



## **Strengthening Collaboration in Dealing with Animal Diseases – AVA contributes 25,000 doses of rabies vaccine to support Malaysia’s fight against rabies**

7 August 2017: The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) has contributed 25,000 doses of rabies vaccine to the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia (DVS) to support their fight against the rabies outbreak in Sarawak.

2 AVA and DVS are committed to strengthening cooperation and collaboration in dealing with transboundary animal diseases, such as rabies and bird flu, and conduct regular bilateral meetings on such issues.

3 Dr Yap Him Hoo, AVA’s Director-General said, “Singapore has been free from rabies for more than 60 years, but it remains a constant threat as it is endemic in the region. Rabies like any other diseases knows no boundaries. It is important that we collaborate closely with our neighbours in the fight against such diseases. We have strong cooperation with our Malaysian counterparts, and are glad to play a part to support Malaysia in their rabies eradication efforts.”

### ***Measures to keep out rabies***

4 AVA has put in place precautionary measures to prevent the introduction of rabies into Singapore. This includes stringent regulation of animal import. For instance, imported animals undergo health checks and are quarantined when necessary. This mitigates the risk of introducing exotic diseases, such as rabies, into Singapore. AVA also works closely with border control agencies to maintain vigilance against animal smuggling and in seeking deterrent sentences.

5 In view of the recent rabies outbreak in Sarawak and Perak, AVA has also issued an advisory to stakeholders (such as veterinarians, pet shops, pet farms, animal welfare groups, coastal fish farms, fishing vessels) to raise awareness about rabies, to advise them to be vigilant, and to alert AVA of any suspected smuggling cases.

6 The public also needs to play its part to keep Singapore rabies free by:

- Obtaining pets from reputable and legal sources (e.g. licensed pet shops/farms, local animal welfare groups);
- Obtaining the relevant import permits and health certificates if importing an animal from overseas; and
- Ensuring that pet dogs are licensed and microchipped for traceability.

# MEDIA RELEASE