

SEPTEMBER  
2024

# e-Lingua

3/2024



✓ <u>Chief Editor's Desk</u>	<u>2</u>
✓ <u>News &amp; Reports</u>	<u>7</u>
✓ <u>Language Club News &amp; Reports</u>	<u>16</u>
✓ <u>Image &amp; Lifestyle</u>	<u>44</u>
✓ <u>Pet Lovers' Central</u>	<u>70</u>
✓ <u>Lecturer's Contribution</u>	<u>93</u>
✓ <u>Creative Corner</u>	<u>119</u>
✓ <u>The Team</u>	<u>131</u>



# Pet Lovers' central

<a href="#"><u>Owning Leopard Tortoises</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>71</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Tricky Treats!</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>77</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Naming Your Cat</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>81</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Stingless Bees in Malaysia</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>86</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>My journal of raising a poodle puppy.</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>89</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>My Memorable Visit to Pet Expo Malaysia in Penang</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>91</u></a>



I've had some wild adventures with my rabbits that have enriched my knowledge about them, though it always seems to happen in unfortunate situations

Recently, one of my pet rabbits, Darry, suddenly stopped eating. For those who might not know, rabbits are fragile animals that can easily fall sick if they don't eat for several hours. They must keep their intestines moving with food constantly, or the bacteria in their guts can turn against them, making them ill.

Rabbits are also sensitive creatures, and changes in their environment can harm them. It was peculiar for Darry to lose his appetite without any apparent cause. There was no boarding, grooming, vet visits, new noises, or unfamiliar faces around the house.



## Tricky Treats!

*By Che Nooryohana Zulkiflie*

So, I didn't waste any time when I noticed the change. I started giving him Critical Care and probiotics right away. Critical Care is primarily composed of timothy hay and supplemented with oat groats, soy beans and wheat germ for added energy that is needed by nutritionally stressed animals that are ill, recovering from surgery, or need additional food supplementation. Even with these aids, I still felt uneasy, so I quickly brought him to Dr. Lynn at Ark Vet.



I believe this information can be helpful for any new pet owners out there who are considering adopting exotic animals like rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, or even aquatic creatures. This is because in Penang, there are not many vets who can examine and treat exotic pets, and Ark Vet (located in Tanjung Tokong) is one of the few. The trip to Ark from my place is quite an adventure. It's around 120 km round trip from home, and it feels like an unpredictable journey every time. The worst part is keeping the pet calm throughout the drive, especially when they are already restless.



When I brought Darry to Ark Vet, Dr. Lynn didn't find anything significant, but Darry did contract his muscles a bit when she pressed his tummy, which isn't normal for a healthy rabbit. She suspected some discomfort in his guts and prescribed pain and gas meds, along with daily probiotics for a week. Despite being on meds for several days, his appetite didn't seem to improve much. So, I consulted a friend who owns the place where my rabbits usually board. She asked about Darry's diet, and I explained that I only give them high-quality hays and pellets, with various hays like timothy, oat, barley, orchard grass, and wheat. My friend pointed out that offering too many types of hay could make rabbits picky eaters.





Just so you know, rabbits can also have fresh vegetables and fruits, but not all are safe for them. Carrots, potatoes, and avocados are big no-nos as they can be toxic. Since I was afraid of making mistakes, I decided not to give them vegetables or fruits and stuck to hays. However, offering too many types of hays turned out to be a mistake. It is obviously a treat that has tricked his mind and changed his appetite.

I noticed Darry sniffing around and digging through the haystack as if searching for something, but he didn't eat what he found. My friend advised me to stop offering all other hays and continue with timothy hay mixed with ground pellets to trick him. I followed her advice, and within a day, Darry started eating timothy hay again. When he eats, he drinks more water, too. Unlike before, when his food intake was low, so was his water intake.



The author and her pet rabbit, Darry at Ark Vet, Tanjong Tokong.



The whole experience was traumatic, not only because Darry wasn't himself, but also because there are so few exotic pet vets in Penang. I have to live with the fact that I can't just leave the house and drive to a nearby vet for treatment. Whenever my pet rabbits felt under the weather, I usually made countless calls to any vet I could find in Penang, and even the other vets recommended Ark! The clinic is fantastic – clean and comfortable, with excellent staff – but it's an arduous journey from home. I wish there were more reliable exotic pet vets nearby.

So, here's another valuable lesson I've learned. Rabbits thrive on consistency and routine. Any changes to their environment or diet must be introduced gradually and with great care. To some, the effort I put into caring for my rabbits might seem excessive, but believe me, their well-being is worth every bit of trouble. Despite their seemingly aloof nature, our bond is priceless, and I wouldn't trade them for anything in the world. I'm genuinely grateful that Darry is on the mend. Here's a picture of us at Ark Vet the other day, capturing a moment of love and hope.

