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Wildlife Rescue Centre Opens

By Grace Chua

AFTER a rocky five-year journey fraught with obstacles, the first dedicated non-government wildlife rescue centre here opened its doors on Thursday.

The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres) Wildlife Rescue Centre will take in reptiles and amphibians rescued from smugglers and owners who keep such pets illegally.

Reptiles and amphibians such as star tortoises and bearded dragon lizards make up the bulk of illegal shipments confiscated here each year.

The idea for the rescue centre was sparked in 2004, after Acres founder and executive director Louis Ng rescued a vervet monkey from a cage at a factory.

It was temporarily housed at the zoo before being sent to a wildlife sanctuary in Zambia, Africa.

That experience convinced Mr Ng of the need for a wildlife rescue facility.