

Dolphin dies six days after rescue

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KOTA KINABALU: A dolphin which was found with head injuries by the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) at Pulau Gandang, near Tuaran has died.

SWD senior veterinarian Dr Sen Nathan told The Borneo Post yesterday that the dolphin succumbed to its injuries on Dec 31, six days after it was rescued.

"It had suffered too much internal injuries to survive," said Dr Sen when asked about the possible cause of the dolphin's death.

The spinner dolphin or *Stenella longirostris*, which was estimated to be about seven years old, was found stranded near Pulau Gandang.

It was rescued by SWD by midday on Dec 26 when a team of rescuers responded to a call from the Fisheries Department at 11.30 am on the same day.

When contacted then, Dr Sen said they had managed to stabilise the dolphin with drugs but their prognosis on the dolphin's condition was not good.

The dolphin was then transported to the Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), where it died.

On Dec 28, BMRI director Professor Dr Saleem Mustafa was reported by a national daily as saying that the dolphin, which weighed 70kg, might have consumed contaminated organisms, suffered exhaustion or sickness, disorientation or injuries.