



**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE,
ANIMAL CONCERNS RESEARCH & EDUCATION SOCIETY AND
WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE
JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

Endangered pig-tailed macaque rehomed in Malaysia

As part of a collaborative effort to save, rehabilitate and rehome animals confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), the Animals Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES) and Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) worked together with Malaysian wildlife authorities to rehome a confiscated pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) in Malaysia. Yesterday, the macaque was transported from the Singapore Zoo to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN Negeri Johor), where it is being rehabilitated and quarantined at a Wildlife Rescue Centre before being assessed on its suitability to be released back to its natural habitat.

2 AVA rescued the macaque from a car workshop at Defu Lane on 6 May 2015 following a tip-off from ACRES. The macaque, found chained in a cage, was subsequently referred to WRS for proper care and custody. It was later established that the owner of the workshop had kept the macaque as a pet after it was found abandoned at his workshop. He was compounded S\$500 by AVA for being in possession of the macaque.

3 All macaques are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is an international agreement to ensure that trade does not threaten wildlife species with extinction. The pig-tailed macaque is protected under CITES Appendix II, for which its import and export are regulated by CITES permits. Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, possession of a CITES animal which has been imported without a permit is an offence. It is also a violation of the Wild Animal & Birds Act to keep a wild animal without a licence from AVA. The offender may be liable, on conviction, to a fine of up to S\$50,000 per scheduled species (not exceeding an aggregate of S\$500,000) and/or imprisonment of up to two years, and up to S\$1,000 per

wild animal or bird, respectively. The illegally acquired animals would be confiscated and forfeited by AVA.

4 AVA would like to remind the public not to import or keep wild animals, as doing so would perpetuate the exploitation of wild animals and fuel the growth of the illegal wildlife trade. “Wild animals are not suitable as pets as some wild animals may transmit zoonotic diseases to humans. In addition, wild animals may pose a public safety risk if they are mishandled or if they escape into our dense urban environment. Wild animals that are non-native to Singapore may also pose a threat to our biodiversity by upsetting the ecological balance of nature,” said Ms Lye Fong Keng, Deputy Director, Quarantine & Inspection Group (Wildlife Section), AVA.

5 While AVA continues to ensure that regulatory measures against illegal wildlife trade activities are in place and properly enforced, the public can play their part too. Anyone with information on illegal wildlife trade activities may contact AVA at [6805-2992](tel:6805-2992) or via AVA’s online feedback form (<http://bit.ly/Xhlp9P>) to make a report immediately. All information shared with AVA will be kept strictly confidential.

-END-

ISSUED BY AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE, ANIMAL CONCERNS RESEARCH & EDUCATION SOCIETY AND WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE

24 August 2015

ANNEX



Wildlife Reserves Singapore, as the designated rescued wildlife centre, assisted with the care of the pig-tailed macaque for the past three months.



The macaque being transported to its new home.



The macaque arrives at the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN).