

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

#### **Do not release animals into the wild**

*'Operation No Release' initiative to raise public awareness*

*Singapore, 2 May 2017* – The National Parks Board (NParks) and PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency, will be carrying out 'Operation No Release' on 6-7 May and 13-14 May (see Annex for full list of locations). This is an initiative that aims to raise public awareness on the harmful impact of releasing animals into parks (including ponds), nature areas, reservoirs and waterways. The agencies, with the help of volunteers, will be keeping a lookout for any sign of animal release, and will educate and advise members of the public about the dangers of releasing animals into the wild.

2 "Releasing animals that have been bred and kept in captivity harms them and our ecosystem," says Mr Wong Tuan Wah, Group Director of Conservation, NParks. "These animals will find it difficult to fend for themselves in the wild and are unlikely to survive, as they seldom have the skills required to survive in their new, unfamiliar surroundings. The few that are able to adapt to the new environment may disrupt the ecological balance of our natural habitats by competing with our native species for resources. This is particularly so for our nature reserves, which have more sensitive ecosystems, and animals released into waterways outside of the nature reserves would still have adverse effects if those waterways lead into the nature reserves."

3 Mr Ridzuan Ismail, PUB's Director of Catchment and Waterways, added, "Aquatic ecosystems are complex and dynamic as the organisms living in them are often interdependent. The release of non-native species into our waters will not only have an impact on the ecology and water quality of our freshwaters, but may also pose a risk to users of our waterbodies. We strongly urge members of the public against releasing animals into our reservoirs and waterways.

4 Ms Jessica Kwok, Group Director of AVA's Animal Management Group reminds pet owners that a pet is a lifetime commitment. "It is irresponsible and cruel to abandon pets. Pets may not survive in the wild as they usually lack the natural instincts and ability to find food or fend for themselves. Pet owners who are unable to look after their pet anymore should find a



suitable home for their pet. They can also approach an animal welfare group for help to re-home their pet,” she said.

5 Offenders caught releasing animals may be charged under the Parks and Trees Act and could be fined up to \$50,000.

\*\*\* End \*\*\*

For more information, please contact:

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### **About National Parks Board (NParks)**

National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for providing and enhancing the greenery of our City in a Garden. Beyond building green infrastructure, NParks is actively engaging the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages 350 parks and 300 km of park connectors, 3,347 hectares of nature reserves and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. We also manage Pulau Ubin and the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Adding to this is the extensive streetscape, or roadside greenery, that forms the backbone of our City in a Garden. The island-wide Park Connector Network is also being developed to link major parks, nature areas and residential estates.

As the lead agency on biodiversity conservation, NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative eco-systems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape and horticulture industry to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a City in a Garden.

For more information, visit [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg) and [www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz)

### **About PUB**

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. It is the water agency, and manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment and used water in an integrated way.

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the Four National Taps (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water).

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore's precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

### **Find out more about us**

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### **About Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)**

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) is responsible for ensuring a resilient supply of safe food, safeguarding the health and welfare of animals, safeguarding the health of plants and facilitating agri-trade.

AVA has regulatory measures in place to safeguard animal welfare and health standards, and actively promotes public education on responsible pet ownership and adoption. AVA's comprehensive animal and plant health system also prevents the introduction of exotic animal and plant diseases into Singapore.

AVA is constantly on the lookout for new and potential food sources, through our push for source diversification in collaboration with the food industry. Simultaneously, AVA continues to help raise local agricultural productivity to enhance Singapore's food supply.

Food safety is a shared responsibility, and we have integrated food safety programmes which incorporate risk management, and leverage on industry engagement and public outreach.

We also facilitate agri-trade through our inspection, testing and certification services.

For more information on AVA, please visit [www.ava.gov.sg](http://www.ava.gov.sg) and [www.facebook.com/avasg](http://www.facebook.com/avasg)

**List of parks, nature reserves and reservoirs taking part in 'Operation No Release'  
2017**

1. Bedok Reservoir
2. Bukit Batok Nature Park
3. Dairy Farm Nature Park
4. Hindhede Nature Park
5. Jurong Lake
6. Kranji Reservoir
7. Labrador Nature Reserve
8. Lower Peirce Reservoir Park
9. Lower Seletar Reservoir
10. MacRitchie Reservoir Park
11. Marina Reservoir
12. Pandan Reservoir
13. Punggol Reservoir
14. Serangoon Reservoir
15. Springleaf Nature Park
16. Upper Peirce Reservoir Park
17. Upper Seletar Reservoir Park
18. Windsor Nature Park