

FACTS ABOUT KANCIL, OFFICIAL MASCOT OF TOURISM MELAKA



21st. March 2006

Name : Kancil (Mister Mousedeer)

Job Function : Official mascot icon of Tourism Melaka

Date of Birth : 21st. March 2006

Sex : Male

Wife : (Future)

Offsprings: (Future)

Living Space : Tropical Rainforest of Malaysia

Personality : Lovable, kind-hearted, intelligent, brave, cute, friendly, helpful esp. to elderly, thrifty, eat healthily, loves to read, inquisitive, caring

Favourite Food : Omnivorous, fallen fruits, young shoots form a major portion of their diet

Favourite Song/Tunes: Rasa Sayang Eh!

Favourite Hang out places: Stream

Hobby : Likes to travel and explore new places

Friends : Tiger, Orang Utan, Honey Bear, Monkey, Tortoise, Wild boar, Tapir, Skunk, Elephant

Not on friendly terms : Wild dogs, crocodile, python/snakes

Lesser mousedeer (*Tragulus javanicus*) – This small sized mousedeer measures less than 49 cm in length. It is usually solitary and seen among the rocks by the edge of the forest, near the stream. It may be active both day and night, however, you would not be able to spot it at night. It feeds on fallen fruits, leaf shoots and fungi. Both the adults and young may rest in any sheltered spot under forest cover. It is found mostly in lowland areas.

Status : Endangered

Interesting Facts: This species (*Tragulus javanicus fulviventris*) was first discovered in 1836 as a distinctive subspecies endemic to Singapore. In 1924, it was still considered as fairly numerous, with sighting even in Botanic Gardens. As it is a unique subspecies confined to Singapore it is definitely scientifically valued and deserving of further study.

Size: 45cm

Diet: Mousedeers are true forest mammals, feeding by browsing on low bushes, vegetation. They are smart creatures that follow the monkey around to feed. As monkeys are messy-eaters and tend to litter the forest floor with unfinished food. Omnivorous, fallen fruits, young shoots form a major portion of their diet.

Activity: Active periodically both during day and night. Generally solitary;

Love Dance : The mousedeer, when contacting its mates, would make a faint drumming sound by tapping their tiny feet very fast on hard ground, which is not done by any other forest dweller.



Habitat: Lowland forest, secondary forest. Presently restricted to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Central Catchment Area.

Threats: Poaching, stray feral dogs, habitat destruction.

Kancil and the Founding of Melaka : Before Melaka was founded, Parameswara, the prince from Palembang was resting under a tree near a river. Parameswara and his entourage saw some dogs chasing a mousedeer along the river. Suddenly, the mousedeer stopped and attacked by kicking the dogs with his tiny foot. Eventually the dogs ran away. Impressed with this brave act by the small mousedeer, Parameswara felt this place was a good ground to settle down. He then asked his men for the name of tree he was resting under and was told that it was a Melaka tree. He named the place Melaka and Melaka was founded from that time onwards till today.

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