



ZOO NEGARA
Malaysian Zoological Society

KANCIL GAZETTE

ZN/EDU/08/2010/JUNE

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KEEPER PROFILE



**Mohamad Azman Bin
Abdul Aziz**
26 years old

Azman joined the Zoo
in 2002 and as a
keeper.

Began his career
at Savannah Section,
Azman feels
it is not hard to come
to work everyday
when you
work with such
interesting creatures.

Azman says,
learning how to connect
and bonding with
animals especially with
Tuah, the male tapir
is very rewarding.

THE MALAYAN TAPIR

Tapirs are unique creatures. They are known to have remained unchanged for the past 35 million years. Tapirs are easily recognizable by their short mobile trunk at the tip of their snout. There are four species of tapirs worldwide; three species are found in South America and one in Asia. The Malayan Tapir, is the only tapir species found in Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia.



Tapirs have a distinctive black and white coat pattern, which serves as a camouflage by breaking up the outline of their body in the shade of the tropical rainforest.

A calf is born after a 13-month gestation period. Tapirs are found in different habitat, the calves' share the brown and beige striped pattern. This distinctive pattern is a great camouflage for the calves in the dappled sunlight of the forest, especially when prone. Calves lose markings within six and developed adult marking. They reach full size in about 18 months and mature between the ages of two to four years.

For many years, biologist believed that tapirs were solitary, while male and female only come together during mating season. Recent observation shown that tapirs often graze in pairs or small groups and traveling over larger ranges than previously thought.

Tapirs are both browsers and grazers! Using its flexible snout, tapirs can pluck leaves from branches or roots and are able to explore 30 cm circle of ground without moving its head! Wild tapirs eat on a variety of plants.

Tapirs are nocturnal animals, they are mostly active grazing at night. As a large animal, adult tapirs have few natural predators. The thick skin on the necks help protect them from bites of crocodiles, pythons and even tigers.

- The Malayan tapir is the largest of the tapir family and can be distinguished by its unique colouration.
- Tapirs love to wallow in water and they are good swimmers.



Zoo Negara was lucky to have one of a fine groups of volunteers play vital role in fulfilling the Zoo mission of "Nurturing wildlife and enriching human experience".



The proceeds of the sales and donations will fund wildlife conservation and environmental education programme.



On 5th June, Green Hopes Eco-warriors group of 22 volunteers organized a fund raising activity at the zoo by selling toys, books and magazines.



Quotes of the month!

Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.

~William Ruckelshaus,
Business Week, 18 June 1990.

WALKING WATERMELON ...



TAPIR'S CALF

MNS Nature Club at Zoo Negara!

This programme is in collaboration with Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) aims to provide students with a unique learning experience by connecting them with nature and empowering them to conserve wildlife and its habitat.



Students were instructed on how to deliver the conservation message in respect of habitat, diet and the threat to Malaysia endangered animals such as

- Malayan tapir
- Malaysian elephant
- Malayan sun bear
- Malayan tiger
- Bornean Orangutan
- Hornbill

WHAT'S NEXT?



Come MEET me at the MAMMAL KINGDOM !!!