

Two men fined for wildlife-related offences

In two separate court cases on 18 July 2018, two men were fined for wildlife-related offences. 27-year-old Muhammad Effendi bin Roslan was fined \$6,000 for the possession of an Indian Star Tortoise, one Scorpion, one Red-bellied Short-necked Turtle and two Corn Snakes. 52-year-old Lawrence Wee Soon Chye was fined \$5,000 for illegally importing five Leopard geckos into Singapore.

2 The keeping and trading of illegal 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 advertising and 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.

3 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. Importation of any CITES-protected species without CITES permits is also an offence. Offenders can be fined up to \$500,000 and/or up to two years imprisonment.

4 The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) would like to remind travellers against the illegal import of live animals, birds and insects into Singapore. 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

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bringing back animals from overseas travels. 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.

Case 1: Muhammad Effendi bin Roslan

In February 2017, AVA received feedback from the Animal 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 raid on Effendi's residence, resulting in the seizure of one Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*), one Scorpion (Scorpiones sp.), one Red-bellied Short-necked Turtle (*Emydura subglobosa*) and two Corn Snakes (*Pantherophis guttatus*).



(Clockwise from left) An Indian Star Tortoise (CITES-protected species), one Red-bellied Short-necked Turtle, one Scorpion and two Corn Snakes were seized and placed under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore (Photo: AVA)

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Case 2: Lawrence Wee Soon Chye

In June 2017, AVA was alerted by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on the detection of five live geckos hidden inside two pillows at the rear passenger seat of a Singapore-registered car at Woodlands Checkpoint. The geckos were identified to be Leopard gecko (*Eublepharis macularius*), which is not an approved pet in Singapore.



The five live geckos were seized and placed under the care of Wildlife Reserves Singapore. (Photo: AVA)

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