

Restaurant fined for selling illegally imported food

A Chinese restaurant, Li Ji Chuan Chuan Xiang Pte Ltd, was fined \$8000 today by the court for selling illegally imported duck's blood.

2 Acting on a tip off, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) conducted checks at Li Ji Chuan Chuan Xiang restaurant on 31 August 2017. During our checks, we found 6.3 kilograms of duck's blood available for sale as a dish to customers. Investigations showed that the owner of Li Ji Chuan Chuan Xiang had purchased duck's blood from a man via messaging platform, WeChat. Separately, the man who sold duck's blood over WeChat has been charged in court for the possession of illegally imported duck's blood and meat products, and the abetment of illegal import of processed food. This case is ongoing.



Packets of duck's blood seized by AVA (Photo source: AVA)

3 Animal blood food products, such as duck's blood, are prohibited in Singapore as blood can easily support the growth of bacteria and harbour diseases. Unhygienic harvesting of blood can also result in the introduction of food borne pathogens into blood food products. Meat, eggs, and their products, can only be imported from accredited sources in approved countries that comply with our food safety standards and requirements.

4 Illegally imported food products are from unknown sources. Apart from being a food safety risk, they also may pose a risk to our public and animal health. Any person who illegally imports meat products from unapproved sources is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and/or 2 years' jail term or to both for first conviction, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

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