

## **Man fined \$6,600 for possession and keeping of illegal wildlife**

13 September 2017: 33-year-old Lim Kok Huat was fined \$6,600 by the court today for possession and keeping of illegal wildlife.

2 On 28 February, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) received a tip-off that an individual was allegedly selling illegal wildlife online. We worked with our informant to monitor his activities and subsequently conducted a sting operation on 8 March 2017. Two Indian Star tortoises and a hedgehog, which were meant for sale, were seized and subsequently placed under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore.



*The seller transported the star tortoises and hedgehog in plastic containers. (Photo: AVA)*

### **Public advisory**

3 The keeping and selling of wild animals, such as tortoises and hedgehogs, are not allowed in Singapore. Demand for such animals would fuel illegal wildlife trade. Wild animals are not suitable pets as they may transmit zoonotic diseases to humans and can be a public safety risk if mishandled or if they escape into our dense urban environment. If mishandled, the wild animal may also face unnecessary suffering. In addition, wild animals that are non-native to Singapore may also be a threat to our biodiversity if released into the environment.

4 In Singapore, it is an offence to illegally import/export, possess, sell, offer/advertise for sale or display to public any illegal wildlife species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna or Flora (CITES). This includes online sales of such wildlife species. An example of a CITES-protected species is the star tortoise. Offenders shall be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$500,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment, and to the forfeiture of the wild animal. It is also an offence to keep, sell or offer for sale wild animals not protected by CITES, such as hedgehogs. Offenders shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and to the forfeiture of the wild animal.

5 While AVA continues to ensure that regulatory measures against illegal trade, possession and sale of live animals and wildlife are in place and enforced, the public can play their part too. We need the cooperation of the public to report suspected cases of illegal wildlife pet ownership or trade, and provide information, such as the suspected person or company involved, type of animals alleged to be smuggled or offered for sale, and locations. Should members of the public have information on illegal wildlife activities, please contact AVA at 6805 2992 or via our [online feedback form](#) to make a report. All information shared with AVA will be kept strictly confidential.

**Issued by the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore**

*13 September 2017*