



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

**Man fined \$5,000 for illegal import of White-Rumped Shama**

**13 June 2018:** 23-year-old Lim Ke Yi was fined \$5,000 by the court today for illegally importing a White-Rumped Shama into Singapore.

2 On 27 May 2018, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was alerted by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on the detection of a live bird hidden in a potato chips tube in the glove compartment of a Malaysia-registered car at Woodlands Checkpoint. Lim did not have an import licence issued by AVA for import of birds. A second charge of failure to ensure that the animal was not subjected to unnecessary suffering was taken into consideration.



The White-Rumped Shama was hidden in a potato chips tube. (Photo: AVA)

**Public advisory**

3 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. ICA will continue to conduct security checks on cargo, passengers and vehicles at the

checkpoints to prevent attempts to smuggle in undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives and other contrabands. Animals that are smuggled into Singapore are of unknown health status and may introduce exotic diseases, such as bird flu, into the country. The import of animals and birds without a licence is an offence under the Animals and Birds Act. Any person, on conviction, is liable to a fine of up to S\$10,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or to both.

4 Travellers are reminded not to import or keep wild animals as pets as demand for such animals would fuel illegal wildlife trade. Wildlife are not suitable pets as some may transmit zoonotic diseases to humans and pose a public safety risk if mishandled or if they escape into our dense urban environment. Non-native animals may also be a threat to our biodiversity if released into the environment.

5 AVA would like to remind travellers against the illegal import of live animals, birds and insects into Singapore. 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 travels.

**Issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority**

13 June 2018