



## **Woman fined \$3,600 for possession of illegal wildlife**

**13 June 2018:** A 22-year old woman, Desiree Lim, was fined \$3,600 by the Court for the possession of a civet cat and a red-footed tortoise (which is protected under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES).

2 On 20 March 2017, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) received a feedback from the Animals Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) on an alleged sale of illegal wildlife via Carousell (an online platform). AVA investigated the feedback and subsequently carried out a sting operation with the assistance of ACRES. The sting operation resulted in the seizure of one red-footed tortoise, and a civet cat.

3 Further investigations at Lim's home revealed that she was also keeping a hedgehog and a snapping turtle. This was taken into consideration during sentencing. All the animals seized were placed under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

### **Public advisory**

4 The keeping and trading of wildlife and wildlife parts/products, is an offence in Singapore. Offenders shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and to the forfeiture of the wildlife. If the wildlife species is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), offenders in possession of or found selling illegally imported CITES-protected species shall be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$500,000 and/or 2 years' imprisonment, and to the forfeiture of the specimens. For more information on CITES-listed animals please refer to the CITES website (<https://www.cites.org>).

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

5 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 can also alert AVA via our online feedback form or call us at 6805 2992 of any suspected cases of illegal wildlife trade, and provide information (e.g. suspected person or company involved, type of products alleged to be smuggled, advertised or offered for sale, etc). Information shared with AVA will be kept strictly confidential.



Civet cat in pet carrier (Photo source: AVA)



Red-footed tortoise in paper bag (Photo source: AVA)

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

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