



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY
AND
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

**Singaporean man sentenced to three months imprisonment for smuggling
birds and animal cruelty**

23 November 2016: A 63-year-old Singaporean man, Low Seng Hai, was sentenced to three months imprisonment for illegally importing two Oriental White-eye (Mata Puteh) birds and one Zebra Dove, and 3 months imprisonment for subjecting the birds to unnecessary suffering or pain. Both sentences will run concurrently.

2 On 27 May 2016, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was notified by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Woodlands Checkpoint on the detection of three live birds. The birds were found hidden inside two small pouches under the front passenger centre console of a Singapore-registered car.

3 AVA investigated and confirmed that the birds were imported without an AVA permit. The birds were transported in a precarious manner (cramped into small pouches with hardly any space for movement), and were without any food or water. As part of the investigation, the birds were tested and found to be free from Avian Influenza. The birds have been successfully rehomed to the Jurong Bird Park.



Caption: AVA seized the smuggled Zebra Dove (left) and two Oriental White-eye birds as part of AVA's investigation (Photo: AVA)

4 Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, into the country. The importation of any animals or live birds without an AVA permit is illegal and carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.

5 Our borders are our first line of defence in safeguarding Singapore's safety and security. The security checks are critical to our nation's security. The ICA will continue to conduct security checks on passengers and vehicles at the checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contrabands. The ICA and AVA would like to remind travellers not to bring live animals, birds and insects into Singapore without a proper permit. The public can refer to AVA's [website](#) or download AVA's mobile app, SG TravelKaki (available free-of-charge from [iTunes](#) and the [Google Play store](#)), for more information on bringing back animals from overseas.

**ISSUED BY THE AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY AND THE
IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
23 November 2016**