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# STORY OF SURA

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## A BROKEN BABY ORANGUTAN

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photos courtesy of: Indrayana, Nyaru Menteng Photographer

### A BROKEN BABY

**H**is expression shows sadness and desperation. Often his eyes wander to his three fingers, of which only half of them remain. He is weak and barely has any strength or the willingness to move. Having rescued hundreds of orangutans, the Nyaru Menteng Team was having a hard time finding a suitable name for him. Indonesians believe that the right name can inspire greatness from the bearer and at the BOS Foundation we choose a unique name for each new orangutan who arrives at our centers. So we finally turned to our loyal friends and supporters on Twitter for help.



## A BRAVE NAME FOR A BRAVE ORANGUTAN

Many people enthusiastically took part in our #nametheorangutan contest and many of the suggested names were incredibly inspiring. But we finally narrowed them down to 10 great names, from which the Nyaru Menteng Team chose the best one for our new orangutan friend. The chosen name was Sura originally suggested by Ade Putri Paramadita, also known on Twitter as @missHOTRODqueen.

The name Sura comes from ancient Balinese repertoires of gamelan which is an Indonesian traditional musical ensemble. Depicting the royal ruling kingdoms of pre-20th century Balinese society, the word Sura means “bravery”. It is a perfect name for a brave orangutan and we all sincerely hope that Sura will grow into a big, brave orangutan, despite having been physically and psychologically tormented in his young life.

## THE BEGINNING OF SURA’S NEW LIFE

On Thursday, October 17 2013, a staff member from the Centre of Orangutan Protection (COP) contacted the Central Kalimantan Orangutan Reintroduction Center in Nyaru Menteng, providing information on a baby male orangutan who was being kept by a resident and was about to be handed over. We were also informed that the orangutan baby was injured. The Nyaru Menteng team immediately coordinated activities with the Central Kalimantan Conservation and Natural Resources Authority (BKSDA) to rescue this young orangutan. Due to technical difficulties, colleagues from COP had to deliver the orangutan baby directly to Nyaru Menteng. Vets Agus Fachroni and Meryl, who were on the night shift received and recorded data on the baby’s situation and origin.

According to information from COP, the little orangutan was handed over by a resident named Ada in Tumbang Koling village, East Kotawaringin Regency. Ada reported that he had found the orangutan baby when he was cutting trees for wood material in the concession area belonging to PT. Nabatindo Karya Utama. This area has recently been opened as a new oil palm plantation in the Tumbang Koling area. Ada took care of the orangutan baby for three days before giving him to COP.

## CARE AND LOVE IN NYARU MENTENG

The Nyaru Menteng Medical Team immediately conducted an initial health check on Sura. He was confirmed to be around 4 months of age based on his teeth. The team also found a painfully heartbreaking injury: Three fingers on his left hand had been cut off. The wounds were still open and looked as if they were sustained from a knife or machete blow. The remaining fingers were swollen and no longer bleeding. Sura was then put into the baby quarantine group, receiving around the clock intensive care from three babysitters.



The next day, he was still too weak to move around. He didn’t show any wild behaviour whatsoever. He is still too small and too weak. He would only hold on tight to his babysitters. Often he looked at his cut fingers, as if questioning how this happened. His forest home has been destroyed and he was cruelly and brutally separated from the love of his mother. The remaining stumps of his fingers will remind him of this forever.

Since his arrival in Nyaru Menteng, Sura’s health had been up and down. There were times when he caught a

flu but now we are delighted to see that Sura's health is getting better and better. Intensive care by the Medical Team of Nyaru Menteng has shown great results. The wounds on his hand are the priority and they have healed very well.



We do hope Sura will begin to gain strength. The abundance of love and care he is receiving from the babysitters might not be able to replace his lost mother, but we will give him so much love and the best care we can. Someday, we will see Sura as an adult male orangutan ready to explore the real forest of Kalimantan, tough and brave, just as his given name.

## AN ACTIVE BABY ORANGUTAN

During his time being cared for at the clinic, Sura was active and loved playing both inside and outside the clinic.

With his babysitter watching closely all the time, Sura started climbing tiny trees surrounding the clinic. He also has gained more weight; he was 2 kg when he arrived and he is now 3.6 kg.

Sura loves forest fruits and young leaves. He will devour ehang and mesisin fruit which are in abundance at Nyaru Menteng. Vet Meryl once told us that she tried to give him a banana several times, but Sura never touched them. He even threw them away! Maybe Sura remembers his wild upbringing more than we could have hoped.

A special thank you to ABAXIS whose continued support enables the Medical team at Nyaru Menteng to perform essential diagnostics and treatments we would otherwise be without. The donations we receive from ABAXIS are hugely appreciated and ensure orangutans like Sura can be treated using up-to-date and world class equipment. Thank you ABAXIS and Barbel Koehler, Abaxis Europe.

