

Appendix A

Timeline: Melinsung Ranch, Kota Kinabalu: Cruelty Case

June 2007 - Tourists visiting the Melinsung Ranch saw that starving and weak horses, some unable to stand, were kept in dirty paddocks and stables in and around the ranch. The endurance horses had skin diseases, open wounds and infected sores, and there were dead and dying horses clearly visible at the ranch and on a nearby beach. The tourists reported the distressing scenes to the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), which quickly contacted us (SPCA Selangor is a Member Society of WSPA) to pressure the authorities to do something about the situation. The SPCA reported the problem to the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in Sabah through the central DVS in Kuala Lumpur. After inspecting the Ranch, the DVS agreed to give a written warning to the Owner and gave him 3 months to improve the situation for the horses. In the meantime, DVS officers began to feed the horses while still under the owners care. The SPCA was asked to wait for the DVS to do its job by monitoring the situation, and not take any action until requested by DVS. Following the start of the DVS supervision, the Ranch was barricaded. Photographs taken by tourists below.



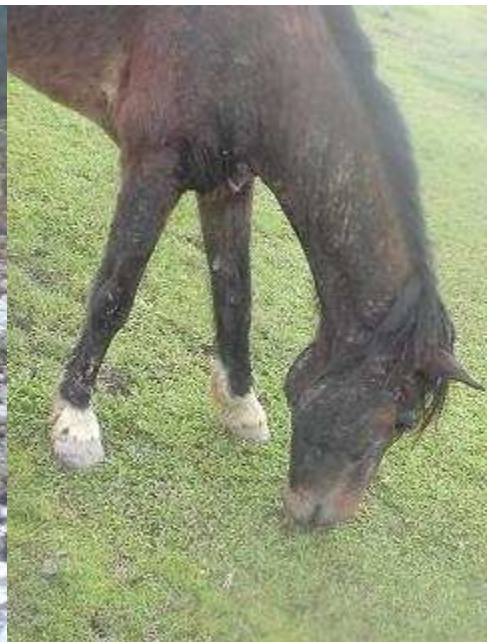
September & October 2007 - More reports of cruelty at the same Ranch are sent to the WSPA Asia office by WSPA supporters from Australia and New Zealand.

17th January 2008 - More concerned members of the public alert SPCA Selangor about the continuing neglect of horses at the Ranch. When the DVS visited the ranch in June 2007 there were 70 horses. Based on reports, in January there were only 30 horses left – most of which were in critical condition and many dying. The SPCA was hoping the horses would be confiscated and offered our help to rehabilitate them, and were devastated that nothing appears to have been done to help the horses in the last 6 months. The owner was now trying to sell off the horses – for meat.

28th January 2008 - Ms Quek Sue Yian (Chairperson of the SPCA Equine Welfare Fund), veterinarian Dr Bala and WWF Hong Kong representative visit the Ranch to gage the condition of the horses and obtain photographic evidence. Photographs below.



**Proud flesh wound.
Stable covered in shit
and urine.**



29th January - A DVS official calls Ms Quek to inform her that they need two weeks to decide on the course of action to take on the case.

1st February - Meeting to discuss SPCA's action plan is held between SPCA Equine Welfare Fund Committee members and SPCA Chairperson.

2nd February – Official letters highlighting the Ranch go out to FEI, EAM and the Minister Of Tourism Malaysia.

11th February 2008

Two week period requested by DVS ends. WSPA/ SPCA Media Release to be sent to local media. Briefed by DVS Putrajaya on the telephone that a court order against the owner of Ranch A to seize all his horses and ponies will be obtained and they will be housing them temporarily in their quarantine areas until it can be determined what to do with all the animals. The DVS felt that the owners had not done enough in the past two weeks to improve the situation and were of the opinion that they were not likely to do more. Of the 28 horses they estimate between 6 - 10 horses will need to be put down because of their condition.

17th February 2008

SPCA releases first Press Release “Dying to be Rescued”. None of the horses have been confiscated and nor has a court order been obtained against the owner.

26th February 2008

Begins its “Call for Action” campaign – calling for confiscation and prosecution of Owner of Ranch A.

27th February 2008 – 1 March 2008

DVS Putrajaya flies down to Sabah to work with DVS Sabah to address the problem of the horses that have been largely unchanged despite the ending of the two week period weeks period. DVS Sabah took two horses into their care. Horses are being groomed, walked and fed and stables repaired.

1 March 2008

World Society for the Protection of Animals representatives inspect Melinsung Ranch. See below for some of their photos.

Selangor SPCA engages the services of local lawyer on advisory basis.

