



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Singaporean man sentenced to 2 weeks imprisonment and fined \$3,500 for failing to comply with licensing conditions, giving false information and attempting to cheat**

**18 April 2017:** A 33-year-old Singaporean man, Jonathan Tan Wei-De, was sentenced to a total of two weeks' imprisonment and fined \$3,500. He was sentenced to one week imprisonment each for two counts of giving false information to a public servant, and one week imprisonment for one count of attempting to cheat. One count of giving false information and one count of attempting to cheat will run consecutively. He was also sentenced to one count of failing to comply with licensing conditions and was fined \$3500, in default of two weeks' imprisonment. Five other counts on giving false information to a public servant were taken into consideration during sentencing.

2 In October 2014, the Agri-food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was alerted to allegations of mismanagement of diseased cats at the now defunct Cuddles Cat Café. It was also alleged that Tan, owner of the café, had provided falsified cat health records in his application for AVA's temporary licence to keep animals for public interaction on the premises.

3 Upon investigation, AVA found that Tan had breached its licensing conditions by not keeping the cats in good health and not ensuring that the cats tested negative for toxoplasmosis (a disease that can infect animals and humans) before keeping them in the café for public interaction. Tan was required to cease operations at once and remove all cats from the café.

4 The case was subsequently referred to the Singapore Police Force for investigation into the alleged provision of falsified information in the application.

***Public advisory***

5 AVA regulates pet cafés that keep cats for public interaction, through licensing and routine unannounced inspections. Pet cafés that fail to comply with our licensing conditions shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding S\$5,000.

6 Safeguarding animal welfare is a shared responsibility. The public can play an important role by being AVA's eyes and ears, and provide feedback on animal welfare issues. Members of the public can contact us via our 24-hour hotline, 1800-476-1600. All information shared with AVA will be held in the strictest confidence.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Page 2 of 2