



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN FINED \$2,200 FOR KEEPING WILD ANIMALS AND OBSTRUCTING AVA'S INVESTIGATION

18 May 2017: On 17 May 2017, 24-year-old man, Raymi Thye Bin Mustafa, was fined \$1,000 for keeping a hedgehog illegally and another \$1,200 for obstructing AVA's investigation. Four other charges involving other hedgehogs were also taken into consideration during the sentencing.

2 On 10 January 2017, AVA received feedback about the sale of a hedgehog on Gumtree, an online market platform. The keeping of wild animals, such as hedgehogs is not allowed in Singapore, as wild animals are not suitable pets as some may transmit zoonotic diseases to humans and can be a public safety risk if mishandled or if they escape into our dense urban environment. In addition, wild animals that are non-native to Singapore may also be a threat to our bio-diversity if released into the environment. Demand for such animals would fuel illegal wildlife trade, which severely impacts the wild populations of numerous species.

3 To clamp down on the illegal sale of hedgehogs, AVA conducted an undercover operation and an AVA officer posed as an interested buyer and arranged a transaction with the seller. On the day of the transaction, the seller attempted to escape when the AVA officer identified himself and asked the man to produce his identification card. AVA officers subsequently apprehended the man and seized a hedgehog which was with him. The man then led the officers to his home, where another four hedgehogs were also seized. The hedgehogs have been placed in the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

Public advisory

4 While AVA continues to ensure that regulatory measures against illegal import, possession of live animals and wildlife are in place and enforced, the public can play their part too. Members of the public with information on such illicit activities can contact AVA at 6805 2992 or via AVA's online feedback form. All information shared with AVA will be kept strictly confidential.

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Photograph



Caption: Four of the five hedgehogs that were seized

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Page 2 of 2