rabies-free

Since 1953, Singapore has been free from rabies. However, there is a need to continue protecting Singapore from the incursion of rabies. This can be done by encouraging responsible pet ownership and improving animal welfare.

The Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster under NParks and previously known as the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), started Ops Vax Lyssa on Pulau Ubin in December 2018. Ops Vax Lyssa is an exercise to vaccinate dogs against rabies, and is part of an initiative to provide booster rabies vaccinations and conduct blood sampling, micro-chipping and sterilisation of dogs on Pulau Ubin. Under this initiative, AVS partners private veterinarians and Save our Street Dogs (SOSD), an organisation dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming stray and abandoned dogs in Singapore.

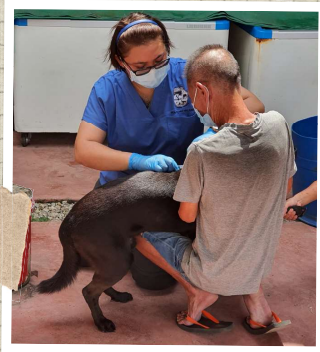
Two exercises were carried out in November 2019 and July 2021. Out of a population of about 40 dogs in Pulau Ubin, 27 dogs have already been vaccinated. Ops Vax Lyssa will continue yearly to ensure that the dogs on Pulau Ubin are safe from rabies. We hope to vaccinate the remaining dogs within the next two years.



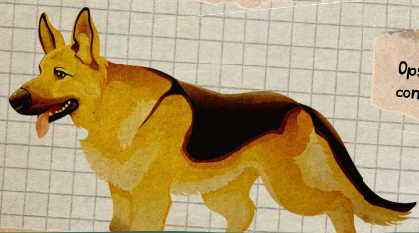
SOSD volunteers conducting an Ops Vax Lyssa exercise in November 2019 (photograph taken prior to COVID-19)



NParks staff assisting a villager in applying for a dog licence (photograph taken prior to COVID-19)



Ops Vax Lyssa exercise conducted in July 2021



For more information on Pulau Ubin, visit [www.nparks.gov.sg/pulau-ubin](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/pulau-ubin) or contact us at [nparks\\_pulau\\_ubin@nparks.gov.sg](mailto:nparks_pulau_ubin@nparks.gov.sg)

# UbinTides



## Reopening of Sin Nam Huat

Sin Nam Huat, or House No. 40/40-A, is a popular coffeeshop and Chinese restaurant in Pulau Ubin, run by two sisters, Mdm Goh Sin Eng and Mdm Goh Guat Lai. Their parents started the business about 60 years ago, and sold a variety of food including curry rice, cakes and kaya buns. The two sisters took over the family business from their brother after his passing sometime in the late 1990s.

An inspection carried out in 2019 found that major repairs to the building were needed to ensure the safety of the sisters and their patrons. The repairs included the replacement of support columns and beams, the roof, false ceiling, flooring and wall claddings, as well as the reconstruction of drains. As the works were substantial and too costly for the sisters, they requested NParks' assistance.

Although tenants are responsible for the upkeep of the premises licensed to them, NParks agreed to undertake the much-needed repairs on a goodwill basis. Work commenced in December 2019, and after some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the repairs

House No. 40's kitchen — before repair works (left) and after completion in August 2021 (right)



to Sin Nam Huat were completed and the shop was handed back to the sisters in August 2021.

With the reopening of Sin Nam Huat, visitors and the local community can once again enjoy the Goh sisters' delicious food and hand-brewed coffee.



House No. 40's interior wall — before repair works (top) and after completion in August 2021 (bottom)



Mdm Goh Sin Eng (right) and her younger sister Mdm Goh Guat Lai (left) at the reopened House No. 40



"My sister and I are grateful for the assistance provided by NParks to repair the house. Otherwise, we would not be able to cope with the expenses required to carry out the repairs on our own."

Mdm Goh Sin Eng



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# Pesta Ubin and Ubin Day 2020

The 9th edition of Ubin Day took place on 26 September 2020, and marked the culmination of Pesta Ubin 2020. The event was graced by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies; Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development; and Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs.

Members of the Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) updated the guests on the progress of various initiatives under The Ubin Project. Minister Desmond Lee announced exciting new discoveries of fauna from the Comprehensive Ubin Biodiversity Survey and spoke about the reforestation efforts for Pulau Ubin to be undertaken by NParks and the community over the next 10 years.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Singapore in early 2020, organisers of Pesta Ubin and Ubin Day had to change the way activities were held, in view of the prevailing Safe Management Measures. Due to restrictions on group sizes for social gatherings, on-site events were converted into virtual events so that the community could continue to commemorate Pesta Ubin and Ubin Day in September 2020.

From 12 to 26 September 2020, volunteers and stakeholders organised a series of online talks and virtual activities to showcase Pulau Ubin's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. These comprised a Malay kampung tour by the descendant of a former resident of Kampung Surau; a talk on bird conservation by the Bird Group of the Nature Society (Singapore); a heritage tour by Kawan Ubin and the Singapore Heritage Society; an art workshop by local artist and wildlife conservationist Alpina Ahuja; and an adventure heritage trail with Outward Bound Singapore, to explore the lesser-known parts of the island. NParks also released four virtual tours on YouTube, and organised a full day of talks for everyone to enjoy and celebrate Ubin.



(From left) Minister Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and Minister Desmond Lee planting a tree at the Ubin Living Lab during Ubin Day 2020



Pulau Ubin Virtual Heritage Tour organised by Kawan Ubin

There were also four on-site activities, which were conducted separately by Cicada Tree Eco-Place; Singapore Teochew Group; Nature Photographic Society, Singapore; and U Cares Volunteers. Participants explored the island and experienced its rustic and natural charm. Some even got the opportunity to plant trees in support of reforestation efforts and the OneMillionTrees movement. All the activities were conducted with adherence to the prevailing Safe Management Measures.



Participants planting a tree at Jalan Jelutong



Storytelling activity by Cicada Tree Eco-Place, with safe management measures in place



Screenshot of a virtual tour of the Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat Gun Battery



Screenshots from Ubin Day webinars on 26 September 2020

## STRAW-HEADED BULBUL

- GLOBALLY CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
- SINGAPORE IS THE LAST STRONGHOLD
- UBIN HAS A SIZEABLE POPULATION



zoom