

GETTING TO KNOW ...

Common Palm Civet, *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Roughly the size of a poodle, the Common Palm Civet is identified by its reddish-brown body with 3 distinct, broken dark stripes running along its back, from its head and ending in a black tail. Locally we call it "Musang" in Malay.

It appears to be wearing a mask, highlighted by paler fur on the forehead and behind the cheeks, with a cute pale spot below each eye.

Another clue that it is present is its pandan-leaf body odour, which is stronger on the male. It is nocturnal and usually solitary. It is often seen roaming on the ground but it is most at home on trees, feeding mainly on fruits, leaves and worms. It is an important seed disperser for the various species of fruit trees in the jungle.

It is quite a meek animal but when provoked it shows its teeth and hisses. It is found in South-east Asia, India and Sri Lanka, where urban development is driving it from secondary jungles to human settlements.

When Aardwolf Pestkare received a call regarding some mysterious night visitor, both Senior Supervisor Henry Leong and Foreman Mohd Fauzee bin Othman did not expect to trap a pair of Common Palm Civets. They were released, unharmed, back into a nearby secondary jungle from where they probably came.



An angry Common Palm Civet.



Fauzee and Henry with their first visitor.



The couple on their way to freedom.