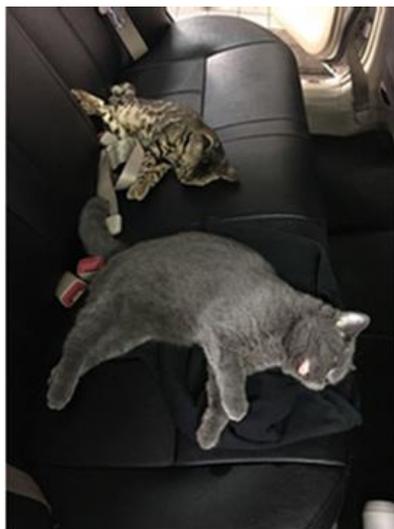**AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY**
AND IMMIGRATION & CHECKPOINTS AUTHORITY
JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Man sentenced to imprisonment for illegal import of cats

48-year-old Mohamed Yazid Bin Ahmad was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment by the court today for illegally importing two cats into Singapore.

2 In November 2017, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) was alerted by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on the detection of two live sedated cats beneath the driver and front passenger seats of a Singapore-registered car at Woodlands checkpoint. Yazid did not have an import licence issued by AVA for import of cats.

A Bengal Cross (top) and British Shorthair (bottom), were found covered with two dark-coloured shirts beneath the driver and front passenger seats of the car.
(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 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   AVA would like to remind travellers against the illegal import of live animals, birds and insects into Singapore to safeguard public and animal health. 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 of Singapore and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority

On 25 July 2018